

A RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
GEORGETOWN-QUITMAN COUNTY CHARTER  
AND UNIFICATION COMMISSION

1  
2  
3 To provide for the unification of the existing governments of the City of Georgetown and  
4 Quitman County; to provide for the creation of the unified government of Georgetown –  
5 Quitman County, Georgia; to provide for the status, boundaries, and powers of the unified  
6 government; to provide for the form of, administration of, and affairs of the unified  
7 government; to provide for officers and employees, elections, courts, taxation, and finance; to  
8 provide for other related matters; to provide for a referendum election with respect to the  
9 effectiveness of the foregoing; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10  
11 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGETOWN- QUITMAN COUNTY**  
12 **CHARTER AND UNIFICATION COMMISSION:**

13  
14 The following provisions, exclusive of the Table of Contents which is included solely as a  
15 convenience to the reader, shall constitute and may be referred to as the charter of the unified  
16 government of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia.

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1 ARTICLE I

2 UNIFICATION, CREATION, BOUNDARIES, STATUS, AND  
3 POWERS OF UNIFIED GOVERNMENT

4  
5 SECTION 1-101.

6 Unification of County and City; Creation of Unified Government;  
7 Georgetown-Quitman County.

8  
9 (a) The governmental and corporate powers, duties, and functions now vested in the  
10 governing authority of the City of Georgetown, a municipal corporation chartered by an Act  
11 of the General Assembly of Georgia, approved May 6, 2005 (H.B. No.757, Act 216), are  
12 hereby unified with the governmental and corporate powers, duties, and functions of Quitman  
13 County. This unification shall result in the creation and establishment of a single county-  
14 wide government with powers and jurisdiction throughout the territorial limits of Quitman  
15 County, which single government shall supersede and replace the governments of the City of  
16 Georgetown and Quitman County. Said county-wide government shall be a new political  
17 entity, a body politic and corporate, and a political subdivision of the state, to be known as the  
18 "Unified Government of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia," (herein at times called the  
19 "Unified Government,") having all the governmental and corporate powers, duties, and  
20 functions heretofore held by and vested in the City of Georgetown and Quitman County, and  
21 also the powers, duties, and functions provided in this charter. The unified government shall  
22 be a public corporation; shall have perpetual existence; shall adopt a common seal; shall,  
23 without the necessity or formality of a deed, bill of sale, or other instrument of transfer, own,  
24 possess, and hold all the properties of whatsoever kind or nature, assets, contracts, franchises,  
25 things, rights, privileges, immunities, and real and personal property theretofore owned,  
26 possessed, enjoyed, or held by the City of Georgetown or Quitman County; and by the name  
27 of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, shall be capable of suing and being sued when  
28 authorized by this charter and by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia. From and  
29 after the effective date of this charter, the political subdivision known as Quitman County,  
30 Georgia, and the municipal corporation known as the City of Georgetown, Georgia, shall be  
31 unified into the said new political entity herein created.

32 (b) The unification of the governments of the City of Georgetown and Quitman County is  
33 authorized pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section III, Paragraph II(a) of the  
34 Constitution of Georgia of 1983, as amended, and an Act establishing the Georgetown-  
35 Quitman County Charter and Unification Commission, approved April 7, 2005 (Ga. L. H.B.  
36 No. 757, Act 216).

1 **SECTION 1-102.**

2 Boundaries.

3  
4 The unified government shall embrace the total area included within the existing territorial  
5 limits of Quitman County as such limits are fixed and established on the effective date of this  
6 charter. However, such limits may be altered and changed from time to time as provided by  
7 the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia pertaining to counties.

8  
9 **SECTION 1-103.**

10 Status of Unified Government as Municipal Corporation and County.

11  
12 The unified government shall be deemed to be both a municipal corporation and a county  
13 throughout the total territory of said government. It is the express intention of this section to  
14 declare as a city and as a part of the unified government all of the area of Quitman County  
15 except as otherwise provided in this charter.

16  
17 **SECTION 1-104.**

18 Powers of the Unified Government.

19  
20 (a) The Unified Government of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, shall have all powers  
21 of self-government authorized by the Constitution and not otherwise prohibited by the laws of  
22 Georgia.

23 (b) In addition to the foregoing, the unified government shall have all rights, powers, duties,  
24 privileges, and authority that the City of Georgetown or Quitman County, or both, have under  
25 the Constitution and general and local laws of the State of Georgia at the time of adoption of  
26 this charter, except as herein expressly modified. This authority shall include but shall not be  
27 limited to the authority to adopt home rule ordinances and resolutions as provided in Article  
28 IX, Section II of the Constitution of the State of Georgia.

29 (c) In addition to the foregoing, the unified government shall have all rights, powers, duties,  
30 privileges, and authority herein conferred or herein enlarged, and such other rights, powers,  
31 duties, privileges, and authority as may be necessary and proper for carrying the same into  
32 execution, and also all rights, powers, duties, privileges, and authority, whether express or  
33 implied, that may be now vested in or hereafter granted to counties or municipal corporations,  
34 or both, by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia, including the powers vested in  
35 the unified government by this charter.

36 (d) The unified government, in addition to the rights, duties, powers, privileges, and authority  
37 expressly conferred upon it by this charter, shall have the right, duty, power, privilege, and

1 authority to exercise and enjoy all other powers, duties, functions, rights, privileges, and  
2 immunities necessary and proper to promote or protect the safety, health, peace, security, and  
3 general welfare of said government and its constituents and to exercise all implied powers  
4 necessary to carry into execution all powers granted in this charter as fully and completely as  
5 if such powers were fully enumerated herein and to do and perform all of the acts pertaining  
6 to its property, affairs, and local government which are necessary or proper in the legitimate  
7 exercise of its corporate powers and governmental duties and functions.

8 (e) No enumeration of any right, power, privilege, or authority hereinafter made shall be  
9 construed as limiting or abolishing any right, power, privilege or authority hereinabove set  
10 forth.

11 (f) In addition to and supplementary to all other powers which it may possess, and by way of  
12 illustration and not of limitation, the unified government shall have the powers specifically  
13 enumerated in Section 7-114 of this charter.

14  
15 **SECTION 1-105.**

16 Taxing Districts.

17  
18 (a) The unified government may divide the county into two or more taxing districts. Such  
19 taxing districts may include one district conterminous with the former boundaries of the City  
20 of Georgetown, and within such district such taxes may be levied as may be necessary to  
21 retire any bonded indebtedness of the City of Georgetown, which is outstanding on the  
22 effective date of the abolishment of the City of Georgetown. Additionally, in the taxing  
23 district of the former City of Georgetown, the unified government shall levy such taxes as are  
24 necessary to retire any other indebtedness of the City of Georgetown which is outstanding on  
25 the effective date of the abolishment of the City of Georgetown. Such taxing districts may  
26 also include one or more service districts.

27 (b) Taxes shall be assessed, levied, and collected in accordance with the kind, character, type,  
28 degree, and level of services provided by the government within said service districts, and the  
29 rate and manner of taxation may vary in any one district from that in another or other districts.

30 (c) The unified government may also establish special services districts, which shall embrace  
31 such territory or territories for which provision is made by the Commission for additional or  
32 higher levels of services provided by the unified government.

33 (d) In the establishment or modification of service districts and special services districts, the  
34 unified government shall hold one or more public hearings thereon at which all interested  
35 persons affected thereby shall have an opportunity to be heard. Notice of the time, place, and  
36 date of such hearings shall be published in the official legal organ of Quitman County at least  
37 once a week during the two weeks immediately preceding the date of hearing.



1  
2 **SECTION 1-106.**

3 Construction.

4  
5 The powers of the unified government shall be construed liberally in favor of the unified  
6 government. The specific mention or failure to mention particular powers in this charter shall  
7 not be construed as limiting in any way the general powers of the unified government as  
8 provided in this article. It is the intention hereof to grant to the unified government full power  
9 and right to exercise all governmental authority authorized by the Constitution and laws of  
10 Georgia which is necessary for the effective operation and conduct of the unified government  
11 within its territory and for the conduct of all of its affairs.

12  
13 **ARTICLE II**

14 **LEGISLATIVE ARTICLE**

15 **CHAPTER 1 - The Commission**

16  
17 **SECTION 2-101.**

18 Name and Composition.

19  
20 There is hereby created the "Commission of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia."  
21 Membership on the Commission is a part-time position. The Commission shall consist of  
22 five members elected at-large for specified posts.

23  
24 **SECTION 2-102.**

25 Term of Office; Qualifications; Disqualifications.

26  
27 (a) The term of office of all members of the Commission, except for the initial terms of the  
28 initial members, shall be four years with members serving until their successors are elected  
29 and qualified. A Commissioner appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the  
30 balance of the unexpired term as provided in Section 2-106 of this charter. All terms of office  
31 following the initial terms shall commence at the first regular meeting in January next  
32 following the election.

33 (b) No person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the Commission unless such  
34 person, on or before the date of election or appointment, shall have attained the age of 21  
35 years, shall be a qualified voter of the unified government, and shall have resided within the  
36 county for one year on the date of qualifying for election. A candidate for any of the  
37 commission seats must have all local taxes paid in full at the time of qualifying with the

1 exception of any taxes which are in arbitration. A member of the Commission shall continue  
2 to reside within the county during such member's term of office.

