



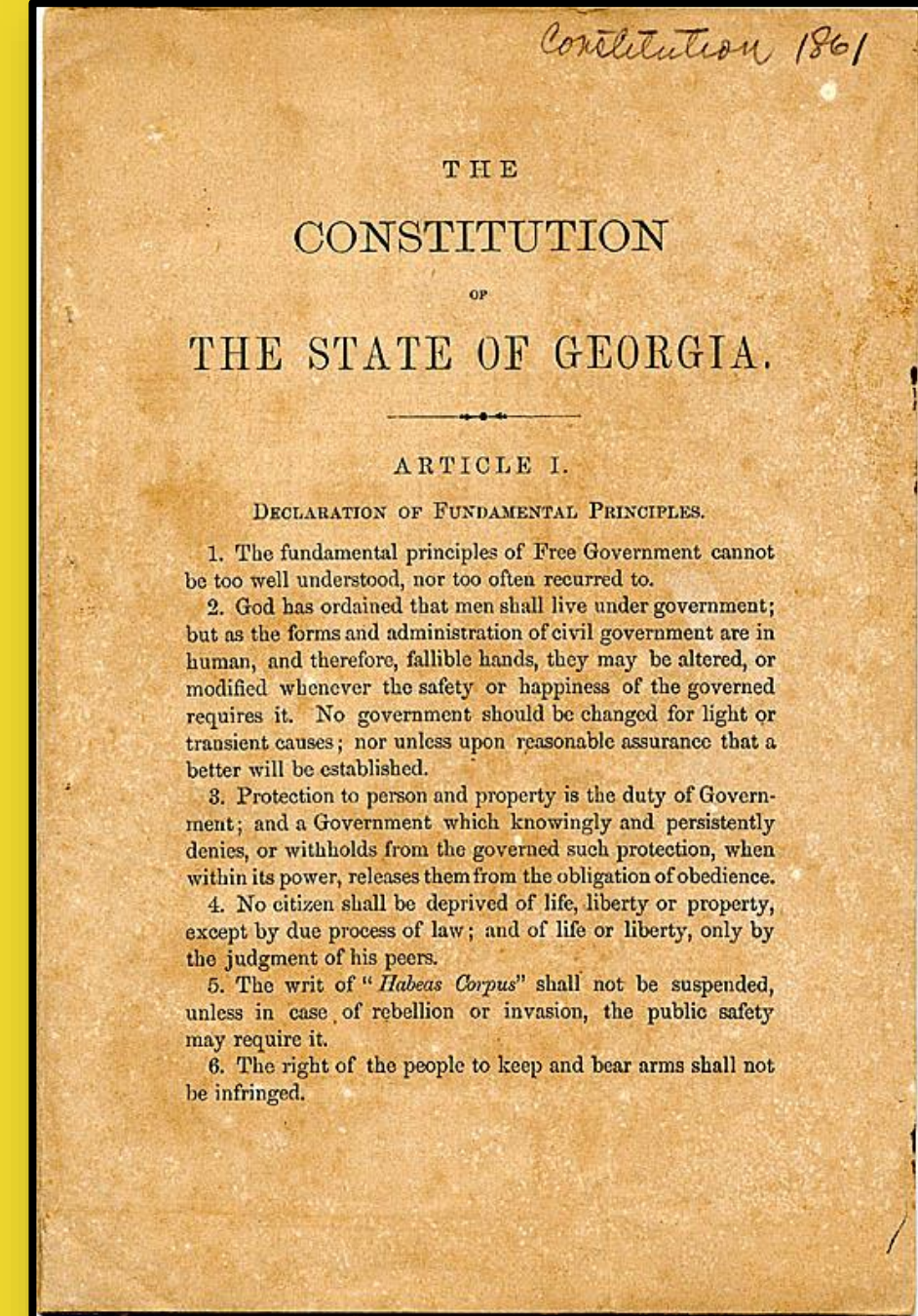
Georgia's Constitution

Ga's Constitution

- A constitution establishes the relationship between a government and its people. The structure and powers of state government are defined by the state constitution.
- Georgia's government has operated under 10 different constitutions, beginning in 1777. The current constitution was ratified in 1983.
- Georgia's Constitution is modeled after the US Constitution, and has a similar structure:
 1. Preamble
 2. Bill of Rights
 3. Articles
 4. Amendments

Preamble

- Georgia's preamble is a short paragraph that states the purpose of the constitution and gives the reasons for its existence.
- **Georgia's Preamble:**
"To perpetuate the principles of free government, ensure justice to all, preserve peace, promote the interest and happiness of the citizen and of the family, and transmit to posterity the enjoyment of liberty, we the people of Georgia, relying upon the protection and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish this Constitution."



Articles

- **Article I** – Bill of Rights
- **Article II** – Voting and Elections
- **Article III** – Legislative Branch
- **Article IV** – Constitutional Boards & Commissions
- **Article V** – Executive Branch
- **Article VI** – Judicial Branch
- **Article VII** – Taxation and Finance
- **Article VIII** – Education
- **Article IX** – Counties & Municipal Corporations
- **Article X** – Amendments to the Constitution
- **Article XI** – Miscellaneous Provisions

A bill of rights outlines specific rights of citizens of Georgia. The US Constitution also has a bill of rights.

Articles 3, 5, and 6 set up the three branches of Georgia's government.

Amendments are changes to the Constitution

Constitutions: US vs GA

Similarities

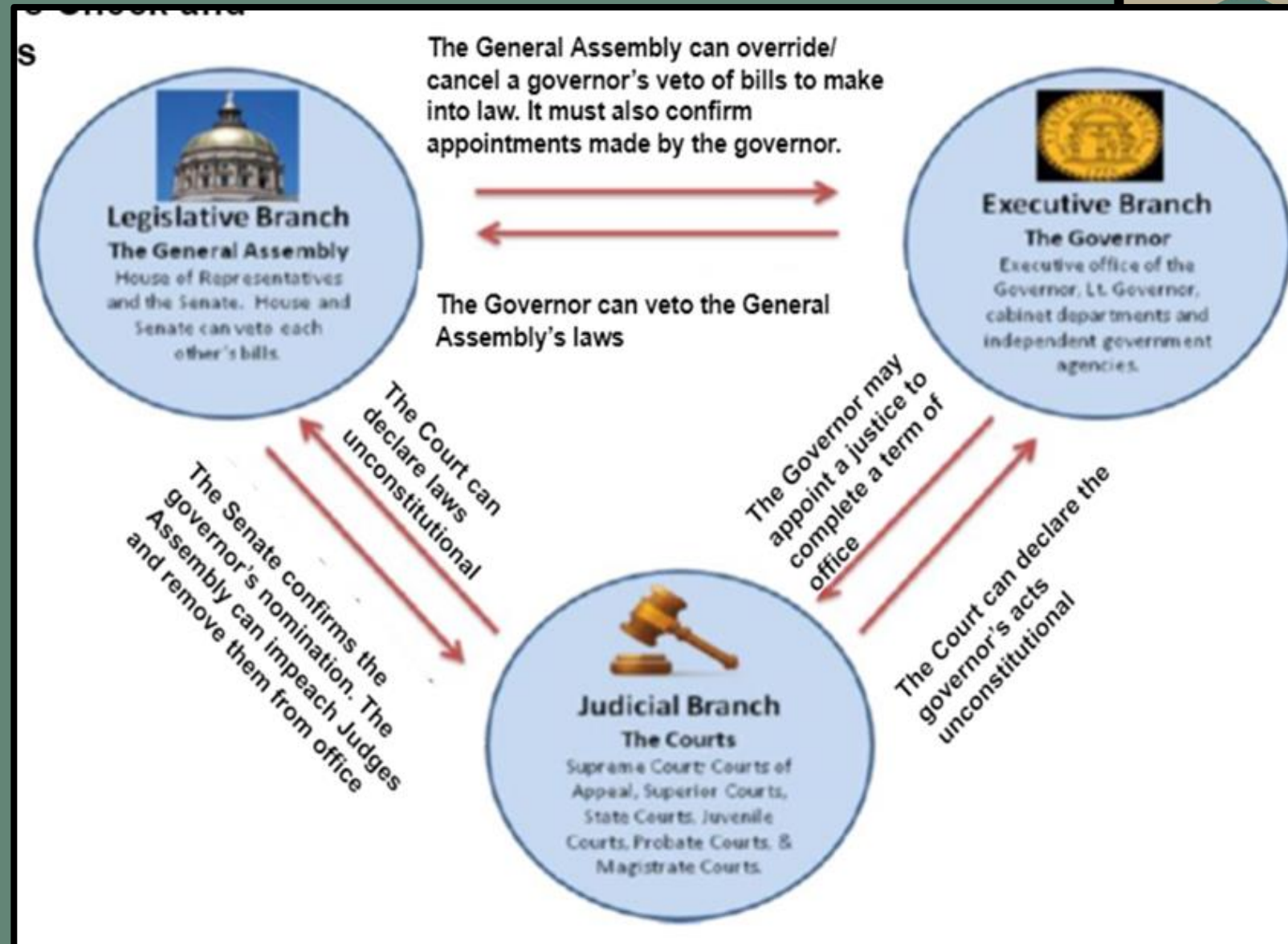
- Each constitution contains a **bill of rights**.
- Each adopts the concept of separation of powers with specific legislative, executive and judicial branches. Aka, **outlines the structure of government**
- Executive leaders have power to appoint officials and veto bills.
- The legislative branches (the U.S. Congress and the Georgia General Assembly) are bicameral and each calls its two chambers the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- Both governments allow judicial review (the power of the courts to declare acts unconstitutional.)

Differences

- Georgia's Constitution is **longer in length due to the specific, detailed policies**.
- Georgia **voters must approve any amendments** to the constitution while there is no comparable role for amending the U. S. Constitution.
- Georgia's Constitution requires that the state **maintain a balanced budget** while the U.S. Constitution does not place that limitation on the federal government.
- According to the Georgia Constitution, the Georgia **Governor has line-item veto power** (can cut a specific item in a spending bill) while the U. S. President does not have the same power.

Georgia Checks and Balances

- Each branch of government has checks on the other (or powers over them) to keep one branch of government from gaining too much power.
- Example: how a bill becomes law:
General Assembly passes a law. → If the Governor does not agree then they can veto (reject) it. → The General Assembly then has the option to override/ cancel the veto by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. → Once the bill becomes a law, the Supreme Court determines if it is constitutional or not. → If it is unconstitutional then it's removed



Rights of Citizens

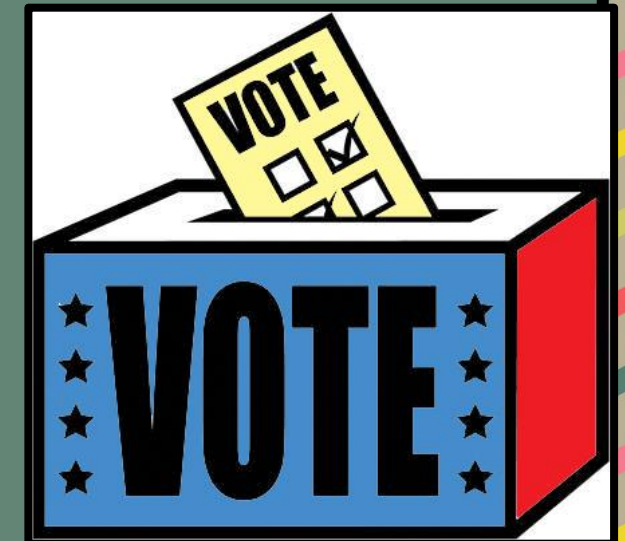
- Both the Georgia and U.S. Constitutions include a Bill of Rights outlining the rights of every citizen.
- For the most part, both documents have similar rights and freedoms, such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and the freedom of the press.
- However, Georgia's Bill of Rights has several differences as compared to the U.S. Bill of Rights including:
 - **Life, liberty, and property.**
 - **Freedom of conscience.** Each person has the natural and inalienable right to worship God, each according to the dictates of that person's own conscience; and no human authority should, in any case, control or interfere with such right of conscience.
 - **Banishment and whipping as punishment for crime.**
 - **Fishing and hunting.**

Responsibilities of Citizens

The Responsibilities of Citizens

In addition to rights, citizens of the state and nation also have civic responsibilities. Some of these responsibilities include:

- Paying taxes
- Serving on juries
- Volunteering
- Voting (This is both a right and a responsibility)



Voting Requirements

To vote in Georgia you must meet the following requirements:

1. Voters must be a citizen the United States
2. Voters must be 18 years old by election day
3. Voters must be a legal resident of Georgia and the county in which a person wants to vote (This is so that voters in Savannah aren't making decisions for Atlanta)

(Voter cannot currently be serving time in jail for a felony offense or ruled to be mentally incompetent)

Sample Ballot

FULTON COUNTY

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE/PROVISIONAL/CHALLENGED BALLOT

OFFICIAL GENERAL MUNICIPAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION RUNOFF BALLOT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA DECEMBER 5, 2017

To vote, blacken the Oval (●) next to the candidate of your choice. To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, manually WRITE his or her name in the write-in section and blacken the Oval (●) next to the write-in section. If you desire to vote YES or NO for a PROPOSED QUESTION, blacken the corresponding Oval (●). Use only blue or black pen or pencil.

Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed for each specific office. Do not cross out or erase. If you erase or make other marks on the ballot or tear the ballot, your vote may not count.

If you change your mind or make a mistake, you may return the ballot by writing "Spoiled" across the face of the ballot and return envelope. You may then mail the spoiled ballot back to your county board of registrars, and you will be issued another official absentee ballot. Alternatively, you may surrender the ballot to the poll manager of an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

"I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law." [OCGA 21-2-285(h) and 21-2-383(a)]

CITY OF ATLANTA

For Mayor (Vote for One)

- ☐ KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS
☐ MARY NORWOOD

For City Council President (Vote for One)

- ☐ FELICIA MOORE
☐ ALEX WAN

For City Council Member District 4 (Vote for One)

- ☐ JASON DOZIER
☐ CLETA WINSLOW
(Incumbent)

For City Council Member District 9 (Vote for One)

- ☐ KWAME ABERNATHY
☐ DUSTIN HILLIS

For City Council Member District 11 (Vote for One)

- ☐ HAROLD HARDNETT
☐ MARCI COLLIER OVERSTREET

For Board of Education Member District 7 At Large (Vote for One)

- ☐ PATRICIA "GRANNY P" CRAYTON
☐ KANDIS WOOD JACKSON

For Board of Education Member District 2 (Vote for One)

- ☐ BYRON AMOS
(Incumbent)
☐ KEISHA CAREY

For Board of Education Member District 3 (Vote for One)

- ☐ ADZUA AGYAPON
☐ MICHELLE OLYMPIADIS

For Board of Education Member District 5 (Vote for One)

- ☐ RAYNARD JOHNSON
☐ ERIKA YVETTE MITCHELL

CITY OF EAST POINT

For Mayor (Vote for One)

- ☐ DEANA HOLIDAY INGRAHAM
☐ CLYDE K. MITCHELL

For Council Member Ward C - At Large (Vote for One)

- ☐ EARNESTINE D. PITTMAN
☐ NANETTE SAUCIER
(Incumbent)

CITY OF JOHNS CREEK

For City Council Post 3 (Vote for One)

- ☐ JOHN BRADBERRY
☐ VICKI HORTON

CITY OF ROSWELL

For Mayor (Vote for One)

- ☐ LORI HENRY
☐ LEE JENKINS

the county having a majority of the students enrolled within the county and to provide that the proceeds are distributed on a per student basis among all the school systems unless an agreement is reached among such school systems for a different distribution?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

PROPOSED STATEWIDE REFERENDA

- A -

Provides for a homestead exemption for residents of certain municipal corporations.

House Bill No. 820
Act No. 346
Ga. L. 2018, p. 235

"Do you approve a new homestead exemption in a municipal corporation that is located in more than one county, that levies a sales tax for the purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation, and that has within its boundaries an independent school system, from ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of the difference between the current year assessed value of a home and the adjusted base year value, provided that the lowest base year value will be adjusted yearly by 2.6 percent?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

- B -

Provides a tax exemption for certain homes for the mentally disabled.

purposes within the boundaries of an independent school system?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

Homestead Exemption Ad Valorem Tax (Vote for One)

"Shall the Act be approved which provides a homestead exemption from Fulton County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in the amount of \$50,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that county who are older than 65 years of age?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

Homestead Exemption Property Tax (Vote for One)

"Do you approve a new homestead exemption from Fulton County school district property taxes for educational purposes in the amount of the difference between the current year assessed value of a home and its lowest base year value, provided that the lowest base year value will be adjusted yearly by the lesser of 3 percent or the inflation rate?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

SPECIAL ELECTION CITY OF ALPHARETTA

Homestead Exemption Property Tax (Vote for One)

"Do you approve a new homestead exemption from City of Alpharetta property taxes for city purposes in the amount of the difference between the current year assessed value of a home and its lowest base year value, provided that the lowest base year value will be adjusted yearly by

valorem taxes for educational purposes from \$30,000.00 to \$50,000.00 of the assessed value of that homestead that exceeds \$10,000.00, provided that such Act shall be repealed on December 31, 2021?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

Sunday Alcohol Sales (Vote for One)

"Shall the governing authority of the City of Atlanta be authorized to permit and regulate Sunday sales of distilled spirits or alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes by the drink from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

SPECIAL ELECTION CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

Sunday Brunch Alcohol Sales (Vote for One)

Shall the governing authority of the City of College Park, Georgia be authorized to permit and regulate Sunday sales of distilled spirits, or alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes by the drink from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM?

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

SPECIAL ELECTION CITY OF HAPEVILLE

Sunday Alcohol Sales (Vote for One)

Shall the governing authority of the City of Hapeville be authorized to permit and regulate Sunday sales of distilled spirits or alcoholic beverages for beverage

For City Council District 1, Post 2 (To Fill the Unexpired Term of Burt Hewitt, Resigned) (Vote for One)

- ☐ CAROL E. COOKERLY

☐
Write-in

Homestead Exemption Property Tax (Vote for One)

"Do you approve a new homestead exemption from City of Milton property taxes for city purposes in the amount of the difference between the current year assessed value of a home and its lowest base year value, provided that the lowest base year value will be adjusted yearly by the lesser of 3 percent or the inflation rate?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

Sunday Brunch Alcohol Sales (Vote for One)

"Shall the governing authority of the City of Milton, Georgia be authorized to permit and regulate Sunday sales of distilled spirits or alcoholic beverages for beverage purposes by the drink from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.?"

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

SPECIAL ELECTION CITY OF ROSWELL

Homestead Exemption Property Tax (Vote for One)

"Do you approve a new homestead exemption from the

Elections in GA

Once they are registered, Georgians usually vote in three types of elections. These elections are:

- **Primary elections** - an election where members of the political parties vote for candidates to run for a specific office such as governor, lieutenant governor, and secretary of state.
- **General** - an election where the winners from primaries, along with members of third parties and independents, compete for political offices. The elections are also held in even number years and take place on the second Tuesday of November.
- **Special** - an election that is used to present a special issue to voters or to fill a vacancy.

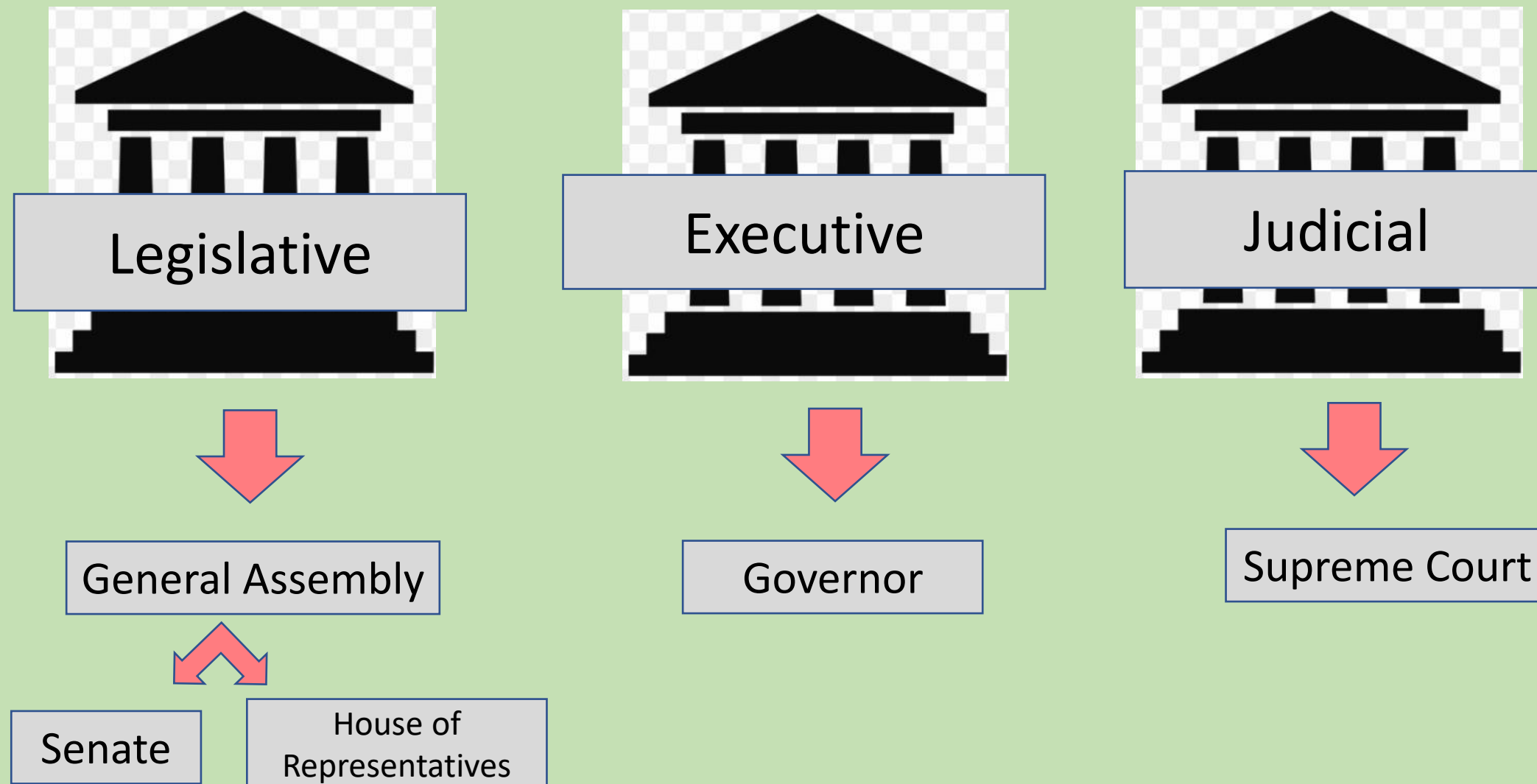
Georgia Pledge

Georgia has a Pledge of Allegiance, similar to the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

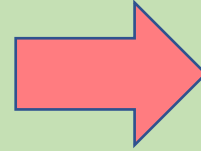
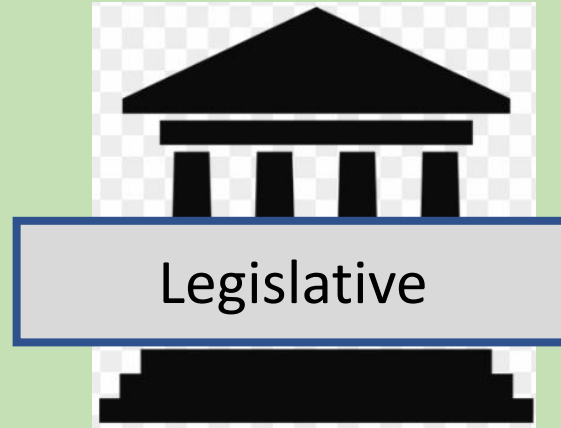
*“I pledge allegiance to the
Georgia flag and to the
principles for which it stands;
**Wisdom, Justice, and
Moderation.**”*



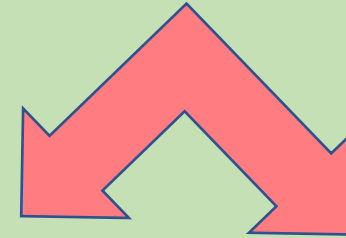
State Government



Legislative Branch of Georgia



Georgia's General
Assembly



Powers

- Writes the Laws
- Undo a Governors Veto
- Impeachment

Duties

- Makes the laws
- Pass Georgia's Budget
- Amend the State Constitution

Senate

56 Members

Leader: Lt. Governor
About 26 Committees

House of Representatives

180 Members

Leader: Speaker of the House
About 36 Committees

Georgia Senate and House of Representatives Qualifications

Senate

25 Years Old

US Citizen

GA Resident for 2 years

2 Year Terms (No limits to # of terms)

Resident of District for 1 year

Leader: Lt. Governor

House Of Representatives

21 Years Old

US Citizen

GA Resident for 2 years

2 Year Terms (No limits to # of terms)

Resident of District for 1 year

Leader: Speaker of the House

How are the qualifications for Senate and House of Representative Members different?

