

A RESOLUTION OF THE AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY COMMISSION REQUESTING THAT THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPT LOCAL LEGISLATION THAT SUPPORTS A CHARTER CHANGE TO A COUNTY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, the Augusta-Richmond County Commission is the governing authority of Augusta-Richmond County and operates under a consolidated city-county government established by the Augusta-Richmond County Consolidation Charter; and

WHEREAS, effective, transparent, and accountable local governance is essential to providing high-quality services, responsible fiscal management, and responsive leadership to the residents of the community; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities and counties throughout the United States successfully operate under a council-manager form of government, in which an elected governing body establishes policy and appoints a professional manager to oversee daily operations; and

WHEREAS, the council-manager system promotes professional administration, continuity in operations, merit-based management of staff, and separation between policy making and administrative execution; and

WHEREAS, adopting a county manager model would allow the elected commission of Augusta-Richmond County to focus on legislation, policy priorities, and constituent representation while entrusting administrative responsibilities to a qualified professional manager; and

WHEREAS, such a reform could strengthen long-term planning, improve operational efficiency, and enhance accountability in local government; and

WHEREAS, The Augusta-Richmond County Charter Review Committee established by resolution by the Augusta-Richmond County Commission has studied the issue of governance forms and unanimously agrees as a Committee that a council-manager form of government will improve the functions of government for Augusta's citizens: and

WHEREAS, The Augusta-Richmond County Charter Review Committee will provide further recommendations for future charter and/or ordinance amendments consistent with governance and authorities under a new council-manager form of government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Augusta-Richmond County Commission hereby requests that the Legislative Delegation for the Consolidated Government sponsor and introduce a legislative act before the Georgia General Assembly authorizing a charter amendment and adoption of a county manager form of government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the residents of Augusta-Richmond County shall ultimately have the opportunity to vote on whether to adopt a county manager form of government through a public referendum to be held in November 2026.

ADOPTED this __ day of __, 2026.