3 (c) No member of the Commission, during that member's term of office, shall hold any other  
4 federal, state, or local government elected office.

5  
6 **SECTION 2-103.**

7 Salary and Expenses of the Commission.  
8

9 (a) The salary of each Commissioner shall be \$3,600.00 per year, payable in equal monthly  
10 installments. The Chairman shall receive an additional \$600.00 per year, payable in equal  
11 monthly installments.

12 (b) In addition to the salary, Commissioners shall be reimbursed for all direct expenses  
13 incurred in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the unified government.

14 (c) The salary of members of the Commission may be changed by ordinance or resolution, in  
15 the manner specified for county governing authorities in Code Section 36-5-24 of the  
16 O.C.G.A. or any similar future general law of the State of Georgia.

17  
18 **SECTION 2-104.**

19 Organization; Oath; Rules; Quorum; Meetings; Records.  
20

21 (a) The Commission shall meet for organization and swearing-in purposes on the first  
22 Monday in January next following its election or as soon thereafter as practicable. At this  
23 meeting, the newly elected or reelected Commissioners shall each take the following oath of  
24 office, to be administered by the judge of the probate court or any other person duly  
25 authorized to administer oaths:

26 "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly perform the duties of  
27 Commissioner of the Unified Government of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, and  
28 that I will support and defend the charter thereof, as well as the Constitution and laws of the  
29 State of Georgia and of the United States of America, so help me God."

30 (b) The Commission, by majority vote, shall adopt rules of procedure governing the  
31 transaction of its business consistent with the provisions of this charter, shall adopt by  
32 ordinance or resolution the time, date, and place for regular meetings, which will be held at  
33 least once each month, and shall provide for keeping minutes of its proceedings by the  
34 Manager as provided in Section 3-102 of this charter.

35 (c) At its first organization meeting, the Commission shall select the date when it will hold its  
36 regular monthly meetings.

1 (d) Three of the five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the  
2 transaction of business; however, a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

3 (e) Special meetings of the Commission may be called by the chairperson or by any three  
4 Commissioners upon no less than 24 hours' written notice to each member served personally  
5 or left at the usual place of business or residence of such member. Such notice of a special  
6 meeting may be waived in writing either before or after the meeting. Subject to subsection  
7 (d) of Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A., special meetings may be held at any time  
8 without notice to all Commissioners, upon attendance at such meeting by all members of the  
9 Commission, or by waiver of notice of those not in attendance.

10 (f) All meetings of the Commission, except for those exceptions provided for in general law,  
11 shall be public and any citizen shall have access to the minutes and records thereof at  
12 reasonable times.

13 (g) At its first meeting in January of each year, a chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be  
14 elected by and from the membership of the Commission to serve for terms of one year. Such  
15 an election shall take place at the first regular meeting of the Commission each year and  
16 whenever necessary to fill a vacancy in either office.

17  
18 **SECTION 2-105.**

19 Powers of the Commission.  
20

21 (a) All legislative powers of the unified government of Georgetown-Quitman County,  
22 Georgia, including any such powers, which may hereafter be conferred by law upon said  
23 government, shall be vested exclusively in and exercised by the Commission in accordance  
24 with the provisions of this charter.

25 (b) In addition to its legislative powers, the Commission shall specifically have the power to:

26 (1) Adopt and from time to time amend the budget; and

27 (2) Approve or reject recommendations concerning the appointments of the Manager,  
28 Attorney, and Auditor; and

29 (3) Remove from office the Manager, Attorney, and Auditor by majority vote of the entire  
30 Commission.

31 (c) In the exercise of its powers, the Commission shall adopt and provide for the execution of  
32 such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with this charter, as may  
33 be necessary or proper for the purpose of carrying into effect the powers conferred by this  
34 charter and for the promotion and protection of the safety, health, peace, security, and general  
35 welfare of the inhabitants of the Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, and may enforce  
36 such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations by imposing penalties for violations

1 thereof, as prescribed by ordinance, by a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for  
2 a period not exceeding 60 days, or both.

3 (d) Except as otherwise provided by the Constitution, general or local law, or this charter, the  
4 Commission may by ordinance or resolution create, change, alter, combine, abolish,  
5 consolidate, and redefine the manner of appointment, membership, powers, and duties of  
6 bureaus, boards, commissions, departments, divisions, authorities, offices, and agencies of the  
7 unified government, including positions of public employment, and may transfer and delete  
8 functions and assign additional functions to any bureaus, offices, agencies, departments,  
9 divisions, boards, authorities, commissions, and positions of public employment existing  
10 under this charter. The Commission may by ordinance or resolution transfer all the assets,  
11 liabilities, and obligations thereof to a department, a division, or other unit of a department of  
12 the unified government, which shall have the power, and its duty shall be, to perform and  
13 exercise all the functions and powers theretofore performed and exercised by such board,  
14 commission, authority, division, agency, bureau, office, department, or position of public  
15 employment.

16 This subsection, however, does not apply to any authorities or boards, which were created by  
17 either a local constitutional amendment or by a local Act of the General Assembly.

18 (e) The Commission shall have the power to conduct or cause to be conducted inquiries and  
19 investigations of the operations of any office, department, or agency or the conduct of any  
20 officer or employee thereof administering the affairs of the unified government. In  
21 conducting inquiries and investigations, the Commission shall have the right to administer  
22 oaths; subpoena witnesses, documents, records, or other evidence; take testimony; and require  
23 the production of evidence. The conduct of proceedings at Commission inquiries and  
24 investigations shall be subject to such rules and regulations as the Commission may prescribe  
25 by general ordinance or resolution.

26 (f) The Commission shall provide for the form of oaths and the amount and condition of  
27 surety bonds as may be required of any officer or employee of the unified government.

28 (g) The Commission shall have and exercise such other powers as conferred upon it by this  
29 charter and the laws of Georgia.

30  
31 **SECTION 2-106.**

32 Filling of Vacancies.  
33

1 (a) In the event that the office of a member of the Commission shall become vacant by reason  
2 of death, resignation, or any other cause, and the term shall expire in less than 180 days, the  
3 vacant position shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Commission.  
4 Any individual so appointed must have the same qualifications required for election to the  
5 office.

6 (b) If the term of the vacant Commission position will continue for more than 180 days, a  
7 special election shall be held as provided in this charter and in general state law to elect a new  
8 member of the Commission to serve for the remainder of the term.

9  
10 **CHAPTER 2 - Legislative Procedure**

11 **SECTION 2-201.**

12 **Legislation by Ordinance.**

13  
14 Every official act of the Commission which, is to have the force and effect of law, shall be by  
15 ordinance and shall begin with the words: "The Commission of Georgetown-Quitman  
16 County, Georgia, hereby ordains". All other acts of the Commission shall be by resolution or  
17 shall take such other form as prescribed by its rules.

18  
19 **SECTION 2-202.**

20 **Introduction, Consideration, and Passage of Ordinances and Resolutions.**

21  
22 (a) Every proposed ordinance and every amendment shall contain not more than one subject  
23 which shall be clearly expressed in its title.

24 (b) Every proposed ordinance and every amendment shall be introduced in writing.

25 (c) Prior to the introduction of any ordinance, copies of it shall be prepared by the Manager  
26 and distributed to each member of the Commission and to the Attorney. It shall be the duty  
27 of the Attorney to review the draftsmanship and impact of each ordinance. Within seven days  
28 after a proposed ordinance has been introduced, the Manager shall cause to be published in a  
29 newspaper of general circulation designated as the legal organ of the unified government a  
30 brief description of the subject and purpose of the ordinance and notice of the availability of  
31 the proposed ordinance for public inspection in the office of the Manager.

32 (d) A summary of every proposed ordinance shall be read upon first introduction and by title  
33 at the next regular meeting not less than fourteen days following the meeting of its  
34 introduction. In no event however, except for emergency ordinances, may any ordinance be  
35 voted on in less than fourteen days after it is introduced.

36 (e) The adoption of any ordinance shall be by the affirmative vote of at least three of the five  
37 Commissioners.

1 (f) The passage of all ordinances shall be contingent upon the recording of the "ayes" and  
2 "nays" of each Commissioner, and the names of the Commissioners voting for and against  
3 each proposed ordinance or amendment, those abstaining, and those absent shall be entered  
4 upon the minutes of the proceedings of the Commission.

5 (g) Resolutions may be adopted at any regular or special called meeting provided same shall  
6 be by the affirmative vote of at least three of the five commissioners.

7  
8 **SECTION 2-203.**

9 **Emergency Ordinances.**

10  
11 To meet a public emergency threatening life, health, property, or public safety, the  
12 Commission may adopt emergency ordinances; provided, however, that such ordinances may  
13 not be enacted to levy taxes; to grant, renew, or extend a franchise; to regulate the rate  
14 charged for any public utility or service; or to authorize the borrowing of money unless it  
15 shall be repaid in 30 days or less. An emergency ordinance shall be in the form prescribed for  
16 ordinances generally, except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and  
17 shall contain a declaration stating what emergency exists. An emergency ordinance may be  
18 adopted with or without amendment or it may be rejected at the meeting at which it is  
19 introduced, but the affirmative vote of at least four of the five members of the Commission  
20 shall be required for adoption. An emergency ordinance shall become effective upon  
21 adoption or at such later time as it may specify. Every emergency ordinance shall  
22 automatically stand repealed on the thirtieth day following the date on which it was adopted;  
23 but if the emergency still exists, this shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance in the  
24 manner specified in this section. An emergency ordinance may also be repealed by adoption  
25 of a regular repealing ordinance or an emergency repealing ordinance.