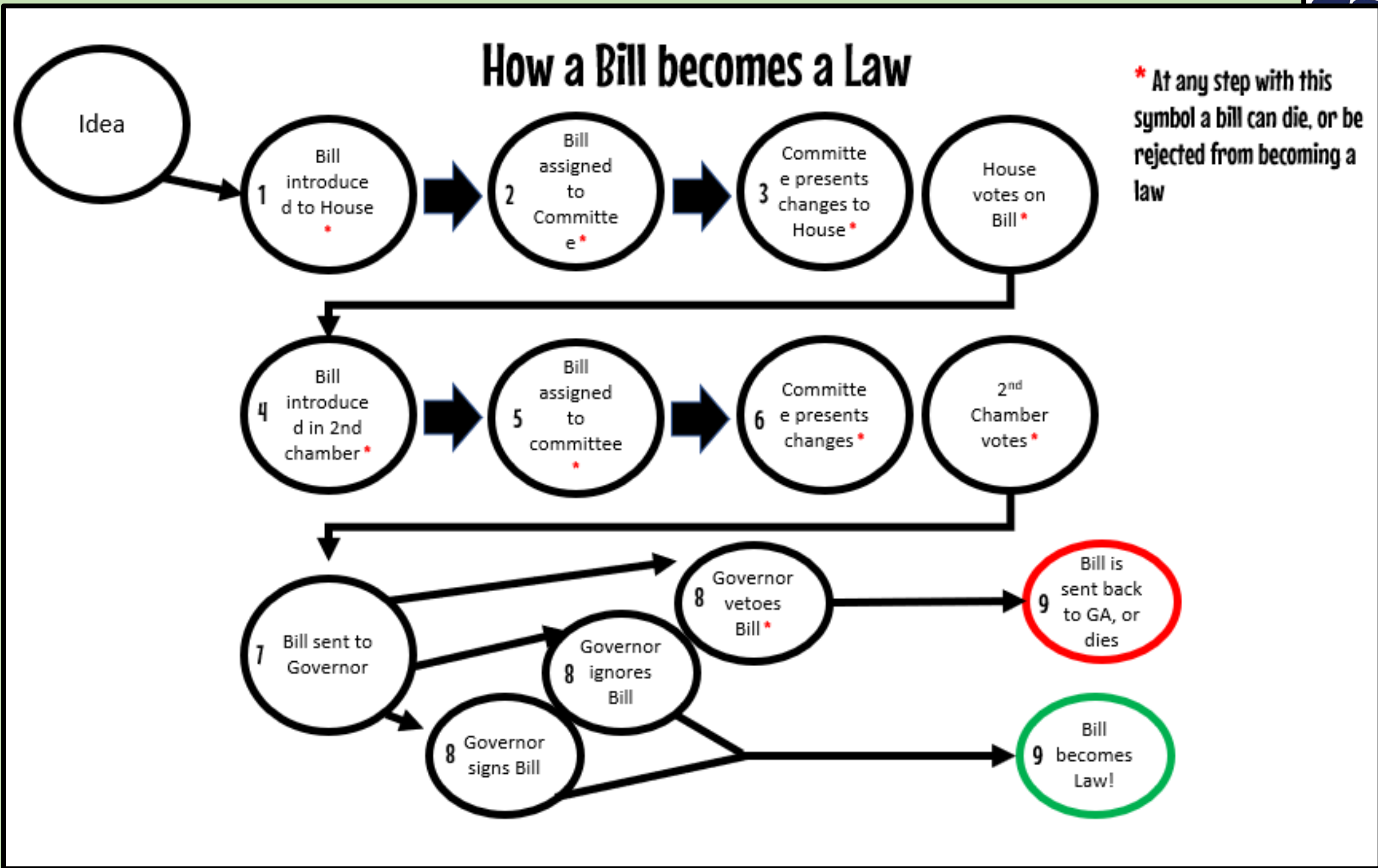
Committees

- A committee is a group of people that carry out a special function, purpose, or focus
 - Ex: an education committee will focus on education laws
 - Most of the work conducted in both houses is in the committee system
- Each committee (committee system) can **create, amend, change, kill laws**
- Four types of Committees:
 1. **Standing Committees:** Permanent committees or those that continue for every legislative session
 2. **Ad hoc Committees*:** Committees created for a special purpose
 3. **Joint Committees*:** Members of both the House and Senate
 4. **Conference Committees*:** Created when the House and Senate create different versions of a bill. The members of each house must compromise and make one bill for it to become a law.

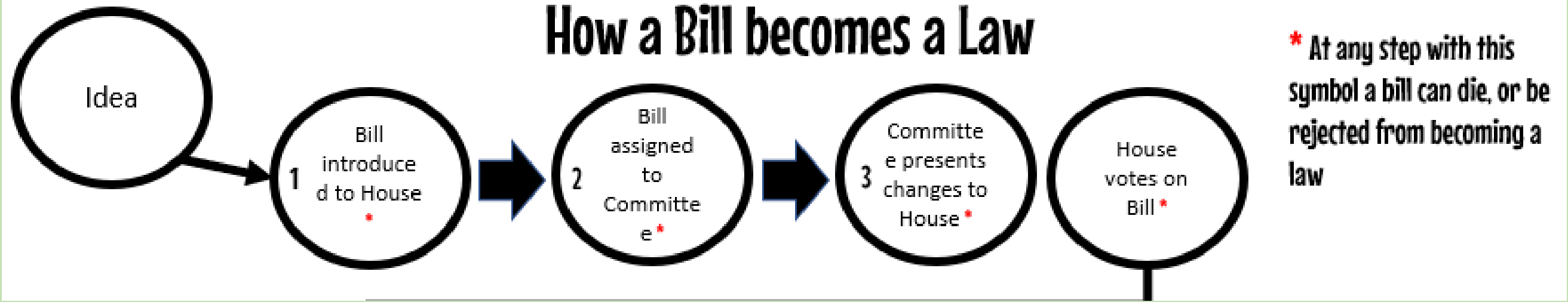
* These committees only meet when they have an assignment, and until their work is completed*

Bill To Law

This picture outlines the process of a bill becoming a law

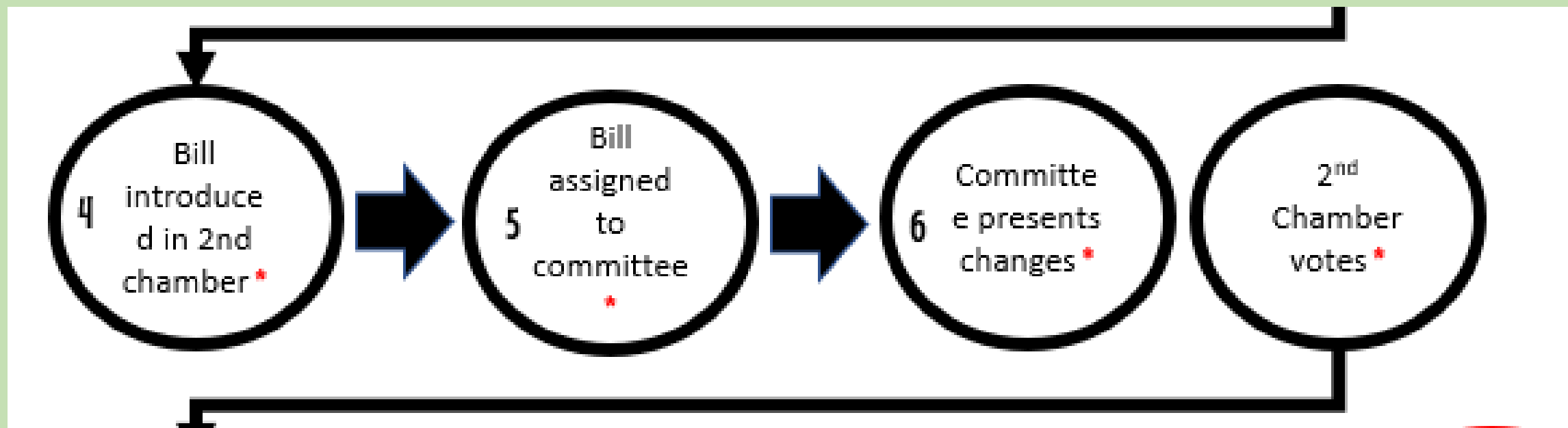


How a Bill becomes a Law



First, someone needs to have an idea for a law that is needed, and they need to have a bill written up. Then the process of a bill becoming a law can start.

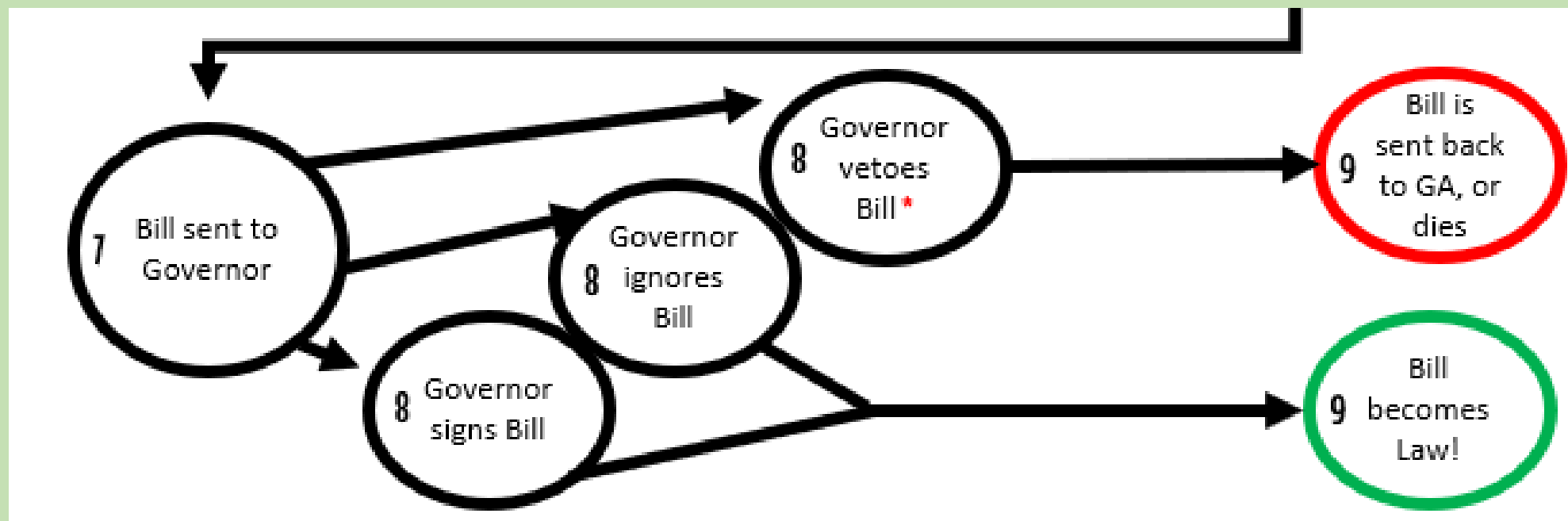
- 1. Bill is introduced to the House of Representatives-** A member of the General Assembly must introduce a bill to the House, and the House votes on if they want to proceed with the bill. (most bills are introduced to the House, but some can be introduced in the Senate)
- 2.** If the House proceeds with a bill, then it is **assigned to a standing committee** that will oversee the bill.
- 3.** Once the committee finishes research and makes changes, **the committee will present the updated bill to the House** for discussion and a vote. If the vote passes the bill will be sent to the other chamber of the General Assembly.



