

# Unit 11: State and Local Government



SS8CG1 – SS8CG6

Griffith-GA Studies-Unit 11

# Recall from Unit 4...

## THE BIG IDEA

- **SS8CG1: The student will describe the role of citizens under Georgia's constitution.**
  - Describe: to represent or give an account of in words; *recount, report*

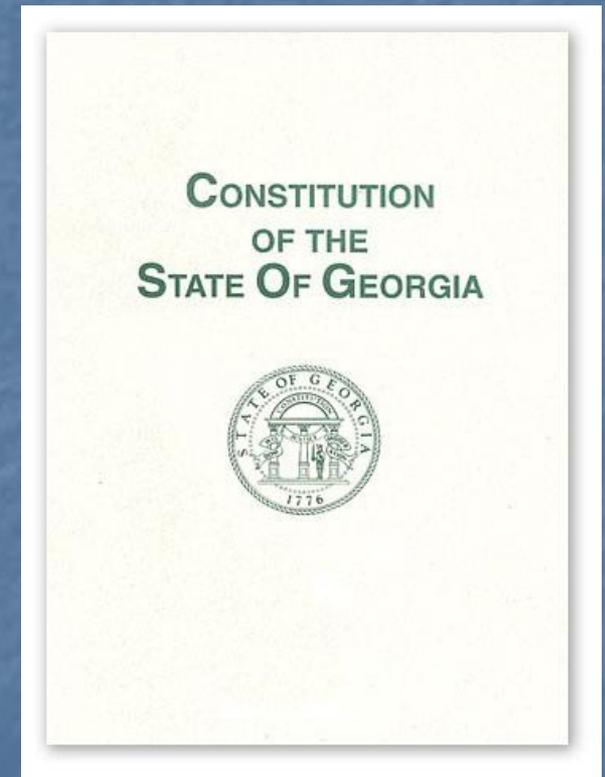
# SS8CG1a- GA's Constitution

- **SS8CG1a: Explain the basic structure of the Georgia state constitution.**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out; *illustrate, interpret*

# Structure of GA's Constitution

## SS8CG1a

- GA's constitution much like U.S. Constitution however...
  - GA's constitution outlines qualifications for voting and running for public office
- GA's constitution has 10 "Articles"
- Several Revisions
  - 1777, 1789, 1798, 1861, 1865, 1868, 1877, 1945, 1976, 1983



# Structure of GA's Constitution

## SS8CG1a

- Preamble-
  - Gives reasons for constitution.
- Article I- Bill of Rights
  - Individual rights, separation of powers, separation of church and state, property rights
- Article II-Voting and Elections
  - Secret ballot, who is allowed to vote, run offs elections, if public officials commit crimes
- Article III-Legislative Branch
  - Outlines structure and function of General Assembly
  - How a bill becomes a law
- Article IV-Constitutional Boards and Commissions
  - Provides for several boards and Commissions (Public Service Comm. Etc)
- Article V-Executive Branch
  - Qualifications and terms for executive officials, duties and powers of Governor

# Structure of GA's Constitution

## SS8CG1a

- Article VI- Judicial Branch
  - Outlines the courts systems and 7 types of Courts: Magistrate, probate, juvenile, state, superior, appeals, and Supreme.
- Article VII-Taxation and Finance
  - Gives reasons why GA may tax citizens and tells how. Sets tax limits
- Article VIII-Education
  - Explains how school system is paid for by taxes
  - Outlines the structure of school system at state and local levels
- Article IX-Counties and Municipal Courts
  - Outlines the roles and functions of county and city governments
- Article X-Amendments to the Constitution
  - Explains how changes or amendments to the Constitution are made
- Article XI-Miscellaneous Provisions
  - Talks about how GA's constitutions have been changed over the years

# Summary Discussion (CG1a)

- Can you answer the Essential Question now? (CG1a)
  - Governance
    - What is the basic structure of Georgia's Constitution and how does it protect the separation of powers?