26  
27 **SECTION 2-204.**

28 **Authentication; Recording; Effective Date.**

29  
30 All ordinances which have become law shall immediately be deposited in the official archives  
31 of the Manager. The Manager shall note on the face of the ordinance the date and time it has  
32 become law and the ordinance shall become effective at noon on the day following it  
33 becoming law or at such later time as it may specify. The Manager shall authenticate by his  
34 or her signature each ordinance which has become law.

1 **SECTION 2-205.**

2 Codes of Technical Regulations.

3  
4 (a) The Commission may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference  
5 thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such adopting  
6 ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally.

7 (b) Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the  
8 Manager for public inspection and for purchase at a reasonable price as fixed by the  
9 Commission.

10  
11 **SECTION 2-206.**

12 Codification of Ordinances.

13  
14 The Commission shall provide for the preparation of a general codification of all ordinances  
15 of a general or permanent nature as provided in Code Section 36-80-19 of the O.C.G.A.

16  
17 **SECTION 2-207.**

18 Prima-Facie Evidence.

19  
20 A record or entry made by the Manager or a copy of such record or entry, duly certified by  
21 the Manager, shall be prima-facie evidence of the terms of every ordinance and its due  
22 publication.

23  
24 **CHAPTER 3 - Ethics and Prohibited Practices**

25 **SECTION 2-301.**

26 Conflict of Interest.

27  
28 No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia,  
29 or any agency or political entity to which this charter applies shall knowingly:

30 (1) Engage in any business or transaction in which the person has a financial interest, which  
31 is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties;

32 (2) Disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of the  
33 governmental body by which such person is engaged or is a member of without proper legal  
34 authorization or use that information to advance the financial or other private interest of  
35 such person or others;

36 (3) Accept any gift that has a value of \$100.00 or more from any person, firm, or  
37 corporation which to his or her knowledge is interested, directly or indirectly, in business

1 dealings with the governmental body he or she is a member of or by which such person is  
2 engaged; provided, however, that an elected official who is a candidate for public office  
3 may accept campaign contributions and services in connection with any campaign;  
4 (4) Represent private interests other than his or her own in any action or proceeding against  
5 Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, or any portion of its government; or  
6 (5) Vote or otherwise actively participate in the negotiation or the making of any contract  
7 between Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, and any business or entity in which he or  
8 she has a financial interest.

9  
10 **SECTION 2-302.**

11 Disclosure.

12  
13 Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the unified government or of any  
14 board, commission, authority, or agency thereof who shall have any private financial interest,  
15 direct or indirect, in any contract or matter pending before or within any department of the  
16 unified government shall disclose such private interest to the Commission. Any  
17 Commissioner who has a private interest in any matter pending before the Commission shall  
18 disclose such private interest and such disclosure shall be entered on the records of the  
19 Commission, and he or she shall disqualify himself or herself from participating in any  
20 decision or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of any  
21 board, commission, authority, or agency of the unified government who shall have any  
22 private financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or matter pending before or within  
23 such entity, shall disclose such private interest to the Commission.

24  
25 **SECTION 2-303.**

26 Testimony of Public Officials Relating to Public Affairs.

27  
28 Any officer or employee of the unified government or of any board, commission, authority, or  
29 agency thereof who is duly and properly called as a witness before any unified government,  
30 state, or federal judicial or administrative tribunal and who shall before such tribunal fail to  
31 answer any proper question concerning the performance of his or her official duties shall be  
32 guilty of a violation of this charter.

33  
34 **SECTION 2-304.**

35 Contracts Voidable and Rescindable.



1 Any contract by the unified government or any board, commission, authority, agency, or  
2 entity thereof made in violation of the provisions of this charter shall be voidable or  
3 rescindable at the option of the Commission at any time if any elected official, appointed  
4 officer, or employee of such unified government or board, commission, authority, agency, or  
5 entity thereof has any interest in such contract and does not disclose such interest in  
6 accordance with Section 2-302 of this charter.

7  
8 **SECTION 2-305.**

9 Hearings and Determinations.  
10

11 Upon the sworn complaint of any person alleging facts which if true would constitute a  
12 violation of this charter by any officer or employee of the unified government or of any  
13 board, commission, authority or agency thereof, the Commission may conduct a public  
14 hearing at which the accused shall be given an opportunity to be heard, either personally or  
15 through counsel. At the conclusion of such hearing, the Commission, with the exception of  
16 any commissioner who stands accused shall, in written findings of fact and conclusions based  
17 thereon, make a determination by a majority of the Commission concerning the propriety of  
18 the conduct of the official or employee in question.

19  
20 **SECTION 2-306**

21 Removal of the Chairman or Commissioner; Procedure for Removal.  
22

23 (a) The chairman or any commissioner shall be subject to removal from any office for any  
24 one (1) or more of the following causes:

- 25 (1) Incompetence, misfeasance or malfeasance in office;
- 26 (2) Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude or a crime punishable as a felony;
- 27 (3) Failure at any time to possess any of the qualifications of office as provided by this  
28 Charter or by law;
- 29 (4) Violation of Ethics and Prohibited Practices as set forth in Article II, Chapter 3 of  
30 this Charter;
- 31 (5) Abandonment of office or neglect to perform the duties thereof; or
- 32 (6) Failure for any other cause to perform the duties of office as required by this Charter or  
33 by law.

34 (b) Removal of an elected officer provided for in this Section from office may be  
35 accomplished by one (1) of the following methods:

- 36 (1) By affirmative vote of four (4) members of the Commission. In the event an elected  
37 officer is sought to be removed by the action of the Commission, such officer shall be

1 first entitled to a written notice specifying the grounds for removal and to a public  
2 hearing which shall be held not less than 30 days after the service of such written  
3 notice. Any elected officer sought to be removed from office as herein provided shall  
4 have the right of appeal from the decision of the Commission to the superior court for  
5 a jury trial de novo. Such appeal shall be governed by the same rules as govern  
6 appeals to the superior court from the probate court; or

- 7 (2) By information filed in the superior court as authorized by Code Section 9-6-64 of the  
8 O.C.G.A., as amended.

9  
10  
11 **ARTICLE III**  
12 **ADMINISTRATION**  
13 **CHAPTER 1 - Officers**

14  
15 **SECTION 3-101.**

16 **Manager; Appointment; Qualifications; Compensation.**

17  
18 The Manager shall be appointed as the full-time administrative officer of the unified  
19 government. No person holding an elective office in Georgetown-Quitman County shall be  
20 eligible for appointment until one year after leaving elective office. Such appointment shall be  
21 by a majority vote of the total membership of the Commission. The Manager shall be  
22 prohibited from engaging in any political activity, and the Manager shall not be eligible to  
23 qualify as a candidate for an elective office in Georgetown-Quitman County for one year after  
24 leaving office. The Manager shall be appointed for a term of three years; may succeed  
25 himself or herself; and at any time may be removed from office for cause after written notice  
26 and hearing by a majority vote of the entire Commission. The Manager need not be a resident  
27 of Georgetown-Quitman County at the time of his or her appointment but shall establish  
28 residence therein within six months of such appointment and continue to reside therein  
29 throughout such appointment. The manager must have municipal management experience of  
30 two years and /or a degree in municipal management or business administration from an  
31 accredited college. Additional qualifications and compensation of the Manager shall be fixed  
32 by ordinance or resolution.

33  
34 **SECTION 3-102.**

35 **Manager; Powers and Duties.**

- 36  
37 (a) The Manager shall be responsible for:

- 1 (1) The management and coordination of the operations and activities of the various  
2 departments and agencies of the unified government;
- 3 (2) The appointment and removal of all directors of departments who are subject to his or  
4 her control and direction as provided for by this Charter but only after having first obtained  
5 the advice and consent of the commission;
- 6 (3) The preparation of the proposed annual budget;
- 7 (4) Keeping the Commission at all times fully advised as to the financial condition and  
8 needs of the unified government; including a monthly financial report to the commission;
- 9 (5) Conducting studies and investigations and making reports thereon to the Commission  
10 concerning the operations of the departments, offices, and agencies of the unified  
11 government;
- 12 (6) Requiring any department, board, commission, or agency under the Manager's  
13 jurisdiction to submit written reports and to provide other information as deemed necessary;
- 14 (7) Prescribing, requiring, publishing, and implementing standards of administration,  
15 management, and operating practices and procedures to be followed and adhered to by all  
16 offices, departments, boards, commissions, authorities, and other agencies of the unified  
17 government which are subject to the Manager's supervision and jurisdiction;
- 18 (8) Acting as the purchasing agent of Georgetown-Quitman County; and
- 19 (9) Maintaining all required records of the operations and activities of Georgetown-  
20 Quitman County, including the minutes of all meetings of the Commission of Georgetown-  
21 Quitman County.
- 22 (10) Perform such other duties as may be required by law, this Charter, Ordinance or  
23 resolution of the Commission.
- 24 (11) Directing and supervising the administration of the construction, maintenance, and  
25 operation of public streets, sidewalks, roads, bridges drains and buildings and other public  
26 works.
- 27 (b) Except for the purpose of inquiry, investigation, or safety violations the Commission shall deal  
28 with employees of the unified government who are subject to appointment and removal by the  
29 Manager solely through the Manager and shall not give orders or directions to any such employee,  
30 either publicly or privately, directly or indirectly.