4. Once a bill leaves the first chamber, it is then sent to the second chamber. The **second chamber will then vote on if they want to proceed with the bill.**

5. If the chamber proceeds, then the **bill is assigned to a standing committee.**

6. The committee will do research and make amendments to the bill. Then the **committee will present the changes to the chamber**, and the chamber will vote to pass or fail the bill. (If the second chamber makes amendments to the bill, it will first go to a conference committee where each chamber must agree or compromise on the changes, and each chamber must vote on the bill again.)



7. Once the bill has passed BOTH chambers of the General Assembly, then the **bill is sent to the Governor**.

8. The governor has 3 options when they receive the bill:

- **Sign the Bill** into law
- **Veto the Bill** (this kills the bill unless the General Assembly votes to overturn the veto with 2/3rds support)
- **Ignore the Bill** (This makes the bill sit, but once the legislative session closes, then the bill becomes law.

9. The bill becomes a law or dies

Funding Gov't

- For **Government** to function it **must generate revenue** (IT HAS TO MAKE \$\$\$)
 - Revenue is how much money is made
- **General Assembly** determines types of **revenue sources** (HOW TO MAKE \$\$\$)
- **Department of Revenue** responsible for **administering and collecting revenue** (\$)
- The **Governor is the state's budget director** also involved with \$ decisions
- There are 2 types of Revenue for the Government. Tax Revenue and Non-Tax Revenue.
- Tax Revenue comes from taxes that citizens pay

Tax Revenue

Where does Georgia
get its Revenue?

Type of Tax	Definition	Percentage
1. Income Tax	Tax based on income	40% - 45%
2. Sales Tax	Tax on customer purchases in stores	30%
3. Corporate income tax	Tax on income companies make	3-5%
4. Insurance premium taxes	Tax on insurance companies	2%
5. Property taxes	Taxes on owning a home - Goes to fund Ga schools	1%
6. Excise taxes	Special taxes on items like gasoline, alcohol, and tobacco	1-2%
7. Estate taxes	Taxes on the property of a dead person	1%

Non-Tax Revenue

Where does Georgia get its Revenue?

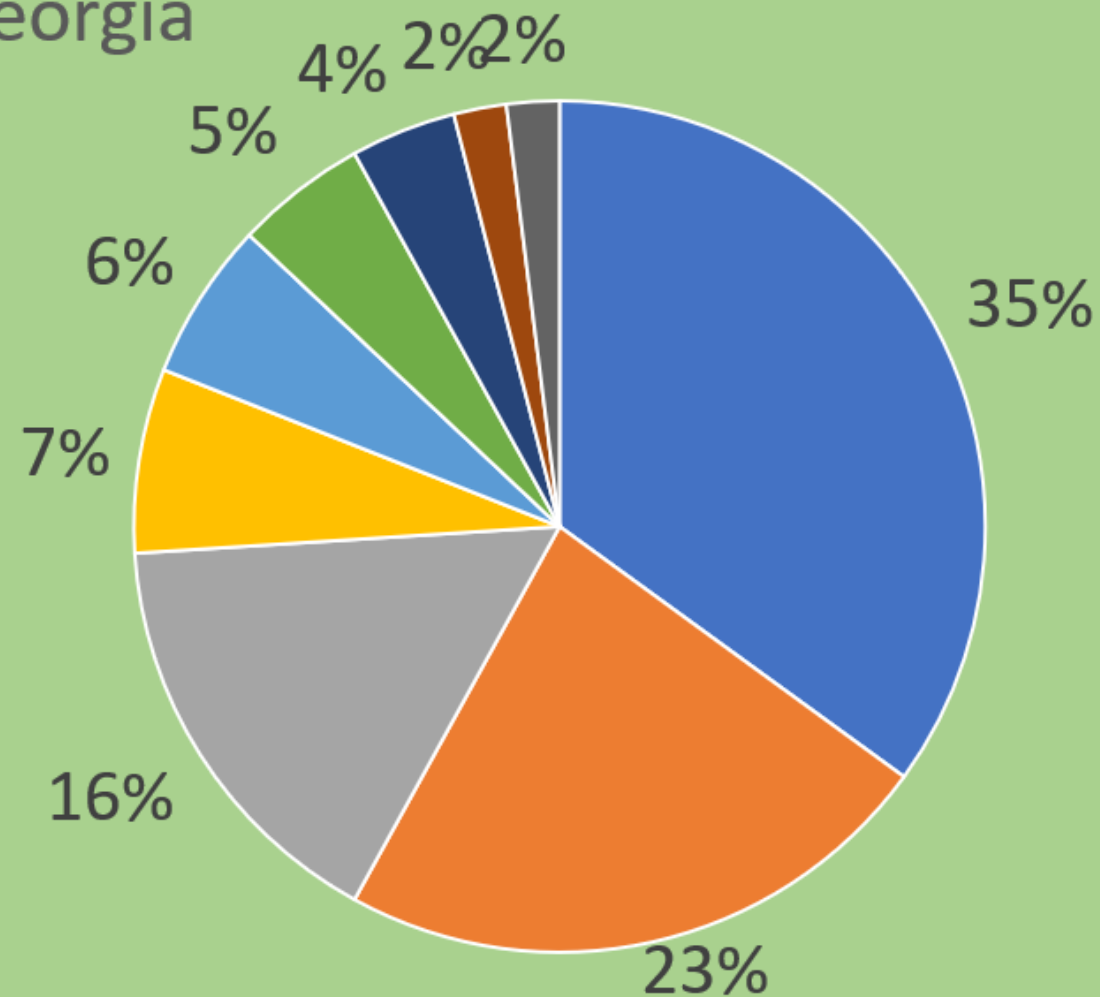
Type of Tax	Definition	Percentage
1. Fees	From entrance to state parks or occupational/recreational licenses	3-4%
2. The State Lottery	Spent on special programs including HOPE scholarships, pre-K programs, and technology for schools	5%
3. Settlement Programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tobacco-settlement-fund program: to offset costs to the state from cigarette smoking health issues2. Indigent-care trust fund: Helps hospitals cover the costs of providing healthcare to the poor.	2%


Funding Gov't

Where does the money go? What are the top 2 categories where GA spend its revenue?

State Spending for Georgia

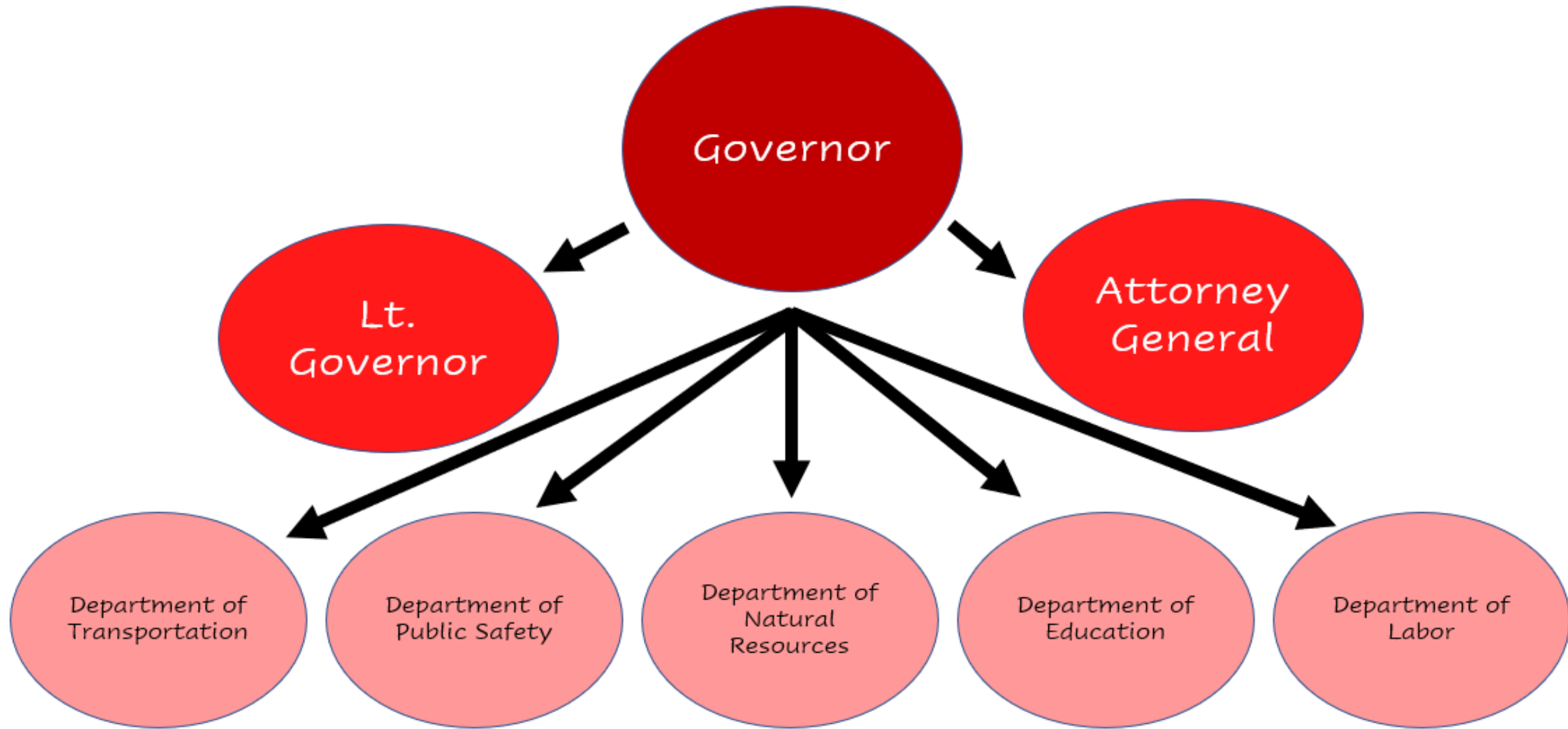
- Education
- Health Care
- Pensions
- Transportation
- Welfare
- Protection
- Other Spending
- Interest
- General gov't