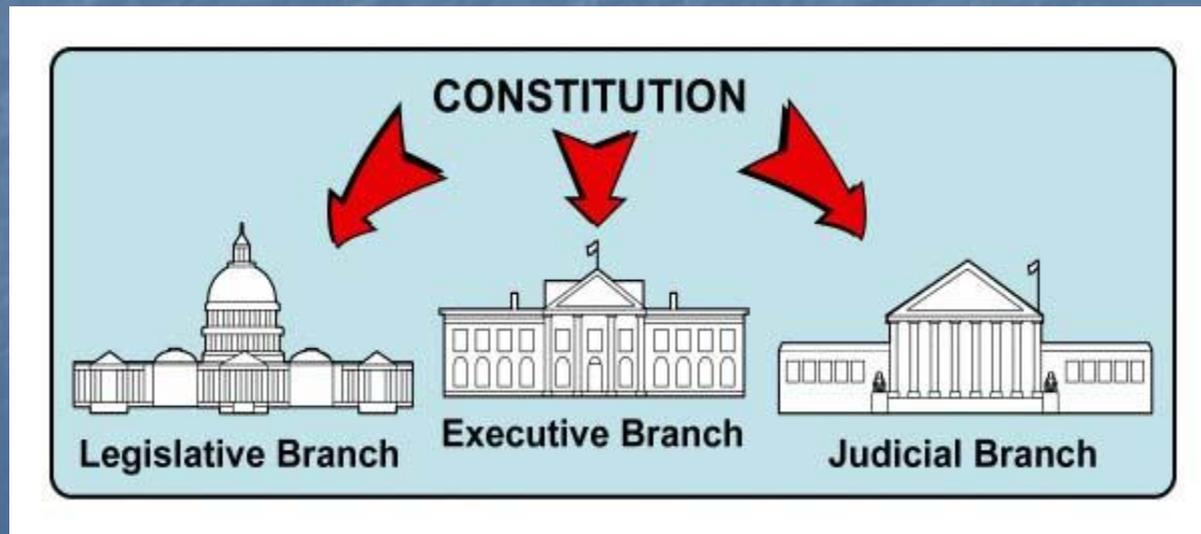
# SS8CG1b: Separating Power

- **SS8CG1b: Explain the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances.**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out; *illustrate, interpret*

# Separation of Powers

## SS8CG1b

- Separation of Powers: Governments power is divided between the branches
- Each branch has different/distinct jobs.



# Roles of Each Branch

## SS8CG1b

*The GA and U.S.*

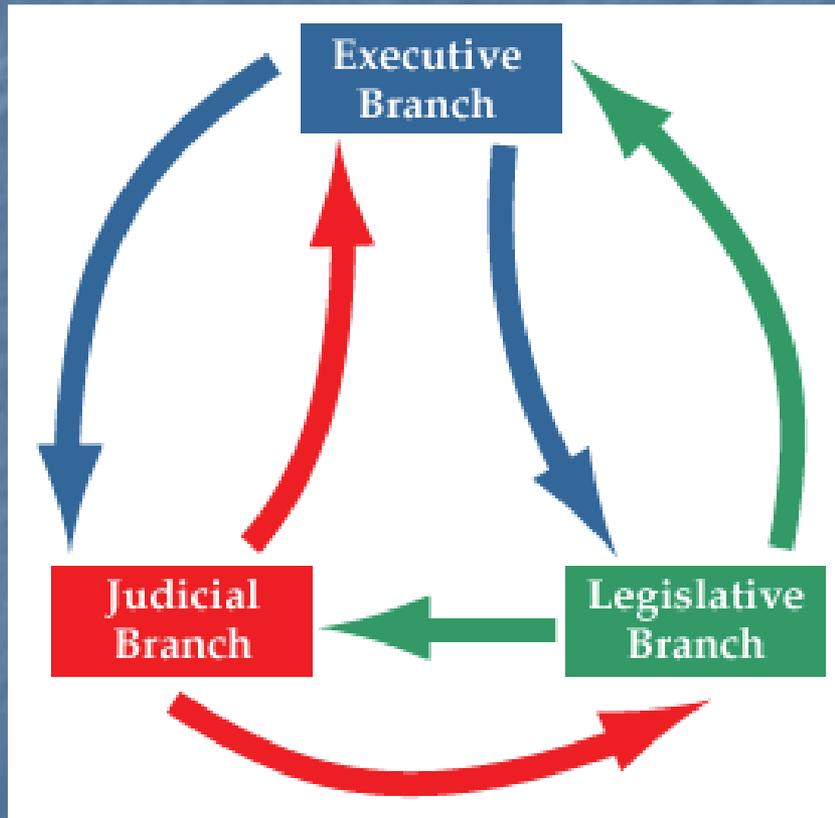
*Constitution designates certain powers for each branch*

- The legislative branch makes laws.
- The executive branch enforces laws.
- The judicial branch interprets the law



# Checks and Balances

## SS8CG1b



- Checks and Balances:  
The ability of one branch to check the power of another branch
  - Keeps any one branch from becoming too powerful

# Summary Discussion (CG1b)

- Can you answer the Essential Question now? (CG1b)
  - Governance
    - How did the new government assure citizens that it would not impose the oppression of the past monarchy?
    - What is the basic structure of Georgia's Constitution and how does it protect the separation of powers?