31  
32  
33 **SECTION 3-103.**

34 Attorney; Appointment; Term; Qualifications;  
35 Duties; Compensation.  
36

1 (a) The Attorney shall be appointed for one year at the first meeting in January by a majority  
2 vote of the entire Commission and at any time may be removed for cause after written notice  
3 and hearing by a majority vote of the entire Commission.

4 (b) The Attorney shall be an active member of the State Bar of Georgia in good standing and  
5 shall satisfy any other qualifications established by ordinance and shall have had at least five  
6 (5) years experience in active practice of the law.

7 (c) The Attorney shall be the legal counsel to the unified government and shall perform such  
8 other duties as may be required by this charter or by ordinance.

9 (d) The compensation of the Attorney shall be as prescribed by a duly adopted ordinance or  
10 resolution.

11  
12  
13 **SECTION 3-104.**

14 Sheriff.

15  
16 The Sheriff of Quitman County in office on the effective date of this charter shall be the  
17 Sheriff of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia. The Sheriff shall serve for the same term  
18 as provided by law, and the compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent  
19 elections for Sheriff shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of sheriffs  
20 generally. The Sheriff shall be responsible for the operation of the jail, the transport of  
21 prisoners, the service of process, and such other duties being provided on the effective date of  
22 this charter. The Sheriff shall have such other or different powers and duties as provided by  
23 the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

24  
25 **SECTION 3-105.**

26 Judge of the Probate Court.

27  
28 The Judge of the Probate Court of Quitman County in office on the effective date of this  
29 charter shall be the Judge of the Probate Court of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia.  
30 The Judge of Probate Court shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and the  
31 compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for the Judge of the  
32 Probate Court shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of probate judges  
33 generally. The Judge of the Probate Court shall perform the same duties and exercise the  
34 same powers as conferred on probate judges generally by the Constitution and laws of  
35 Georgia.

1 **SECTION 3-106.**

2 Clerk of Superior Court.

3  
4 The Clerk of Superior Court of Quitman County in office on the effective date of this charter  
5 shall be the Clerk of Superior Court of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia. The Clerk of  
6 Superior Court shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and the compensation shall  
7 be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for the Clerk of Superior Court shall be on  
8 the same basis as provided by law for the election of clerks of superior court generally. The  
9 Clerk of Superior Court shall perform the same duties and exercise the same powers as  
10 conferred on clerks of superior court generally by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

11  
12 **SECTION 3-107.**

13 Tax Commissioner.

14  
15 The Tax Commissioner of Quitman County in office on the effective date of this charter shall  
16 be the Tax Commissioner of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia. The Tax Commissioner  
17 shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and the compensation shall be fixed as  
18 provided by law. Subsequent elections for Tax Commissioner shall be on the same basis as  
19 provided by law for the election of tax commissioners generally. The Tax Commissioner  
20 shall perform the same duties and exercise the same powers as conferred on tax  
21 commissioners generally by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

22 **SECTION 3-108.**

23 Coroner.

24  
25 The Coroner of Quitman County in office on the effective date of this charter shall be the  
26 Coroner of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia. The Coroner shall serve for the same  
27 term as provided by law, and compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent  
28 elections for Coroner shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of  
29 coroners generally. The Coroner shall perform the same duties and exercise the same powers  
30 as conferred on coroners generally by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

31  
32 **CHAPTER 2 - Administrative and Service Departments**

33 **SECTION 3-201.**

34 Creation and Functions; Generally.

1 Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, the administrative and service  
2 departments of the unified government shall be created and established by ordinance or  
3 resolution and shall perform such functions, duties, services, and responsibilities as  
4 enumerated therein and as prescribed by administrative regulations.

5 **SECTION 3-202.**

6 Administrative Reorganization.

7  
8 The Commission may, by ordinance or resolution, reorganize, combine, consolidate, or  
9 discontinue any department or agency of the unified government subject to the jurisdiction of  
10 the Commission and may, by ordinance or resolution, prescribe the functions and duties  
11 thereof and may establish, abolish, or alter all non-elective offices and positions of  
12 employment as necessary for the proper administration of the unified government.

13  
14 **SECTION 3-203.**

15 Appointment of Directors of Departments.

16  
17 All directors of departments under the supervision and direction of the Manager shall be  
18 appointed by the Manager subject to the advice and consent of the Commission. The  
19 directors of all such departments shall serve at the pleasure of the Manager subject to the  
20 advice and consent of the Commission.

21  
22 **SECTION 3-204.**

23 Departments under State Law.

24  
25 All departments which are created pursuant to state or federal law and which administer  
26 various state and federal programs and services shall continue their operations without  
27 interruption resulting from the adoption of this charter.

28  
29 **CHAPTER 3 - Merit System of Personnel Administration**

30 **SECTION 3-301.**

31 Establishment of Merit System.

32  
33 (a) The Commission may establish, by ordinance, a Merit System of Personnel  
34 Administration for Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia. In such case, all positions in the  
35 service of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, shall be in the Classified (Merit System)  
36 Service except the following which are declared to be in the Unclassified Service:

- 37 (1) Officers elected by the people and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elective offices;

- 1 (2) Members of boards and commissions;
- 2 (3) Directors of departments;
- 3 (4) Persons temporarily employed in a professional or scientific capacity or to conduct a
- 4 special inquiry, investigation, examination, or installation;
- 5 (5) Temporary and part-time employees; and
- 6 (6) Such other employees as may be excluded from coverage under the merit system as
- 7 provided by ordinance or resolution or other applicable law.
- 8 (7) The manager and attorney.

9 (b) The Merit System of Personnel Administration, if so established, shall provide for  
10 classification of positions, the manner and method of publicizing vacancies, employing and  
11 appointing personnel, the qualifications of employees, employee performance evaluations,  
12 salaries, hours of employment, vacations, sick leave, special workers' compensation, job  
13 security, promotion, demotion, disciplinary procedures, transfer, layoff, removal, welfare of  
14 employees, retirement policy, payment of premiums of employee insurance benefits,  
15 grievance procedures, service awards, training leave, and any other measures that promote the  
16 hiring and retaining of capable, diligent, and honest career employees, all of which shall be in  
17 accordance with the concept of affirmative action as provided by federal law.

18  
19 **CHAPTER 4 - Boards, Commissions, and Authorities**

20 **SECTION 3-401.**

21 **Certain Boards, Commissions, and Authorities Continued.**

22  
23 All existing boards, commissions, and authorities are continued without interruption on the  
24 effective date of this charter.

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26  
27  
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29  
30 **ARTICLE IV**

31 **JUDICIARY**

32 **SECTION 4-101.**

33 **Superior Court and District Attorney; Unaffected by Charter; Redesignation.**

1 The Superior Court of Quitman County, including the office of the District Attorney, shall  
2 continue its operations without interruption resulting from the adoption of this charter, and  
3 nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the status of said court. The court shall be  
4 known as the Superior Court of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia.

5  
6 **SECTION 4-102.**

7 Juvenile Court; Unaffected by Charter; Redesignation.

8  
9 The Juvenile Court of Quitman County shall continue its operations without interruption  
10 resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing herein shall be construed as affecting  
11 the status of said court. The court shall be known as the Juvenile Court of Georgetown-  
12 Quitman County, Georgia.

13  
14 **SECTION 4-103.**

15 Probate Court; Unaffected by Charter; Redesignation.

16  
17 The Probate Court of Quitman County shall continue its operations without interruption  
18 resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing herein shall be construed as affecting  
19 the status of said court. The court shall be known as the Probate Court of Georgetown-  
20 Quitman County, Georgia.

21  
22 **SECTION 4-104.**

23 Magistrate Court; Unaffected by Charter; Redesignation.

24  
25 The Magistrate Court of Quitman County shall continue its operations without interruption  
26 resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing herein shall be construed as affecting  
27 the status of said court. The court shall be known as the Magistrate Court of Georgetown-  
28 Quitman County, Georgia.

29  
30 **SECTION 4-105.**

31 Municipal Court of the City of Georgetown; Continuation of  
32 Operations in the Magistrate Court and Probate Court of the Unified Government.

33  
34 On the effective date of this charter, the Municipal Court of the City of Georgetown shall be  
35 abolished, and all jurisdiction and pending matters of the municipal court shall be transferred  
36 to the Magistrate Court or Probate Court of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia.



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ARTICLE V  
ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 1 - Conduct of Elections

**SECTION 5-101.**

Applicability of General Laws.

