

House Bill 768 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representative Powell of the 32nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act to provide a new charter for the City of Royston, approved April 13, 1992
2 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5918), so as to provide for city council posts; to revise election procedures;
3 to update references to applicable general law; to revise provisions regarding election by
4 plurality; to repeal outdated and expired provisions; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 An Act to provide a new charter for the City of Royston, approved April 13, 1992
9 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5918), is amended by revising Sections 5.10 through 5.12 as follows:

10 "SECTION 5.10.

11 Applicability of general law.

12 All primaries and elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2 of
13 Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code." Except as otherwise provided by
14 this charter, the city council shall, by ordinance, prescribe such rules and regulations it

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15 deems appropriate to fulfill any options and duties under Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the
16 O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."

17 SECTION 5.11.

18 Election of city council and mayor.

19 (a) There shall be a municipal general election held biennially on the first Tuesday
20 following the first Monday in November of each odd-numbered year.

21 (b) The mayor and councilmembers serving on the effective date of this Act shall serve out
22 the terms to which they were elected or appointed and until their successors are elected and
23 qualified.

24 (c)(1) The city council posts shall be designated as Post 1, Post 2, Post 3, Post 4, Post 5,
25 and Post 6. Candidates shall designate the post for which they are running for election
26 when qualifying for election.

27 (2) As of the effective date of this Act, Post 1 is held by Kenneth Roach, Post 2 is held
28 by Keith Turman, Post 3 is held by Matt Fields, Post 4 is held by Lee Strickland, Post 5
29 is held by Larry Bowen, and Post 6 is held by Wayne Braswell.

30 (d) The successors to the mayor and councilmembers for Posts 2, 4, and 6 shall be elected
31 at the municipal general election in 2023, shall take office on the first day of January 2024,
32 and shall serve for terms of office of four years each and until their respective successors
33 are elected and qualified. The successors to the councilmembers for Posts 1, 3, and 5 shall
34 be elected at the municipal general election in 2021, shall take office on the first day of
35 January 2022, and shall serve for terms of office of four years each and until their
36 respective successors are elected and qualified. Thereafter, successors to the mayor and
37 councilmembers shall be elected at the municipal general election immediately preceding
38 the expiration of such terms and shall take office the first day of January immediately

39 following that election and serve for terms of office of four years each and until their
40 respective successors are elected and qualified.

41 **SECTION 5.12.**

42 Nonpartisan elections; elections by plurality.

43 (a) Political parties shall not conduct primaries for city offices and all names of candidates
44 for city offices shall be listed without party designations.

45 (b)(1) The person receiving the plurality of the votes cast in a mayoral election shall be
46 elected mayor.

47 (2) The person receiving the plurality of the votes cast for his or her designated city
48 council post shall be elected to such city council post.

49 (3) For the purposes of this article, a plurality is further explained as the number of votes
50 cast for a person for a designated office or post which is more than any other person for
51 the same designated office or post but does not necessarily receive an absolute majority
52 of the votes cast for such office or post."

53 **SECTION 2.**

54 Said Act is further amended by repealing and reserving Section 7.12.

55 **SECTION 3.**

56 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.