

Senate Bill 477

By: Senators Merritt of the 9th, Jackson of the 2nd, Au of the 48th, Rahman of the 5th, Davenport of the 44th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the purpose of ascertaining whether the
2 electors of the state desire that local boards of education be elected on a nonpartisan basis
3 without party designation on the ballot; to provide for legislative purposes and findings; to
4 provide for procedures and requirements relating thereto; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 (a) It is the purpose of this Act to provide for a nonbinding advisory referendum for the
9 purpose of ascertaining whether the electors of the state desire that local boards of education
10 be elected on a nonpartisan basis without party designation on the ballot.

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

13 (1) In all respects for the benefit of the people of Georgia;

14 (2) A public purpose; and

15 (3) An essential governmental function for which public funds may be expended.

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SECTION 2.

17 The Secretary of State shall call and conduct a nonbinding advisory referendum as provided
18 in this section for the purpose of submitting a question to the electors of the entire state to
19 determine whether a majority of such electors desire that local boards of education be elected
20 on a nonpartisan basis without party designation on the ballot. The Secretary of State shall
21 conduct that election on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2022, in
22 conjunction with the 2022 November general election and shall issue the call and conduct
23 that election as provided by general law. The Secretary of State shall cause the date and
24 purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding
25 the date thereof in the official organ of each county in the state. The ballot shall have written
26 or printed thereon the words:

27 "() YES

NONBINDING ADVISORY REFERENDUM

28 () NO Shall local boards of education in Georgia all be elected on a nonpartisan
29 basis without party designation on the ballot?"

30 All persons desiring to vote for approval of the question shall vote "Yes," and all persons
31 desiring to vote for rejection of the question shall vote "No." It shall be the duty of each
32 county election superintendent to certify the results thereof to the Secretary of State.

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SECTION 3.

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