Except as otherwise provided by this charter, primaries and regular and special elections shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code." As used in said Code, the terms "election" or "general election" shall be construed to include the term "regular election" as provided in this charter; the term "governing authority" shall include the Commission of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia; the terms "municipal," "municipality," or "county" shall include Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia; and the term "public office" shall include elective offices of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia. Pursuant to the authority granted in Article 9 Section 3 paragraph 2(a) of the Georgia Constitution and the authority granted in House Bill No. 757 Act No. 216 (b) approved by the Governor on May 6, 2005 elections for members of the Commission of the unified government shall be conducted in nonpartisan primaries and elections.

**SECTION 5-102.**

Regular Election; Time for Holding; Voting.

Except for the initial elections which may or may not be held on the date of regular state elections, regular elections for the elective public offices of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, shall be held on the same Tuesday in November when regular state elections are held.

**SECTION 5-103.**

Special Elections.

All special elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," that govern the conduct of county elections.

1 ARTICLE VI  
2 REVENUE AND FINANCE

3  
4 CHAPTER 1 - Taxation and Other Revenues

5 SECTION 6-101.

6 Levy and Collection of Taxes, Fees, Charges,  
7 and Assessments; Appropriations.  
8

9 (a) For the purpose of raising revenue for the support and maintenance of the government of  
10 Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, the Commission shall have full power and authority  
11 to levy and collect taxes to the extent hereinafter provided and to appropriate funds and  
12 expend money:

13 (1) For the purposes authorized by this charter;

14 (2) For the discharge of the powers, duties, obligations, liabilities, and functions specified in  
15 this charter;

16 (3) For any and all purposes and any and all subjects of taxation for which the City of  
17 Georgetown or Quitman County may have been authorized and in accordance with those  
18 authorizations to levy and collect taxes and to appropriate and expend funds under the  
19 Constitution or any general or special law of Georgia applicable to the City of Georgetown  
20 or Quitman County on the effective date of this charter; and

21 (4) For any purpose authorized by the Constitution or any general or special law of Georgia  
22 applicable to municipal corporations and counties generally now in force or hereafter  
23 enacted.

24 (b) The Commission shall have full power and authority to levy and collect the following  
25 taxes, charges, and assessments:

26 (1) Ad valorem taxes on all real and personal property situated within Georgetown-Quitman  
27 County, Georgia, which is subject to taxation for state, county, and municipal purposes, or  
28 for any other public purpose, to the full extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of  
29 Georgia;

30 (2) Occupation and business license taxes that are not prohibited by the Constitution and  
31 general laws of Georgia;

32 (3) An excise tax on rooms, lodgings, or accommodations as now or hereafter provided by  
33 law for counties and municipalities;

34 (4) License fees and taxes on insurance companies as authorized by Code Sections 33-8-8  
35 through 33-8-8.6 of the O.C.G.A.;

36 (5) A public utility franchise tax, fee, or both, on each electric light and power company,  
37 gas company, telephone and telegraph company, and other public utility making use of the

1 roads, streets, alleys, or other public ways of the unified government for the purpose of  
2 rendering services therein;

3 (6) Franchise fees on cable television systems as now or hereafter provided by law for  
4 counties;

5 (7) Fees, assessments, and charges for the cost of constructing, reconstructing, widening, or  
6 improving any public way, street, sidewalk, curbing, gutters, storm sewers, drainage  
7 structures, or other utility mains and appurtenances from the abutting property owners under  
8 any terms and conditions as provided by ordinance;

9 (8) Fees, assessments, charges, and tolls for sanitary and health services or any other  
10 services rendered within and outside the limits of the unified government under such terms  
11 and conditions as provided by ordinance;

12 (9) All other such taxes, charges, or assessments as the City of Georgetown or Quitman  
13 County were authorized and empowered to make and collect upon the effective date of this  
14 charter, which powers may be exercised throughout the area of the unified government, or  
15 appropriate portions thereof, including any tax now or hereafter authorized by state law and  
16 the specific mention of any right, power, or authority in this charter shall not be construed  
17 as limiting in any way the general powers of the Commission to govern its local affairs.  
18 When authorized by this charter or a statute or the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the  
19 Commission shall have full power and authority to assess, levy, charge, and collect taxes,  
20 rentals, interest, fees, penalties, fines, and costs; to receive income on investments; to accept  
21 funds, services, or property from other political subdivisions and public agencies, either  
22 local, state, or national, and from private persons, firms, or corporations; and to contract  
23 with them for any public purpose;

24 (10) An excise tax upon the sale of distilled spirits or alcoholic beverages for beverage  
25 purposes by the drink as now or hereafter provided by law for counties and municipalities;

26 (11) An excise tax upon the sale, transfer, or dispensing of malt beverages and alcoholic  
27 beverages within Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, by wholesale or retail dealers as  
28 now or hereafter provided by law for counties and municipalities. In addition, the  
29 Commission shall have the authority to impose, assess, levy, and collect an excise tax upon  
30 the sale, transfer, or dispensing of wine by wholesale or retail dealers within Georgetown-  
31 Quitman County, Georgia, as now or hereafter provided by law for counties and  
32 municipalities; and

33 (b) Such other taxes and charges as provided by law.  
34  
35

1 **SECTION 6-102.**

2 Collection of Delinquent Taxes and Fees.

3  
4 The collection of delinquent taxes and fees shall be as provided in state law for the collection  
5 of delinquent property taxes by counties.  
6

7  
8 **CHAPTER 2 - Borrowing and Indebtedness**

9 **SECTION 6-201.**

10 Issuance of General Obligation Bonds.

11  
12 (a) The Commission shall be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds, after  
13 approval of the qualified voters, under the provisions of the Constitution and general laws of  
14 Georgia for any public purpose for the benefit of the unified government or any tax area or  
15 service district thereof; provided, however, that for the purpose of issuing and selling such  
16 general obligation bonds, the unified government shall be deemed a county and the provisions  
17 of the Constitution and laws of Georgia governing the limitations, terms, and procedures for  
18 the issuance and sale of bonds by counties shall apply to the unified government unless  
19 otherwise provided by this charter.

20 (b) All general obligation bonds shall be issued in the name of Georgetown-Quitman County,  
21 Georgia, and shall be an obligation thereof, and the full faith and credit of the unified  
22 government shall be pledged for all general obligation bonds issued thereunder which are  
23 payable from ad valorem taxes, and for such purpose, the Commission shall have the  
24 authority to levy and collect ad valorem taxes without limit as to rate or amount on all taxable  
25 property within the territorial limits of the unified government.  
26

27 **SECTION 6-202.**

28 Debt Limitation; General Obligation Bonds.

29  
30 The total general obligation bond indebtedness of the unified government payable from ad  
31 valorem taxes (including all outstanding general obligation bonds of the former City of  
32 Georgetown and Quitman County on the effective date of this charter) shall not exceed 10  
33 percent of the assessed value of all taxable property within the territorial limits of the unified  
34 government.  
35

1 **SECTION 6-203.**

2 Revenue Bonds.

3  
4 The Commission shall be empowered and authorized to issue revenue bonds for the purposes  
5 and in the manner as now or hereafter provided by Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the  
6 O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law."

7  
8 **SECTION 6-204.**

9 Use of Bond Proceeds.

10  
11 All revenue derived by the unified government from the issuance and sale of bonds shall be  
12 used exclusively for the purposes for which such bonds were issued, and all ad valorem taxes  
13 collected for the purpose of servicing or retiring such bonds shall be used exclusively for the  
14 payment of principal and interest thereof.

15  
16 **CHAPTER 3 - Financial Administration**

17 **SECTION 6-301.**

18 Fiscal Year.

19  
20 The fiscal year of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, shall begin on the first day of  
21 January of each year and shall end on the thirty first day of December next following. The  
22 fiscal year shall constitute the budget year and the year for financial accounting and reporting  
23 of each and every office, department, institution, agency, and activity of the unified  
24 government, unless otherwise provided by state or federal law.

25  
26 **SECTION 6-302.**

27 Preparation of Budgets.

28  
29 The preparation of an annual budget and a capital improvements budget shall be as prescribed  
30 by ordinance and provisions of this charter.

31  
32 **SECTION 6-303.**

33 Scope of Budgets.

34  
35 (a) The annual budget should consist of two parts:

- 36 (1) Part I of the annual budget shall apply only to the operating expenses of the unified  
37 government; and

1 (2) Part II of the annual budget shall apply only to capital improvement expenses of the  
2 unified government.

3 (b) Each section of the annual operating and capital budget shall contain with respect to each  
4 of the operating funds of the government of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, to which  
5 they are applicable:

6 (1) A reasonable estimate of cash revenues to be received during the ensuing year, classified  
7 according to source;

8 (2) Proposed expenditures detailed by each department, board, commission, office, agency,  
9 and activity in accordance with an established classification of accounts, including those  
10 capital outlays which are to be financed from the revenues of the ensuing year and including  
11 all debt service requirements in full for such fiscal year; and

12 (3) Such other information as may be considered necessary or desirable by the Manager or  
13 the Commission.

14 (c) In no event shall the total proposed expenditures from any fund exceed the total  
15 anticipated revenues plus the estimated unappropriated surplus or fund balance and applicable  
16 reserves less any estimated deficit at the end of the current fiscal year.