Georgia's
Government

**Executive
Branch**

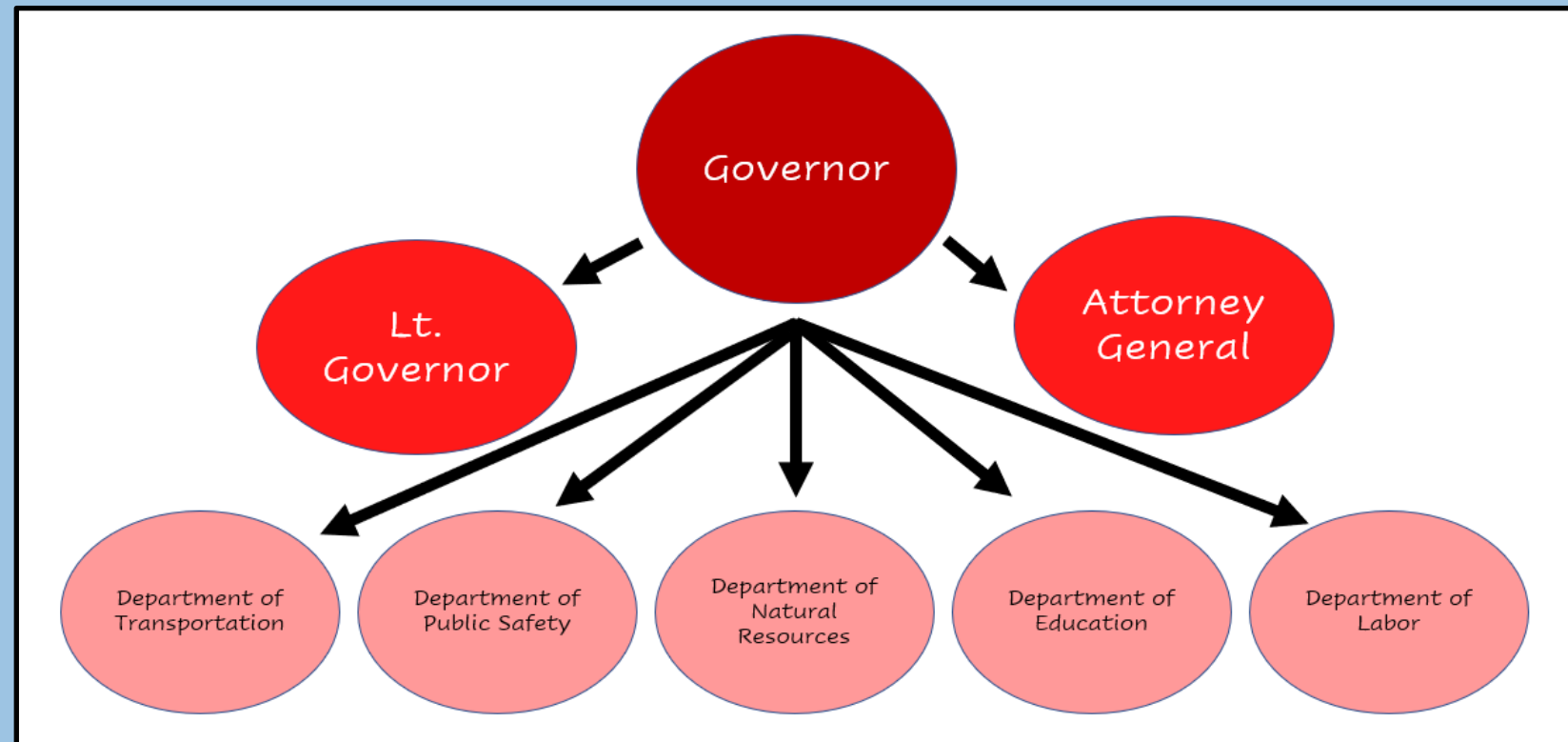


Executive Branch

- The executive branch **enforces the laws** passed by the legislative branch - enforcing the law means they are responsible for making sure everyone follows the law, like the police
- It is **the largest branch** in the state **due to the large number of state agencies** under the branch's jurisdiction
- The **Governor is the head of Georgia's executive branch**; some of his responsibilities include
 - **Proposing annual budget**
 - **Appointing members of the executive branch - more influence in gov't**
 - **Commander in Chief of the state's National Guard**
- The **lieutenant governor is the second highest office** in the executive branch; his responsibilities include:
 - **Presiding over the senate**
 - **Takes over the office of Governor if the governor dies or is impeached**
- The **Attorney General** is the state's chief legal officer AKA GA's lawyer.

Qualifications

- In order to become governor, a candidate must:
 - A. Be at least 30 years old
 - B. Be a US citizen for at least 15 years
 - C. Be a Georgia resident for at least 6 years



Eugene Talmadge



Ellis Arnall



Georgia Governors



Current Governor-
Brian Kemp

Jimmy Carter



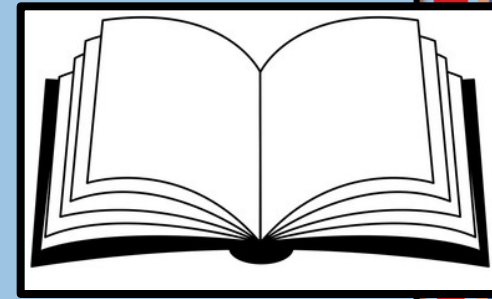
Lt. Governor

- The lieutenant governor serves as the state's second highest ranking executive officer and is first in line to take the governor's place.
- Candidates must meet the same qualifications as governor.
- The lieutenant governor is also elected by popular vote but does not run on the same ticket as the governor.
- S/he also serves a four-year term, but there is no limit on the number of terms.
- The lieutenant governor serves as governor if the current governor is unable to serve a complete term.
- As president of the Senate, s/he decides committee memberships and chooses committee chairs.
- The lieutenant governor is also responsible for any duties that which the governor assigns to her/him.

State Agencies

- The executive branch also includes a large number of state programs and departments that focus on major policy areas.
- The governor appoints the leaders of the following departments.

1. Department of Education (DOE): Oversees Georgia's public school system and how it is funded; certifies teachers, approves textbooks, and distributes funds.



2. Department of Labor: Responsible for the administration of the state's workforce programs. Including unemployment, rehabilitation programs, promoting employment, and job training.

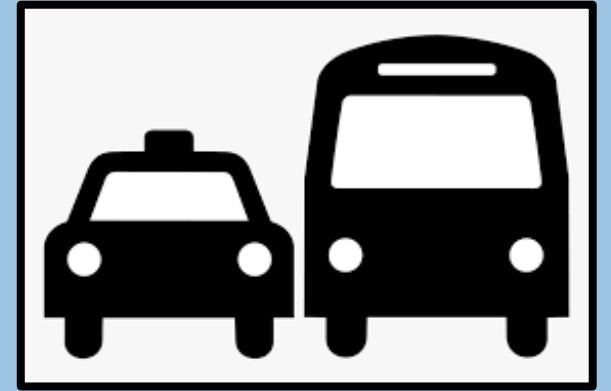


3. Department of Public Safety (DPS): Responds to natural and manmade disasters, helps public safety agencies reduce crime, and enforces traffic laws.



State Agencies

4. Department of Transportation (DOT): Oversees work and construction on roads and bridges, provides transportation information, issues drivers licenses.

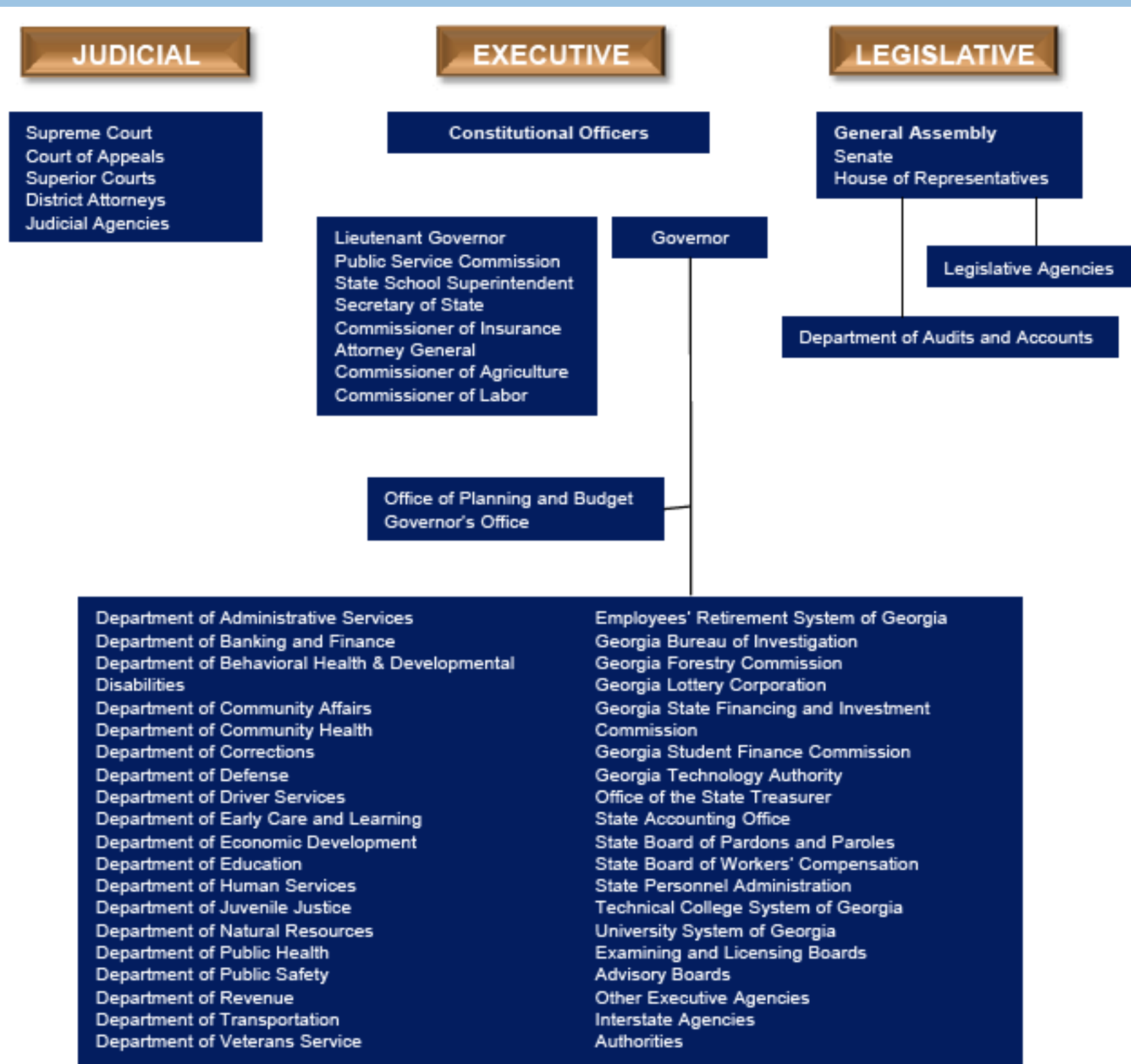


5. Department of Economic Development (DED): Supports the economy through local and international business expansion, technology development, tourism, film, and music.



6. Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Helps protect and conserve resources by managing historic sites, state parks, and fishing and wildlife areas; runs programs to keep Georgia's air and water clean.





- Compared to the other two branches, the executive branch is the largest because of the number of state agencies.

