**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM TO BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE 2012 GENERAL ELECTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF ANDERSON COUNTY FAVOR REQUIRING THAT THE GOVERNING BODY OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION IN THE COUNTY, INCLUDING THE COUNTY AND ANY MUNICIPALITY OR SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT THEREIN, WHEN SETTING CHARGES FOR WATER OR SEWER RATES, SHALL ALLOW REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL AREAS SERVED BY THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION AS SELECTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF THESE RATES INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO VOTE THEREON.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. (A) An advisory referendum must be held at the same time as the 2012 general election in Anderson County on the question of whether or not the qualified electors of the county favor requiring that the governing body of a political subdivision in the county, including the county and any municipality or special purpose district therein, when setting charges for water or sewer rates, shall allow representatives of all areas served by the political subdivision as selected by the governing body to participate in decisions regarding the amount of these rates including the right to vote thereon. The advisory referendum for this purpose must be conducted by the election commission of Anderson County at the same time as the 2012 general election. The county commissioners of election shall conduct and supervise the advisory referendum in the manner governed by the election laws of this State, mutatis mutandis. The commissioners shall frame the question for the ballot, prepare the necessary ballots, appoint managers for the voting precincts, and do all things necessary to carry out the advisory referendum, including the counting of ballots and declaring the results. The commissioners shall advertise the date of the advisory referendum sixty days preceding it in a newspaper of general circulation in the county and shall publish a second notice thirty days before the advisory referendum. The cost of the advisory referendum must be paid by Anderson County.

(B) The question put before the qualified electors of the county at the 2012 advisory referendum reads as follows:

“Do you favor requiring that the governing body of a political subdivision in the county, including the county and any municipality or special purpose district therein, when setting charges for water or sewer rates, shall allow representatives of all areas served by the political subdivision as selected by the governing body to participate in decisions regarding the amount of these rates including the right to vote thereon?

Yes 

No 

Those voting in favor of the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘Yes’, and those voting against the question shall deposit a ballot with a check or cross mark in the square after the word ‘No’.”

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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