17 (d) The capital improvements budget shall describe capital projects anticipated, the proposed  
18 expenditures therefore, and the revenues or other sources of funds anticipated to finance such  
19 capital projects.

20  
21 **SECTION 6-304.**

22 Submission of Budgets to the Commission.

23  
24 On or before a date fixed by the Commission but *not later than 60 days prior* to the  
25 beginning of each fiscal year, the Manager of the unified government shall submit to the  
26 Commission a proposed operating budget and a proposed capital improvements budget for the  
27 ensuing fiscal year. The operating budget and the capital improvements budget, the budget  
28 message, and all supporting schedules shall be filed in the Manager's office and shall be open  
29 to public inspection.

1 **SECTION 6-305.**

2 Adoption of Budgets.

3  
4 (a) The Commission may approve, reject, or modify the proposed budget. The budget as  
5 finally adopted must provide for all expenditures required by law or by other provisions of  
6 this charter and for all debt service requirements for the ensuing fiscal year. The total  
7 appropriations from any fund shall not exceed the estimated fund balance, reserves, and  
8 revenues constituting the resources available of such fund.

9 (b) The Commission shall adopt the final annual operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year  
10 not later than the thirtieth day of June of each year and such budget shall be effective for the  
11 fiscal year beginning on the first day of January. In the event the Commission fails to adopt  
12 the budget by this date, the amounts appropriated for current operation for the current fiscal  
13 year shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year, with appropriate items prorated  
14 accordingly until such time as the Commission shall adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal  
15 year. Adoption of the annual operating budget shall take the form of an appropriation  
16 ordinance or resolution setting out estimated revenues in detail by source and making  
17 appropriations accordingly to fund organizational units, purposes, or activities as set forth in  
18 the budget document.

19 (c) The amount set out in the adopted operating budget for each organizational unit, purpose,  
20 or activity shall constitute the annual appropriation for such item, and no expenditure shall be  
21 made or encumbrance created in excess of the otherwise unencumbered balance of the  
22 appropriation, or allotment thereof, to which it is chargeable.

23 (d) The Commission shall adopt by ordinance or resolution the capital improvements program  
24 and capital budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than the thirtieth day of June of each  
25 year. The capital budget ordinance or resolution shall show in detail the capital expenditures  
26 intended to be made or incurred in the ensuing fiscal year that are to be financed from funds  
27 subject to control or appropriation by the Commission and shall be in full conformity with  
28 that part of the capital program applicable to the year which it covers. Amounts specified as  
29 intended to be spent out of new appropriations shall, upon enactment of the capital budget  
30 ordinance or resolution, constitute appropriations of such amounts.

31  
32 **SECTION 6-306.**

33 Property Tax Levies.

34  
35 Following the adoption of the operating and capital improvements budgets for each fiscal  
36 year the Commission shall levy by ordinance or resolution a general tax on all real and  
37 personal property within the county and one or more taxes on all real and personal property in

1 each service district and special services district. The tax rates set by such ordinance or  
2 resolution shall be such that a reasonable estimate of cash revenues from such levy shall be at  
3 least sufficient, together with other anticipated revenues, fund balances, and applicable  
4 reserves, to equal the total amount appropriated in such budgets.

5  
6  
7 **SECTION 6-307.**

8 Limitation of Funds.

9  
10 Upon certification by the Manager that the revenues or other resources actually realized with  
11 respect to any fund will be less than was anticipated and will be insufficient to meet the  
12 amounts appropriated from such fund, it shall be the duty of the Manager upon the instruction  
13 of the Commission to limit such appropriations as may be necessary to prevent deficit  
14 operation.

15  
16 **SECTION 6-308.**

17 Transfer of Funds.

18  
19 Upon recommendation of the Manager, the Commission may make interfund or  
20 interdepartmental transfers in the current operating budget or capital improvements budget at  
21 any regular or special meeting called for such purpose, provided funds are also available.

22  
23 **SECTION 6-309.**

24 Lapse of Appropriations.

25  
26 All unencumbered balances of appropriations in the current operating budget at the end of the  
27 fiscal year shall lapse into the unappropriated surplus or reserves of the fund or funds from  
28 which such appropriations were made.



1 **SECTION 6-310.**

2 Annual Audit.

3 (a) The Commission shall provide annually for an independent audit of the accounts and other  
4 evidences of financial transactions of the government of Georgetown-Quitman County,  
5 Georgia, and of every office, department, board, commission, authority, or other agency. The  
6 audit shall be made by a certified public accountant who shall have no personal interest, direct  
7 or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, or of any of its  
8 departments, offices, boards, commissions, authorities, or agencies. The Commission shall  
9 by competitive bids, taking into consideration the lowest or best bid, designate such  
10 accountant or firm annually or for a period not exceeding three years.

11 (b) The audit may be conducted on a quarterly or continuing basis and the final report of the  
12 annual audit shall be completed as soon as practicable after the close of the fiscal year and in  
13 no event later than six months after the close of the fiscal year. The audit report shall be filed  
14 with the Manager and made available to the public.

15 (c) The Commission may at any time order an examination or special audit of any office,  
16 department, board, commission, or other agency of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia.

17  
18 **CHAPTER 4 - Procurement and Disposition of Property**

19 **SECTION 6-401.**

20 Contracting.

21  
22 (a.)The Commission shall prescribe by ordinance or resolutions rules and  
23 regulations, which must be followed in the making of contracts in order to bind the  
24 government of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia. Except where otherwise  
25 provided by law or by ordinance or resolution, all contracts of the government of  
26 Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, shall be signed by the Chairperson and  
27 authenticated by the Manager.

28 (b)All contracts and all ordinances or resolutions which make or authorize contracts  
29 shall be reviewed for form and legal sufficiency by the unified government attorney.

30 (c) All contracts entered into by the Commission with other persons on behalf of the unified  
31 government shall be in writing and entered on its minutes.

32 **SECTION 6-402.**

33 Sale and Disposition of Property.

34

1 (a) The Commission is authorized to sell any real or personal property owned or held by  
2 Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, and not needed for governmental or other public  
3 purposes in such manner as is required in state law for counties, as provided for in Code  
4 Sections 36-9-2 and 36-9-3 of the O.C.G.A.

5 (b) The Commission is empowered to authorize the following transactions:

6 (1) A transfer of any real or personal property owned by Georgetown-Quitman County,  
7 Georgia, to another governmental entity upon finding that such transfer is in the public  
8 interest;

9 (2) A sale of any such property to another governmental entity; and

10 (3) An exchange of such property for property that is owned privately or by some other  
11 governmental entity.

12 In each instance, whether the property is transferred, sold, or exchanged, the requirements of  
13 a public sale shall not be required; but a statement thereof shall be published in the newspaper  
14 designated as the legal organ of the unified government once a week for the two weeks  
15 preceding the day in which such transaction is to be concluded. Such statement shall contain  
16 a description of the property or properties involved and the prices and estimated values as to  
17 each item of property.

18 (c) Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, may quitclaim any rights it may have in property  
19 not needed for public purposes upon a report by the Manager of the unified government and  
20 the adoption by the Commission of a resolution, both finding that the property is not needed  
21 for public purposes and that the interest of the government of Georgetown-Quitman County,  
22 Georgia, therein has no readily ascertainable monetary value.

23 (d) Whenever in opening, extending, or widening any street, avenue, alley, or public place of  
24 Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, a small parcel or tract of land is cut off or separated  
25 by such work from a larger tract of land owned by Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia,  
26 the Commission may authorize the execution and deliverance in the name of the government  
27 of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, of a deed conveying said cut-off or separated  
28 parcel or tract of land to an abutting or adjoining property owner or owners in exchange for  
29 rights of way in said street, avenue, alley, or public place, or in settlement of any alleged  
30 damages sustained by said abutting or adjoining property owner. All deeds and conveyances  
31 so executed and delivered shall convey all title and interest the government of Georgetown-  
32 Quitman County, Georgia, has in such property.

33  
34 **ARTICLE VII**

35 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

36  
37 **SECTION 7-101.**

Application of Laws; Laws in Force.

(a) The general laws of the State of Georgia of a criminal nature shall be applicable to and within the limits of the unified government.

(b) In construing the applicability of provisions of the Constitution and the general laws of Georgia which apply in general terms to either counties or municipalities, or both, and local Acts of the General Assembly that apply specifically to Quitman County or the City of Georgetown, or both, the following terms as used in such laws shall be construed to include the unified government as follows:

(1) "County" shall be construed to include Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia;

(2) "City," "town," "municipal corporation," or "municipality" shall be construed to include Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia;

(3) "Commissioners of Roads and Revenues" and "Board of County Commissioners" shall be construed to include the Commission of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia;

(4) "Council," "Mayor and Council," "Aldermen," and "Board of Aldermen" shall be construed to include the Commission of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia;

(5) "Chairman of the Commissioners of Roads and Revenues" and "Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners" shall be construed to include the Chairperson of the Commission of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia;

(6) "Mayor" shall be construed to include the Chairperson of the Commission of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia; and

(7) Any other terms and provisions as used in such Acts to refer specifically to Quitman County or the City of Georgetown, or both, and the officers, employees, departments, and agencies thereof shall be construed to mean Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, and its officers, employees, departments, and agencies.