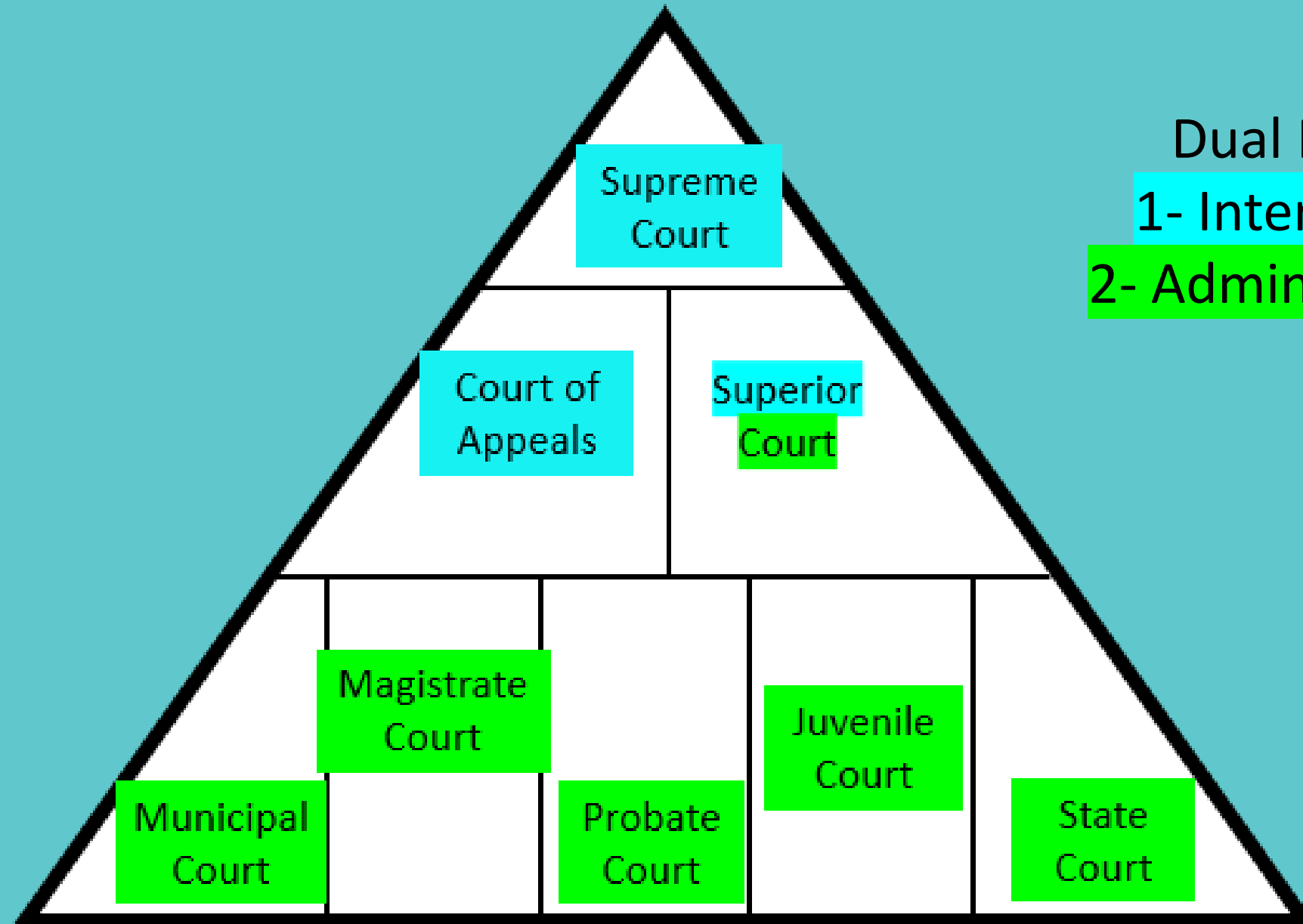
Georgia's Government

**JUDICIAL
BRANCH**

Judicial Branch

- This branch has two jobs:
 1. Interprets the state's laws
 2. Administer Justice
- The state's courts make up the judicial branch of Georgia's government.
- The **judicial branch interprets the law by:**
 1. Resolving constitutional challenges to laws
 2. Resolving challenges to elections
 3. Reviewing all death penalty cases
- If the State Supreme Court finds laws unconstitutional then they are killed
- **Supreme Court ensures lower courts also properly interpret the laws**
- **Judicial branch administers justice through many levels of the state court system, including:**
 1. Prosecuting crimes and punishing those convicted
 2. Resolving civil disputes (one party sues another party)

Georgia Courts



Dual Purpose:

1- Interpret Laws

2- Administer Justice

Purpose of Each Court

Courts highlighted in orange do not have jury trials

This Appellate court only hears cases that have already been decided. The cases are reviewed for violations of constitutionality

This Appellate court only hears cases that have already been decided. The cases are reviewed for violations of constitutionality

Minor Criminal Matters, minor traffic violations, Small Civil Claims Court

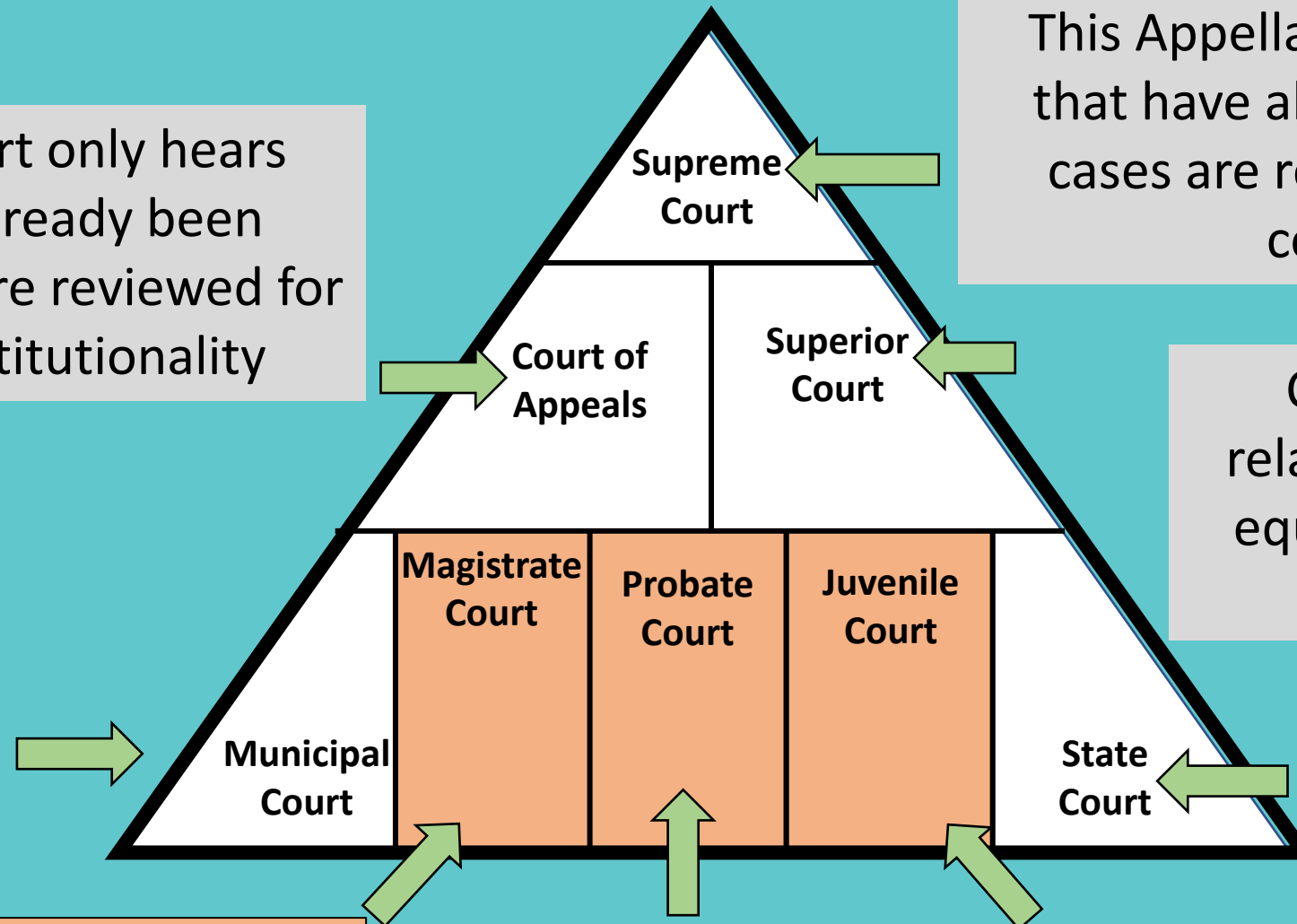
Cases of domestic relations, land and title equity, Felony criminal cases, Jury Trials

Civil Law, Traffic, Misdemeanor criminal cases, Jury Trials

Arrest and search warrants, Preliminary felony and misdemeanor, civil law

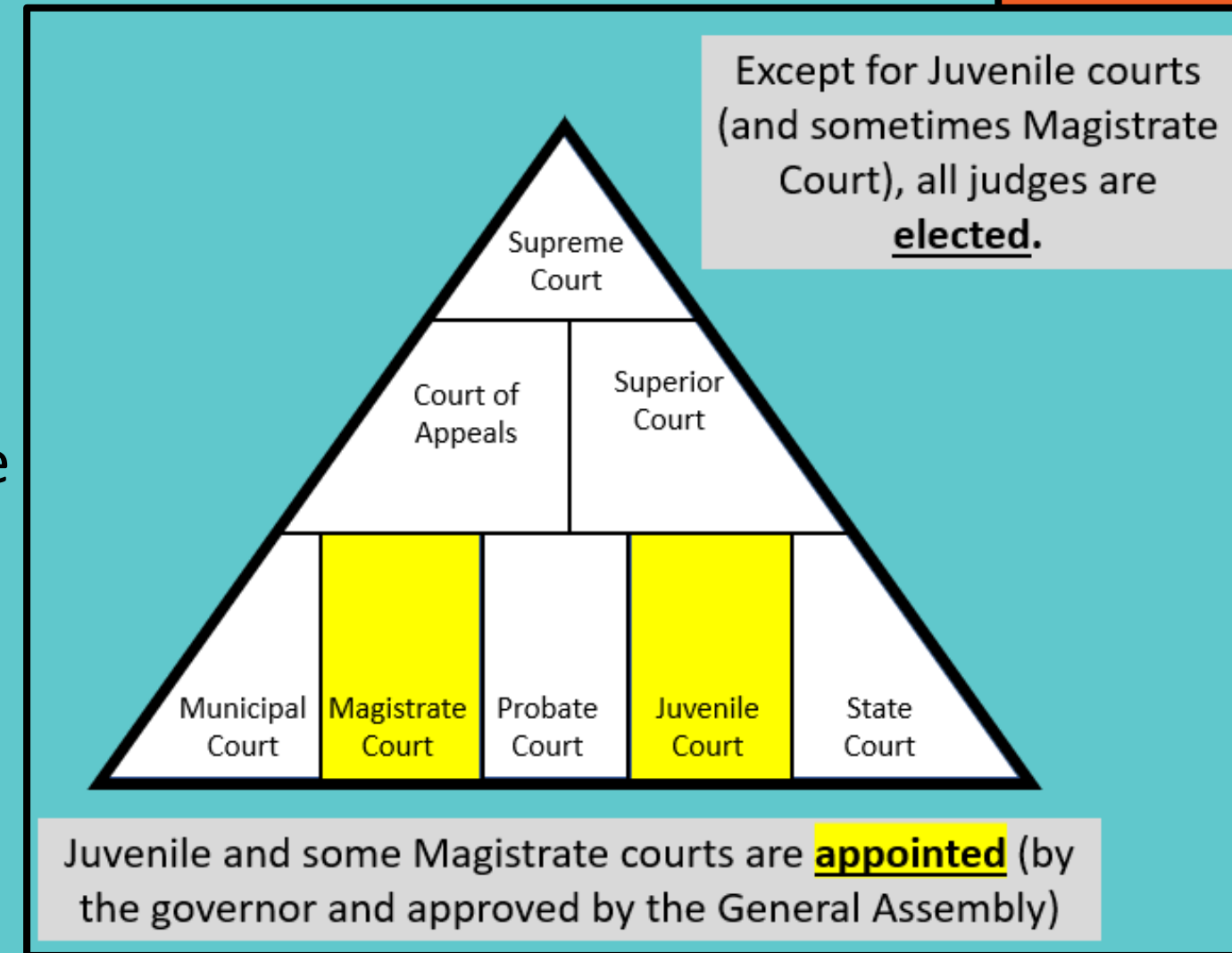
Wills, Estates, Marriage, Weapons Carry Licenses

Juvenile Cases, No Juries



Judges

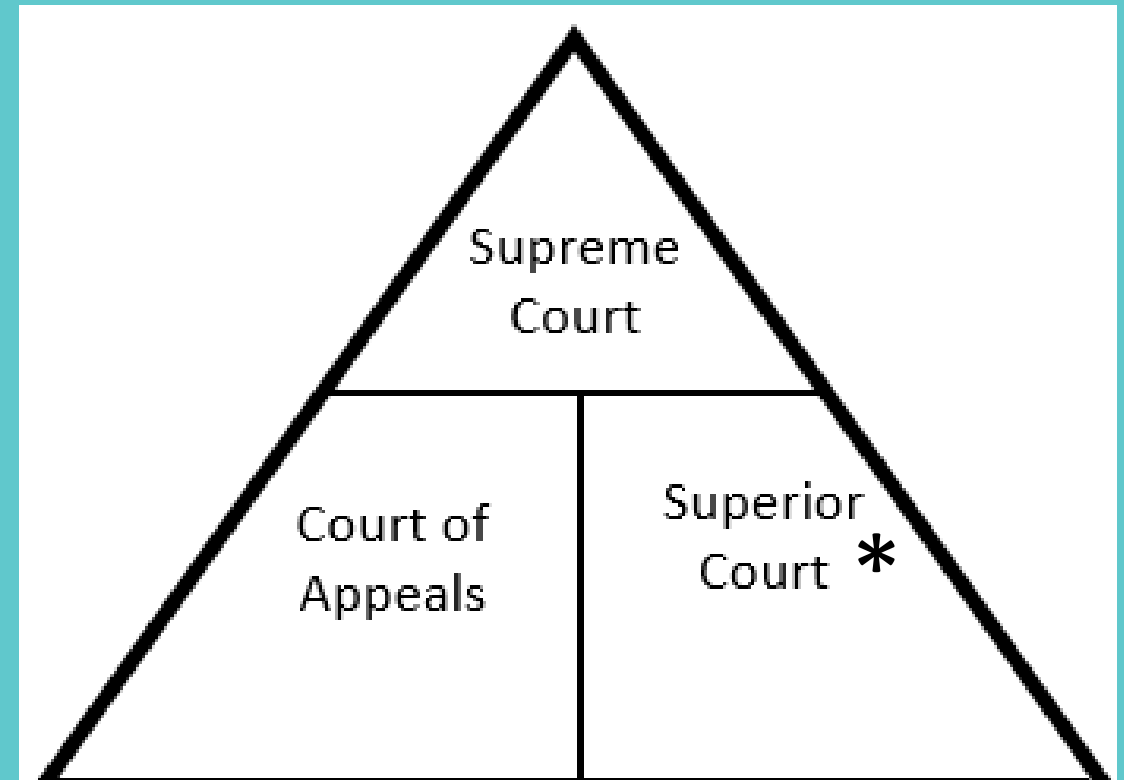
- Georgia's judges are either elected or appointed.
- Judges in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, superior, state, and probate courts are elected to their positions at the state, local, and county level.
- Most magistrate judges are elected, but some are appointed by local legislators.
- Juvenile court judges are appointed by superior court judges.



