

House Bill 587 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Glanton of the 75<sup>th</sup>, Douglas of the 78<sup>th</sup>, Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Waites of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Burnough of the 77<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the  
2 electors of the City of Jonesboro desire the governing authority of the City of Jonesboro to  
3 seek to lower the homestead exemption from all City of Jonesboro ad valorem taxes for  
4 municipal purposes over a period of time to the amount of \$10,000.00 of the assessed value  
5 of the homestead for residents of that city; to provide for legislative purposes and findings;  
6 to provide for procedures and requirements relating thereto; to provide for related matters;  
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum ascertaining  
11 whether the electors of the City of Jonesboro desire the governing authority of the City of  
12 Jonesboro to seek to lower the homestead exemption from all City of Jonesboro ad valorem  
13 taxes for municipal purposes over a period of five years to the amount of \$10,000.00 of the  
14 assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city.

15 (b) It is found, determined, and declared that the holding of the nonbinding advisory  
16 referendum provided for in this Act is:

- 17 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of the City of Jonesboro;  
18 (2) A public purpose; and  
19 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 The election superintendent of the City of Jonesboro shall call and conduct a nonbinding  
22 advisory referendum election as provided in this section for the purpose of submitting a  
23 question to the electors of the City of Jonesboro to determine whether a majority of said  
24 electors desire the governing authority of the City of Jonesboro to seek to lower the  
25 homestead exemption from all City of Jonesboro ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes

26 over a period of five years to the amount of \$10,000.00 of the assessed value of the  
 27 homestead for residents of that city. The nonbinding advisory referendum election shall be  
 28 held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2017, and the election  
 29 superintendent shall issue the call and conduct that election as provided by general law. The  
 30 election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once  
 31 a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of the City  
 32 of Jonesboro. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

33 **"NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM**

- 34 ( ) YES Should the governing authority of the City of Jonesboro seek to lower the  
 35 homestead exemption from all City of Jonesboro ad valorem taxes for  
 36 ( ) NO municipal purposes over a period of five years to the amount of \$10,000.00  
 37 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that city?"

38 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and all persons  
 39 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." The expense of such election  
 40 shall be borne by the City of Jonesboro. It shall be the election superintendent's duty to  
 41 certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

42 **SECTION 3.**

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