(c) In construing the applicability of laws in force to the unified government, the following order shall prevail:

(1) The Constitution of the State of Georgia;

(2) The general laws of uniform application now in force or hereafter enacted by the General Assembly (as distinguished from general laws of local application through classification by population) applicable to municipal corporations or counties, or both;

(3) This charter and all ordinances and resolutions passed pursuant thereto;

(4) Special laws applicable to Quitman County, not in conflict with this charter;

(5) Special laws applicable to the City of Georgetown, not in conflict with this charter; and

(6) Existing ordinances and resolutions of the former City of Georgetown and existing ordinances and resolutions of the former County of Quitman not in conflict with this charter.

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**SECTION 7-102.**

Limitation on Claims and Service.

(a) All contractual claims against the unified government shall be presented within 12 months after they accrue or become payable or the same as claimed, unless held by minors or other persons laboring under disabilities, who are allowed 12 months after the removal of such disability.

(b) Service on the unified government of any suit, process, or order of court shall be served upon the Manager.

**SECTION 7-103.**

Tort and Nuisance Liability.

The tort and nuisance liability of the unified government shall follow the law and rules of tort liability applicable to counties in Georgia.

**SECTION 7-104.**

Conflict of Laws.

For purposes of all applicable laws, the unified government shall constitute a municipality and a county, or both. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, if a law applicable to municipalities and the same or another law applicable to counties are in conflict, the law applicable to municipalities shall prevail.

**SECTION 7-105.**

Competitive Bidding.

The unified government must utilize competitive bidding procedures as required and in compliance with the General Law of the State of Georgia.



1 **SECTION 7-108.**

2 Federal and State Aid.

3  
4 The unified government shall be deemed a county but shall also be deemed an incorporated  
5 city or municipality for the purpose of determining its right to receive and for the purpose of  
6 receiving state aid or grant-in-aid from the state of Georgia or from the United States or from  
7 any agency or instrumentality thereof or from any other source, public or private. The unified  
8 government shall be entitled to receive as state aid or as grant-in-aid from the State of  
9 Georgia or from the United States or from any agency or instrumentality thereof or from any  
10 other source, public or private, all funds to which a county is, or may hereafter be, entitled,  
11 and also all funds to which an incorporated city or municipality is or may be hereafter  
12 entitled, and to receive the same without diminution or loss by reason of unification. When  
13 state aid or other grant-in-aid is distributed to any county on the basis of population or area, or  
14 both, then the entire population and the total area of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia,  
15 shall be considered in calculating and determining the basis for such distribution.  
16

17 **SECTION 7-109.**

18 Budgets of County Officers and Agencies.

19  
20 All elected officers and all agencies not under the direct control and jurisdiction of the  
21 Manager such as the Board of Health and the Board of Family and Children Services, which  
22 receive appropriations from the Commission, shall, on the same date as is applicable to  
23 budgets submitted by department heads, submit to the Manager annual operating and capital  
24 budget requests for the ensuing fiscal year. Such budget requests, after any revisions therein  
25 by the Manager, shall be incorporated into the overall unified government budget for  
26 submission by the Manager to the Commission, which shall grant a hearing to any such  
27 officer or agency on such proposed budgets.  
28

29 **SECTION 7-110.**

30 Existing Pension Rights Protected.

31  
32 (a) Persons who, at the time this charter takes effect, are employed by any office, department,  
33 board, commission, or agency of the former City of Georgetown shall retain all pension  
34 rights, which have accrued to them under any existing pension system. The unified  
35 government shall continue in force and effect any existing pension system for city employees  
36 covered thereby who are employed by the unified government, and the services of such  
37 employees shall not be deemed to have been interrupted by the adoption of this charter.

1 (b) Persons who, at the time this charter takes effect, are employed by any office, department,  
2 board, commission, or agency of the former County of Quitman shall retain all rights, which  
3 have accrued to them under any existing pension system. The unified government shall  
4 continue in force and effect any existing pension system for county employees covered  
5 thereby who are employed by the unified government, and the services of such employees  
6 shall not be deemed to have been interrupted by the adoption of this charter.

7  
8 **SECTION 7-111.**

9 Establishment of New Pension Systems;  
10 Merging of Existing Systems.

11  
12 The Commission is hereby authorized and empowered to establish and maintain a new  
13 pension system or pension systems affecting new employees and such other employees as  
14 desire to be covered thereby and to revise, combine, and consolidate any pension system in  
15 effect on the effective date of this charter; provided, however, that in no event shall any  
16 revision, combination, or unification of any existing pension system in effect when this  
17 charter is adopted result in the curtailment or diminishment of any right accrued under any  
18 existing pension system to any person heretofore employed by the City of Georgetown,  
19 Quitman County, or of any agency of such former governments.

20  
21 **SECTION 7-112.**

22 Amending Charter.

23  
24 This charter may be modified, rescinded, changed, or amended by only the following  
25 methods:

- 26 (1) An Act of the General Assembly of Georgia; or  
27 (2) An ordinance adopted by the Commission of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, as  
28 provided for in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I of the Constitution of the State of  
29 Georgia.

30  
31 **SECTION 7-113.**

32 Fidelity Bonds.

33  
34 All officers of the unified government, both elected and appointed, shall execute such official  
35 bonds in such amounts and upon such terms and conditions as the law or the Commission  
36 may require.





- 1 (18) Pollution: to regulate emissions which pollute the air and water;
- 2 (19) Fire safety: to fix fire limits and to prescribe and enforce fire safety regulations;
- 3 (20) Public hazards: to provide for the destruction or removal of public hazards;
- 4 (21) Waste disposal: to provide for and regulate the collection, disposal, and recycling of
- 5 garbage and wastes;
- 6 (22) Water and sewer fees: to fix and collect water and sewer fees;
- 7 (23) Garbage fees: to fix and collect garbage fees;
- 8 (24) Nuisances: to define and provide for the abatement of nuisances;
- 9 (25) Property protection: to preserve and protect the property of the unified government;
- 10 (26) Prisoners: to provide for public work by prisoners and for their confinement;
- 11 (27) Animal control: to regulate or prohibit the keeping of animals;
- 12 (28) Motor vehicles: to regulate the operation and parking of motor vehicles;
- 13 (29) Taxicabs: to regulate vehicles operated for hire in Georgetown-Quitman County;
- 14 (30) Pensions: to provide and maintain a system of pensions and retirement for employees
- 15 and officers of the unified government;
- 16 (31) Special assessments: to levy, assess, and collect special assessments to cover the cost
- 17 of public improvements;
- 18 (32) Contracts: to enter into lawful contracts and agreements;
- 19 (33) Agencies: to create, alter, or abolish departments, boards, offices, commissions,
- 20 authorities, and agencies of the unified government and to confer appropriate authority upon
- 21 them;
- 22 (34) Penalties: to provide penalties for violations of ordinances of the unified government;
- 23 (35) Police and fire protection: to exercise the power of arrest through appointed policemen
- 24 and to operate a fire department;
- 25 (36) Emergencies: to provide for the determination, proclamation, and combating of
- 26 emergencies;
- 27 (37) Urban redevelopment: to organize and operate an urban redevelopment program;
- 28 (38) Public transportation: to organize and operate public transportation systems; and
- 29 (39) General health, safety, and welfare: to define, regulate, and prohibit any act, practice,
- 30 conduct, or use of property which is detrimental to the health, sanitation, cleanliness,
- 31 welfare, and safety of the inhabitants of Georgetown-Quitman County.
- 32

33 **SECTION 7-115.**

34 Section Captions.

35

36 The captions to the several sections of this charter are informative only and are not to be

37 construed as a part thereof.

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**SECTION 7-116.**

Effect of Repeals.

No law heretofore repealed, expressly or by implication, shall be revived by the repeal herein of the repealing Act or by any provision of this charter that disclaims an intention to repeal or affect enumerated laws.

**SECTION 7-117.**

Severability Clause.

If any provision of this charter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this charter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this charter are declared to be severable.

**SECTION 7-118.**

Repeal of Conflicting Laws.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this charter are hereby repealed.

**ARTICLE VIII  
TRANSITION PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 8-101.**

Special Election of First Officials.

(a) A special election shall be held on a date fixed by the county election superintendent but not later than 120 days following the date of approval of this charter as provided in Section 8-110 of this charter, for the purpose of electing the first members of the Commission of the unified government. The Superintendent of elections shall publish notice of the call for such election in the newspaper in which the Quitman County Sheriff's advertisements appear at least 30 days prior to the date of such election. Candidates may qualify until 15 days before the date of the election.

1 (b) In all other respects, the election shall be held in accordance with the provisions of  
2 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," applicable to county  
3 elections. Within 30 days following the approval of this charter as provided in Section 8-110  
4 of this charter, the election superintendent of Quitman County shall prepare a list of qualified  
5 voters for the five county wide posts. The officials elected at such election shall commence  
6 the term of their office on the effective date of this charter.

7 (c) The qualifications for office for such initial election shall be as prescribed by applicable  
8 provisions of this charter.