Types of Court

- There are 2 types of courts in Georgia: Trial Courts and Appeals Courts.
- Trial Courts see cases for the first time and make the original ruling on the case.
- Cases that have already been tried in court can be **appealed** or sent to a higher court to request a reversal of the decision based on **improper procedures or violations of the Constitution.**

*The Superior court acts as an appeals court for all lower courts except for State Court and Juvenile court



Types of Law

- Trial courts oversee cases dealing with the two types of law—criminal law and civil law.
- Criminal law deals with actions that harm people and society. Ex: murder, robbery, DUI (Gov't vs Person)
- Civil law handles private disputes where one person or group says that another person or group has somehow done them wrong. Ex: divorce, contracts, property ownership, injuries. (Person vs Person)
- A person can be tried in criminal and civil court for the same crime.



Types of Crimes

- There are 2 types of crimes that can be committed. Felonies and Misdemeanors.
- Felonies are more serious crimes (arson, murder, rape, etc) and carry a minimum sentence of 1 year in prison and/or a fine.
- Capital Crimes are felonies that can be punishable by death. In Georgia Capital Crimes include:
 - Murder
 - Kidnaping with bodily injury
 - Aircraft Hijacking
 - Treason
- Misdemeanors are less serious crimes and carry a maximum sentence of 1 year in prison and/or a fine
- Some misdemeanors include:
 - Assault and battery
 - Cruelty of animals
 - Shoplifting
 - Trespassing

Adult Criminal Justice Process

- A **defendant** is a person accused/ charged with committing a crime.
- The adult Criminal Justice process is divide into two parts
 1. Pre-tiral
 2. Trial
- Defendants have certain rights throughout the criminal justice process. These rights are outlined in the US and State Constitutions.
- Some of the rights include:
 1. Be notified of charges against you
 2. Be provided a speedy and public trial
 3. Be able to confront and cross-examine witnesses
 4. Be represented by a lawyer
 5. Have an impartial judge and jury
 6. Remain silent (not be a witness against yourself)

Pretrial

1. **Arrest/ Booking** - There **enough evidence** of a crime serious enough to warrant being taken in to police custody; booking: **officials hold the suspect in jail**
2. **Initial appearance** - The **suspect goes before a judge** to have the charges brought against them explained and determine if they are to be released on bail
3. **Preliminary hearing** - The magistrate **judge determines** if there was a **crime** committed **and** if there is **probable cause** (enough evidence that the suspected was involved in the crime)
4. **Grand Jury indictment** - A **grand jury, examines the evidence, decide if suspect should be charged** with a crime. If so, they issue an indictment (formal charge of serious crime).

Pretrial

5. Arraignment- formal reading of the charges

6. Assignment before Superior Court - Upon receiving an indictment, the suspect is **brought before a superior court judge.**

7. **After being arraigned a suspect can:**

- a. **(1) plead not guilty**, the case moves on to trial.

8. Admitting Guilt/Plea Bargaining - The suspect can also **(2.) plead guilty**. If they plead guilty to the charge, the judge will sentence the individual and the case does not go to trial.

- a. The suspect can also **(3) accept or reject a prosecutor's plea bargain** and admit guilt to a smaller offense and not go to trial.

Trial

- 1. Selecting a Jury - 12 citizens are selected to be the jury.** The prosecuting and defending lawyers, along with the judge, can ask the potential jurors questions to determine if they should serve on the trial.
- 2. Opening Statements - Both attorneys speak to the jury; explain what they hope to prove in the case.**
- 3. Presentation of evidence - During the case, witnesses are called to the stand to give testimony.**
 - a. **Prosecution calls witnesses to prove guilt.**
 - b. **The defendant's attorney can cross-examine the witnesses.**
- 4. Closing statements - After all witnesses have spoken, attorneys present their final arguments case.**

Trial

5. Jury deliberation and verdict - Jury discusses the evidence/ case to determine guilt or not. The jury's decision of guilty/ not guilty is called the **verdict**

6. Sentencing - If the jury finds the defendant guilty, the judge sentences the defendant, telling him/her the **amount of time he/she will spend in prison and how much they owe in damages**

7. Appeal - If the defendant maintains his or her innocence or if there were mistakes made by the legal team or court in the case, the defendant can make an appeal where an **appellate court will review the case**. If they overturn the ruling, the case goes back to the superior court for a new trial.

Georgia's Court System:

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juvenile Court

Delinquent Behavior

- Delinquent behavior would be considered a crime if it were **committed by an adult**.
- Treatment, rehabilitation, or **court supervision** is necessary.
- Examples include **possession of drugs**, theft, assault, rape, and murder.

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Unruly Behavior

- Unruly behavior is when a juvenile violates a law that only **pertains to children**.
- Treatment, **rehabilitation**, or supervision by the court is necessary.
- Examples include skipping school, **driving without a license**, possession of alcohol or cigarettes, loitering in public places between 12 am and 5 am, and leaving home without parents' permission.

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**** A juvenile would NOT be protected under Juvenile Court for delinquent behavior (because it applies to adults); For example, if they committed battery with serious bodily harm or manslaughter and the person died. ****

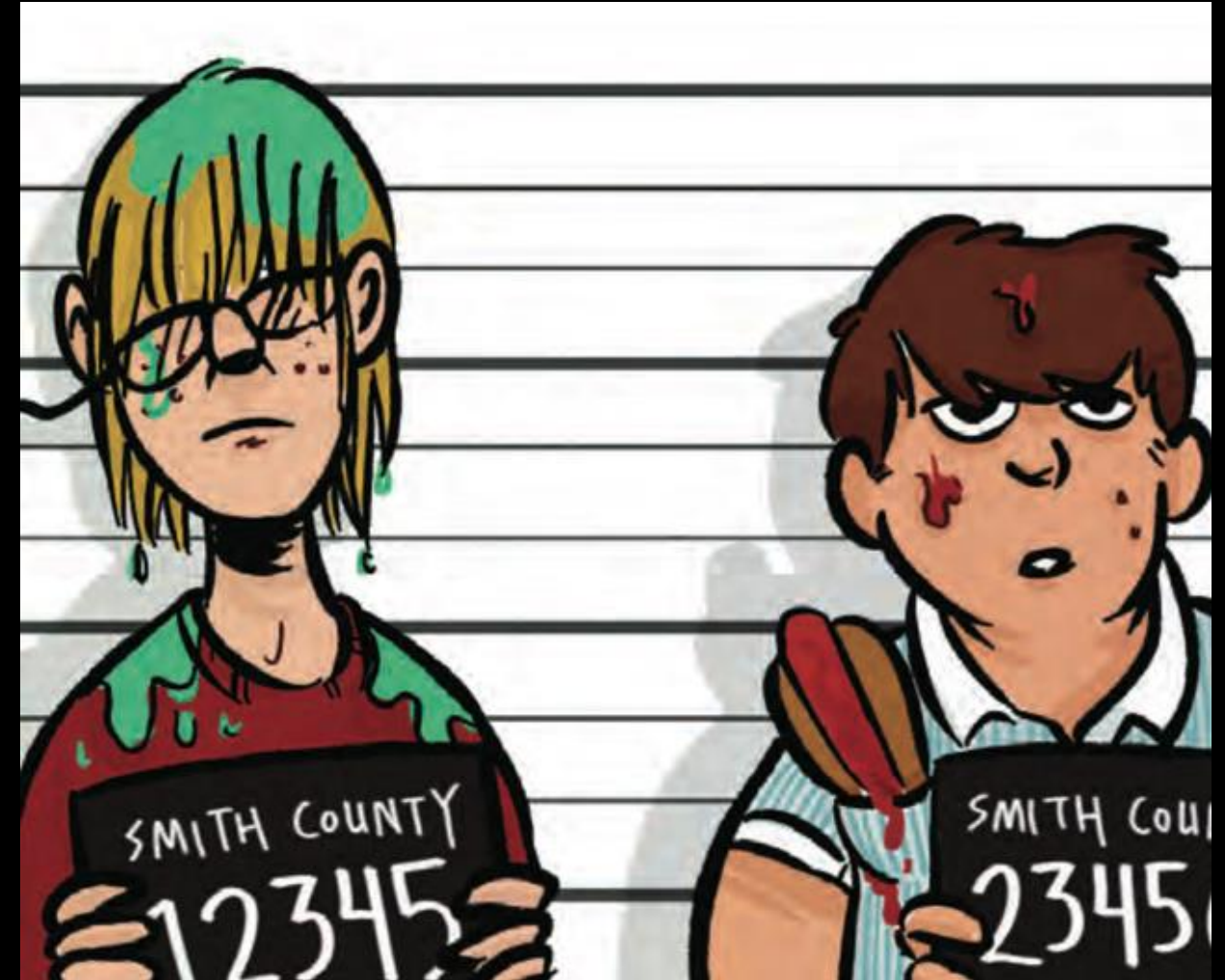
Juvenile Justice Steps

- 1. Intake** - The juvenile is brought to an intake officer who decides if there is enough evidence to make a charge against them
- 2. Detention** - If there is enough evidence, they are held in a youth detention center or adult prison depending on the crime.
- 3. Formal Hearing** - The judge determines the juvenile's guilt or innocence. Juries do not hear juvenile cases.
- 4. Sentencing** - The judge rules on the juvenile's punishment
 - Can include boot camp, probation, the youth detention center, fines, and/or mandatory counseling and school attendance.

(Appeal - The juvenile can appeal the ruling if there is enough evidence to prove that they were innocent.)

Juvenile Consequences

- Releasing the child to the parent(s)
- Probation
- Committing the child to the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- Detaining the juvenile at a Youth Detention Center (YDC) for up to 90 days.
- Sending the juvenile to an outdoor program or boot camp.



