

1983 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 22 (S.C.A.G.), 1983 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 83-9, 1983 WL 142680

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 83-9

April 4, 1983

***1 SUBJECT: Home Rule—Petitions**

The language of the petition requesting that the Richland County Council be reduced in size from eleven to seven members, would require that the reduction be accomplished in 1984.

TO: The Honorable Joyce C. Hearn
Representative for Richland County

DISCUSSION:

You have inquired if the Richland County Council can be reduced from eleven to seven members by eliminating one position each year for a period of four years.

QUESTION:

Can the Richland County Council be reduced in size from eleven to seven members over a four year period of time?

OPINION:

It is my understanding that the petition circulated calling for a referendum on this question contained the following language: We the undersigned registered electors of Richland County, pursuant to [Section 4–9–10, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976](#), hereby Petition for the calling of a referendum to permit the electorate to decide whether effective for the 1984 General Election, the size of the Richland County Council should be reduced from seven (7) members from its present size of eleven (11) members. (Emphasis added.)

The express language of the petition would, therefore, require the reduction to seven members to occur in 1984. The petition would not authorize a gradual reduction of the council over a four year period.

T. Travis Medlock
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