9 (d) Any elected official of Quitman County or of any municipality lying wholly or partially  
10 therein who is otherwise qualified under this charter shall be entitled to qualify and run for an  
11 office of the unified government.

12  
13 **SECTION 8-102.**

14 Initial Terms of Office.

15  
16 The initial terms for Posts 1 and 2 of the first Commissioners of the unified government shall  
17 expire at the end of the first even-numbered year after their election. The initial terms for  
18 Posts 3, 4, and 5 shall expire at the end of the second even-numbered year after their election.  
19 All terms thereafter shall be four years.

20  
21  
22 **SECTION 8-103.**

23 Effective Date of Charter.

24  
25 This charter shall become effective upon the election of members of a Commission of  
26 Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, and their taking office as the governing authority of  
27 the unified government.

28  
29 **SECTION 8-104.**

30 Cooperation of Former Governments.

31  
32 All officers, officials, and employees of the former City of Georgetown and Quitman County  
33 shall cooperate with and assist the Commission, the Manager, and other officers of  
34 Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia:

35 (1) In planning the unification of departments, boards, commissions, and agencies of said  
36 former governments and in transferring the functions, duties, and responsibilities of such

1 departments, boards, commissions, authorities, and agencies to the appropriate agencies of  
2 the unified government of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia; and

3 (2) In all other respects in order that the transfer of the governments be accomplished in the  
4 most orderly manner possible. The officers of the unified government shall be entitled to  
5 examine all records, files, and other data in the possession of the former governments and of  
6 all officers, officials, employees, and departments thereof. The former governments shall,  
7 to the extent possible, provide working areas and facilities for the officers of the unified  
8 government.

9  
10 **SECTION 8-105.**

11 Existing Ordinances and Resolutions Continued in Effect.

12  
13 (a) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, existing ordinances and resolutions of the  
14 Commission of Quitman County and existing rules and regulations of county departments or  
15 agencies, not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter, shall continue in effect as  
16 ordinances, resolutions, rules, or regulations of Georgetown-Quitman County, Georgia, or the  
17 appropriate department or agency thereof until they have been repealed, modified, or  
18 amended.

19 (b) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, existing ordinances and resolutions of the City of  
20 Georgetown, not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter, shall continue in effect as  
21 ordinances and resolutions within the former boundaries of the City of Georgetown, until they  
22 have been repealed, modified, or amended.

23 (c) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, in the event of a conflict between any of the  
24 ordinances or resolutions continued by this section, the provisions thereof shall apply only to  
25 the territory of the unified government that such ordinance or resolution applied prior to the  
26 effective date of this charter and until such ordinance or resolution is repealed, changed, or  
27 amended to eliminate the conflict.

28 (d) The Commission shall review all ordinances and resolutions and take whatever action is  
29 needed to remove any conflicts between ordinances and resolutions continued by this section  
30 in order to produce a uniform body of ordinances and resolutions, free of any conflicts or  
31 contradictions between such provisions.

1 **SECTION 8-106.**

2 Contracts and Obligations.

3  
4 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all contracts, orders, leases, bonds, and other  
5 obligations or instruments entered into by Quitman County or for its benefit prior to the  
6 effective date of this charter shall continue in effect according to the terms thereof as  
7 obligations and rights of the unified government; provided, however, any obligation created  
8 by Quitman County to become effective after the date of approval of this Charter shall be  
9 subject to ratification and approval by the Commission of the unified government within six  
10 months following the effective date of this Charter.

11 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this charter, contracts, orders, leases, bonds, and other  
12 obligations or instruments entered into by the City of Georgetown or for its benefit prior to  
13 the effective date of this charter, shall continue in effect according to the terms thereof as  
14 obligations and rights of the unified government; provided, however, any obligation created  
15 by the City of Georgetown to become effective after the date of approval of this Charter shall  
16 be subject to ratification and approval by the Commission of the unified government within  
17 six months following the effective date of the Charter.

18 (c) No pending action or proceeding of any nature (whether civil, criminal, judicial,  
19 administrative, or other) by or against the City of Georgetown or Quitman County or an  
20 agency or department thereof shall be abated or otherwise affected by the adoption of this  
21 charter, and the unified government shall stand substituted as a party in lieu thereof.  
22

23 **SECTION 8-107.**

24 Dissolution of Existing Governments.

25  
26 On the effective date of this charter, the Board of Commissioners of Quitman County and the  
27 Mayor and Council of the City of Georgetown and all the officers thereof and the offices  
28 thereof not continued under this charter are abolished, and all emoluments appertaining  
29 thereto shall cease. Thereupon, the governments of Quitman County and the City of  
30 Georgetown shall terminate as separate political entities and all powers, functions, duties, and  
31 obligations thereof shall be transferred to and vested in the unified government created by this  
32 charter.  
33  
34  
35

1 **SECTION 8-108.**

2 Transfer of Records and Equipment.

3  
4 When an agency of the City of Georgetown or of Quitman County is abolished or unified by  
5 this charter, all books, papers, maps, charts, plans, records, other equipment, and personal  
6 property in possession of the same shall be delivered to the agency to which its rights,  
7 powers, duties, and obligations are transferred.

8  
9 **SECTION 8-109.**

10 Officers Serve Until Successors Qualify.

11  
12 Notwithstanding any other provision of this charter, any officer performing duties under the  
13 government of the City of Georgetown or Quitman County may continue to perform the  
14 duties thereof until a successor, whether under the same title or office of another, shall be  
15 elected or appointed and qualified to perform the duties, it being the intention hereof that no  
16 duty or service shall lapse or be abandoned because of lack of an officer to perform same.

17  
18  
19 **SECTION 8-110.**

20 Referendum on the Charter.

21  
22 (a) Not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days after receipt of the certified copy of the  
23 proposed charter and after receipt of approval by the Department of Justice of such proposed  
24 charter, it shall be the duty of the Quitman County election superintendent to call a special  
25 election for approval or rejection of the proposed charter. The election superintendent shall  
26 set the date of the election for a day not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days after the  
27 issuance of the call. The election superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the  
28 election to be published once a week for two calendar weeks immediately preceding the date  
29 thereof in the official legal organ of Quitman County. The ballot shall have written or printed  
30 thereon the following:

"( ) YES	Shall the charter unifying the governments of the City of Georgetown and Quitman County and creating a single county-wide government to
( ) NO	supersede and replace those governments be approved?"

31 (b) All persons desiring to vote for approval of the charter shall vote "YES," and those  
32 persons desiring to vote for rejection of the charter shall vote "NO." If more than one-half of  
33 the votes cast by the qualified voters of Quitman County residing within the corporate limits  
34 of the City of Georgetown are for approval of the charter and if more than one-half of the

1 total votes cast by all the qualified voters of Quitman County are for approval of the charter,  
2 then the charter shall become effective. Otherwise, it shall be void and of no force and effect.  
3 The expense of such election shall be borne equally by the City of Georgetown and Quitman  
4 County.

5 (c) The special election shall be conducted pursuant to Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A.,  
6 the "Georgia Election Code," except to the extent specifically provided otherwise by this  
7 Charter.

8 (d) A qualified voter, as used herein, shall mean a voter of Quitman County qualified to vote  
9 for members of the General Assembly of Georgia. The election superintendent shall certify  
10 the returns to the Secretary of State. The election superintendent shall also furnish a certified  
11 copy of the charter to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall issue a proclamation  
12 showing and declaring the result of the election on the approval or rejection of the charter.  
13 One copy of the proclamation shall be attached to the copy of the charter certified to the  
14 Secretary of State. One copy of the proclamation shall be delivered to the clerk of the  
15 governing authority of the City of Georgetown who shall attach the same to the copy of the  
16 charter previously certified to him or her. One copy of the proclamation shall be delivered to  
17 the clerk of the governing authority of Quitman County who shall attach the same to the copy  
18 of the charter previously certified to him or her.

19 (e) Whenever a charter for the unification of the governments of the City of Georgetown and  
20 Quitman County has been accepted, the above-certified copies thereof, with the proclamation  
21 of the Secretary of State of Georgia attached thereto, shall be deemed duplicate original  
22 copies of the charter of the unified government for all purposes. The certified copy of the  
23 charter and proclamation deposited with the clerk of the governing authority of the City of  
24 Georgetown and the certified copy of the charter and proclamation deposited with the clerk of  
25 the governing authority of Quitman County shall subsequently be delivered by them to the  
26 successor government. The successor government may issue certified copies of the charter  
27 and any copy so certified shall be deemed a duplicate original copy of the charter of the  
28 unified government for all purposes. The Secretary of State is authorized to issue certified  
29 copies of the charter on file, and copies so certified shall be deemed duplicate original copies  
30 of the charter of the unified government for all purposes.

31 Duly approved and adopted by a majority vote of the members of the Georgetown-Quitman  
32 County Charter and Unification Commission, this date, May 16, 2006.

33 \_\_\_\_\_  
34  
35 David Kinsey, Chairman  
36 Georgetown-Quitman County Charter and Unification Commission

37  
38 Certified true and correct copy, this date, May 16, 2006.

39 \_\_\_\_\_  
40 Geneva Kendrick, Secretary