

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA TO REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION IN DRAWING NEW COMMISSION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the United States Census Bureau released the 2020 Redistricting Summary Files consistent with Federal Public Law 94-171; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2021, Mayor Kelly Girtz requested the assistance of ACCGov's Geospatial Information Office in examining and drawing new Commission District boundaries (the "Redistricting Plan") for approval by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2021, Representative Spencer Frye of the 118th District of the Georgia State House of Representatives notified the Georgia Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office (the "LCRO") that he would serve as the sponsor of ACCGov's Redistricting Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sec. 28-1-14.1 (b)(3), a member of the local legislative delegation must authorize the LCRO to conduct a technical review of a local government's redistricting plan; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the technical review is to ensure the Redistricting Plan complies with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Constitution of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2021, in a Mayor and Commission work session, Chief Data Officer Joseph D'Angelo presented for consideration by the Mayor and Commission a list of options and proposed timeline for assurance of submittal of the Redistricting Plan to the Georgia General Assembly in time for the Governor to sign the new boundaries into law for use in local elections in 2022; and

WHEREAS, also on October 12, 2021, in the same work session, Commissioners expressed their concerns about the proposed process and a desire to request the assistance of the Athens-Clarke County Board of Elections and Registration (the "Board of Elections") with preparing the Redistricting Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia and it is hereby so resolved by the authority of same as follows:

SECTION 1.

The Commission requests the assistance of the Board of Elections in preparing and recommending the Redistricting Plan for the Commission's review and approval prior to the Redistricting Plan's submission to the LCRO.

SECTION 2.

In carrying out this Resolution, the Board of Elections shall ensure that the provisions of Section 6-202 of the Charter of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, are

upheld, along with, where practical, redistricting best practices recommended by the Georgia Municipal Association, to include prioritization of voter convenience, avoidance of dilution of likely voter affinity groups, preservation of compact and contiguous Districts, protection of incumbents, and avoidance of racial or political gerrymandering.

SECTION 3.

The Mayor and Commission request that the Manager allow staff from ACCGov's Geospatial Information Office to assist the Board of Elections in preparing the Redistricting Plan with the goal of delivering a Redistricting Plan for the Commission's review and approval that depicts ten (10) Commission districts aligned as closely as possible to existing boundaries while taking into account 2020 decennial Census block boundaries and data. The draft map for Mayor and Commission review and approval shall be produced by the close of business on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

SECTION 4.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its approval by the Mayor or upon its adoption into law without such approval.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

**UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE
COUNTY, GEORGIA**

By: _____
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Commission

(SEAL)