Rights of Juveniles

- The right to be notified of the charges filed against them.
- The right to have a parent/ guardian or lawyer present while questioning.
- The right to remain silent when interrogated.
- The right to two phone calls (parent and lawyer).
- The right to not self-incriminate and to be counseled on what self-incrimination is (tell on yourself)
- The right not to be placed with criminal adults
- The right for parents to be contacted immediately

**** Similar Rights between Juvenile and Adult judicial system** :**

1. Right to a lawyer/ attorney
2. Right to appeal

Georgia's Local Government Origins

- Georgia is traditionally an agricultural state, and for this reason counties are an important part in the state's local government. It is believed that having many smaller counties allowed rural farmers to travel to the county seat (the main town of each county, with a courthouse and jail), conduct necessary business, and return within one day.
- Even though Georgia is the 21st largest state, it has the second highest number of counties.
- Georgia began with just 8 counties in 1777.
- Today, Georgia has 159 (the maximum allowed by the state constitution) counties and 535 cities.
- There are three types of local government: Cities (Municipalities), Counties, and Special Purpose District



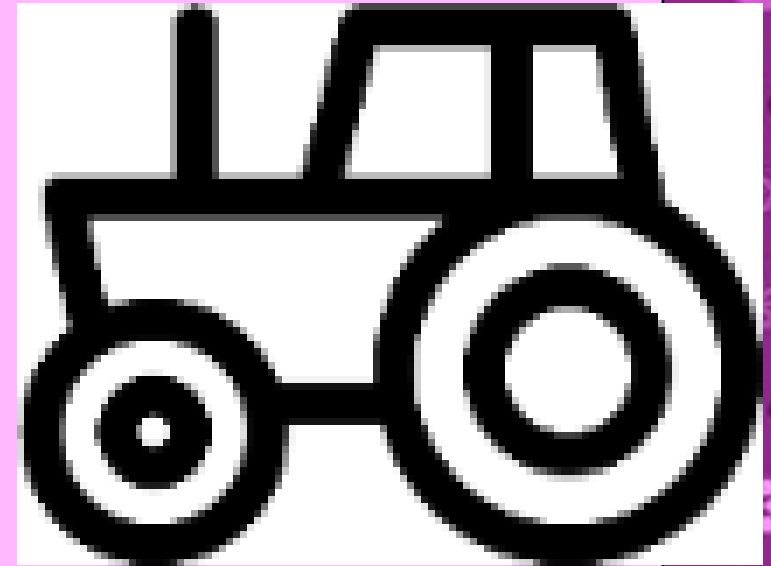
City (Municipality)

- Cities are established by a municipal charter, which must be approved by the General Assembly
- The charter is similar to a constitution in that it gives the authority for the city to exist and establishes a mayor or council as leadership.
- Cities may provide separate police and fire services, conduct separate water and waste management, charge additional taxes, and establish separate school districts.



County

- Counties help the state to administer its programs and maintain state courts
- Counties were created to help a rural society function in a similar way to more urban areas
- Mainly run by 4 elected county officers
- Functions of Counties:
 - Conduct elections, provide courts, maintain roads, administer state programs, provide fire and police service, establish libraries, and contribute to public transportation



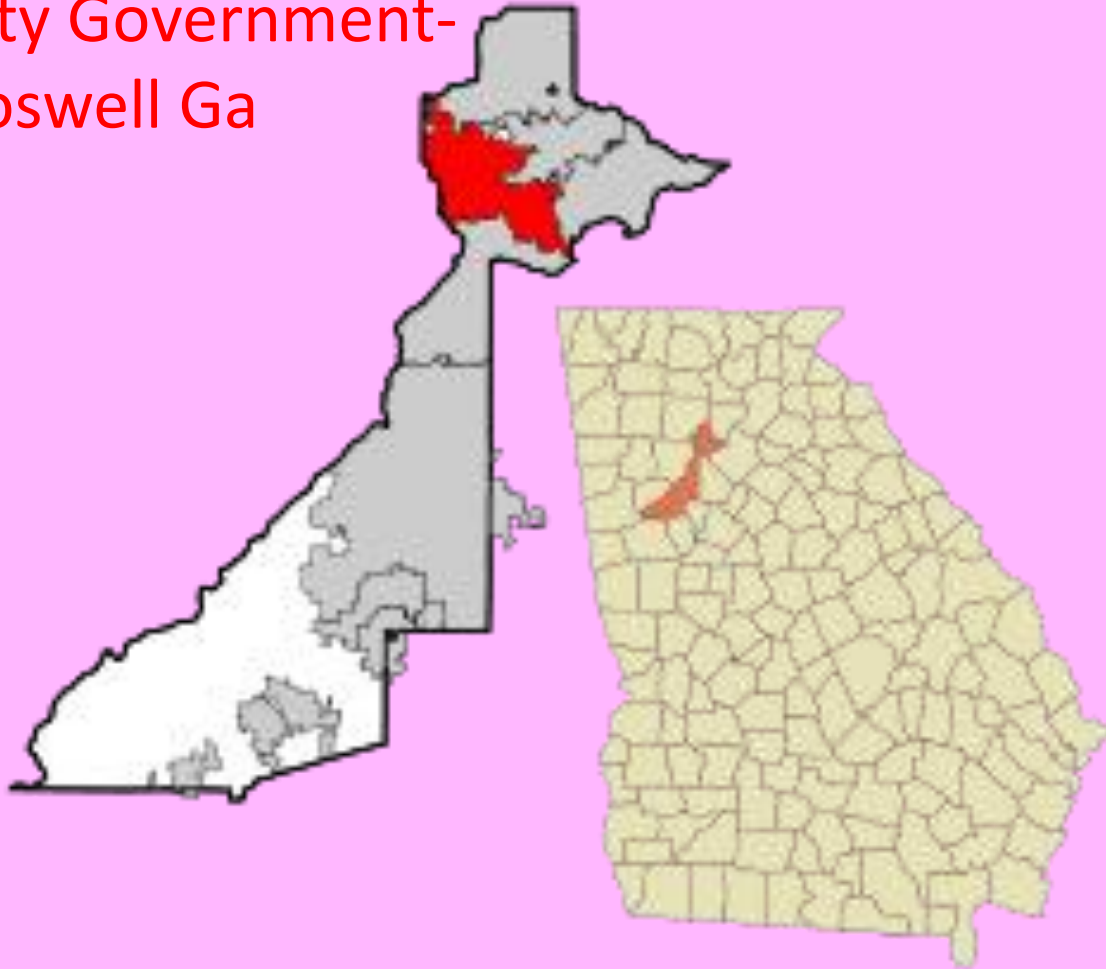
Special Purpose District

- Special Purpose Districts are a type of local government that focus on a particular function.
- They are generally run by boards, or a group of leaders making decisions together
- The main purpose of Special Purpose Districts is to benefit people and improve an aspect of the community
- Examples:
 - School systems
 - MARTA
 - Georgia Port Authority
 - Hartsfield-Jackson Int. Airport



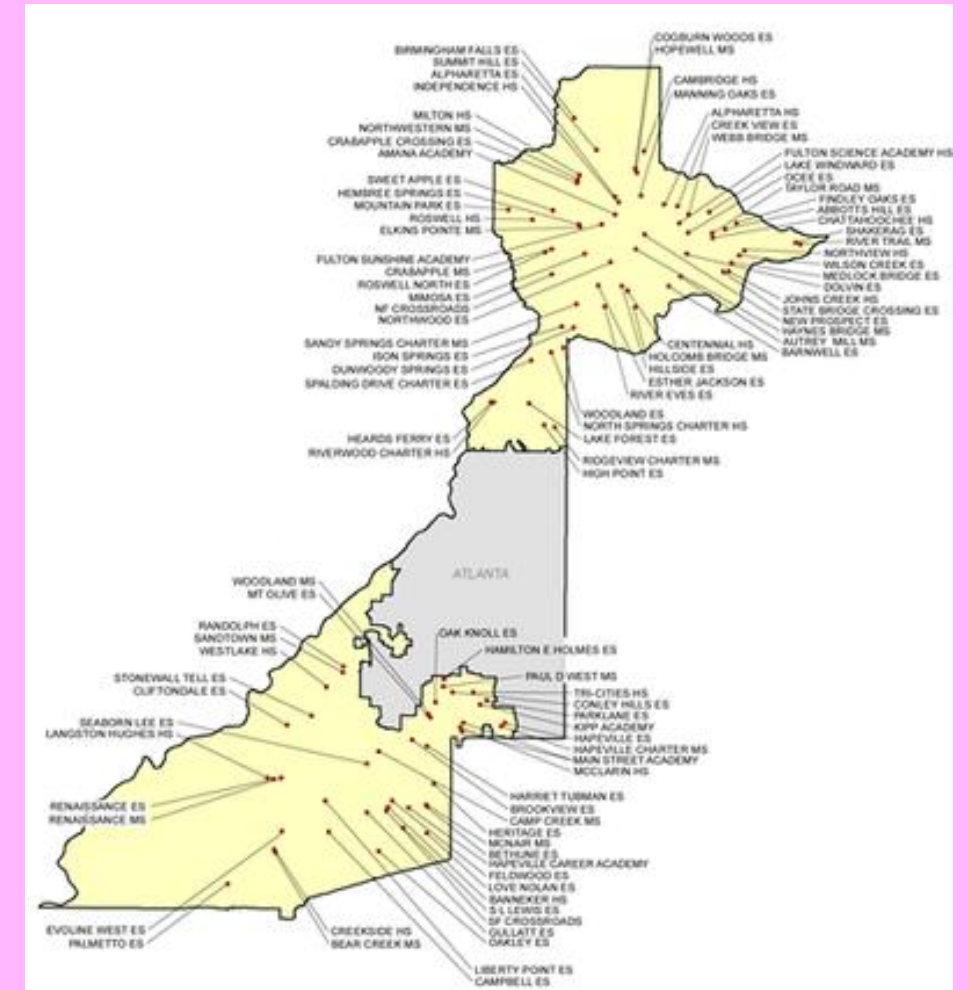
Special Purpose Districts

City Government-
Roswell Ga



County Government-
Fulton County

Fulton County Schools

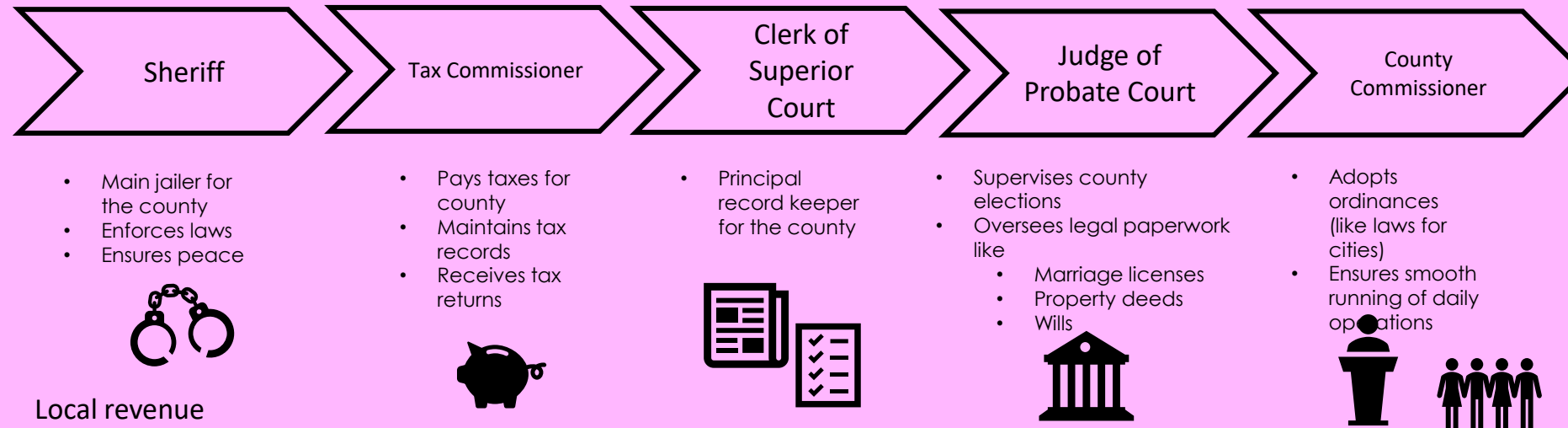


Atlanta Public Schools

Georgia's Local Government Origins

Georgia's Local Government

County Leadership



Local revenue

Similar to the state level of government, local governments use both tax and non-tax sources of revenue to fund its programs. Spending decisions are made based on the needs of citizens.

TAXES

- Excise – tax on specific goods like alcohol and gasoline
- Franchise – tax on widely used utilities like telephone, cable, and electricity
- Sales – tax placed on consumption of goods or property, often used for improving public spaces and education
- Ad Valorem – tax based on the value of an exchange, like purchasing cars or boats
- Regulatory Fees – required for business who want to conduct business in a county

NON-TAXES

- Court fines, federal grants, permit fees, service fees on utilities (water, gas, etc.)