# SS8CG1c: Citizens

- **SS8CG1c: Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.**
  - Describe: to represent or give an account of in words; *recount, report*

# Rights of GA Citizens

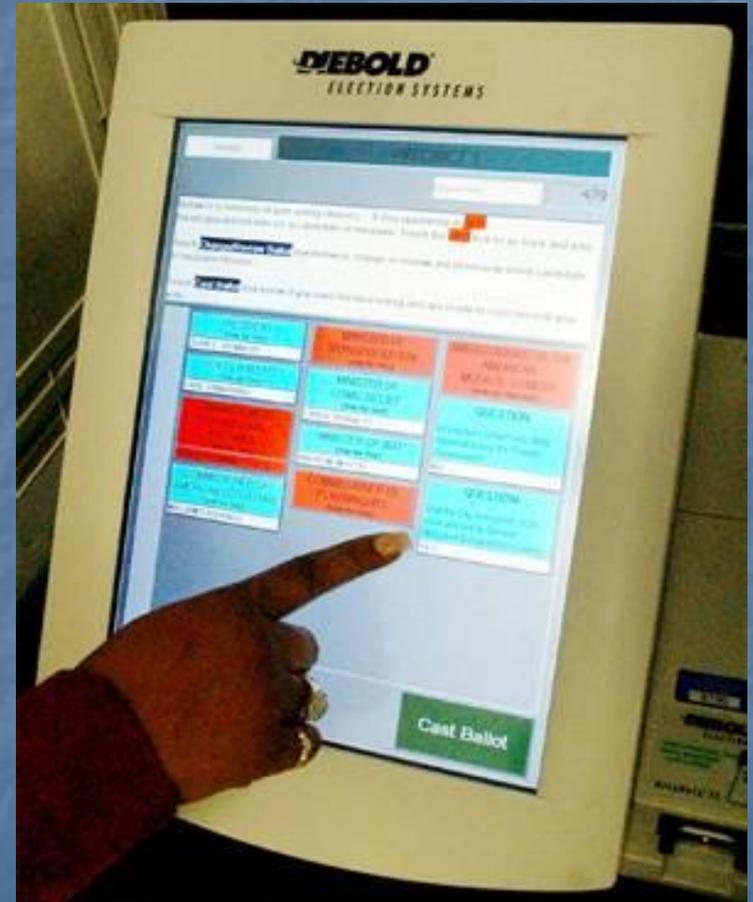
## SS8CG1c

- Rights – standards that keep institutions from harming people's freedoms.
- Rights of Georgians are in the GA bill of rights in the [GA constitution](#)
  - Some include...
    - Life, liberty, and property
    - Freedom of speech/press
    - Right to keep and bear arms
    - Right to trial
    - No banishment or whipping for a crime
    - No imprisonment for debt
    - Fishing and hunting

# Responsibilities of GA Citizens

## SS8CG1c

- Responsibilities of GA citizens include:
  - Paying taxes
  - Obeying laws and knowing the consequences of actions
  - Voting
  - Jury Duty



# Summary Discussion (CG1c)

- Can you answer the Essential Question now? (CG1c)
  - Governance
    - How did the new government assure citizens that it would not impose the oppression of the past monarchy?
    - What are the rights of American citizens and what responsibilities accompany these basic rights of citizenship?

# SS8CG1d: Voting

- **SS8CG1d: Explain voting qualifications and elections in Georgia.**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out: *illustrate, interpret*

# Voting Qualifications in GA

## SS8CG1d

- To vote in GA you must be registered
  - To register you must be:
    - A U.S. Citizen
    - A legal GA resident and in the county in which you wish to vote
    - At least 17 ½ years of age (18 when you vote)
    - NOT serving a sentence for a crime of moral turpitude
    - NOT Judicially determined mentally incompetent

# Voting Qualifications in GA

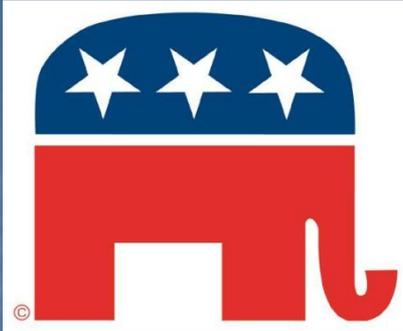


# Summary Discussion (CG1d)

- Can you answer the Essential Question now? (CG1d)
  - Governance
    - How did the new government assure citizens that it would not impose the oppression of the past monarchy?
    - What are the qualifications to vote in Georgia?

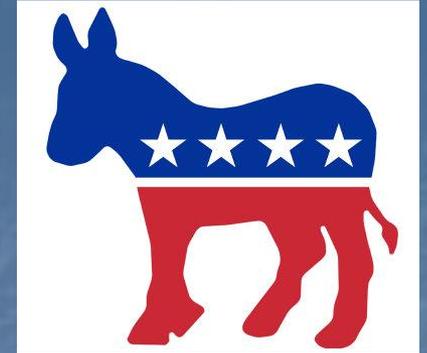
# SS8CG1e: Political Parties

- **SS8CG1e: Explain the role of political parties in government**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out: *illustrate, interpret*



# Political Parties

## SS8CG1e



- Georgia has 2 major political parties:
  - Democrats and Republicans
  - Voters do not have to join a party but candidates choose one
  - Different parties represent different ideas and interests
  - The candidates job is make those ideas into government policy

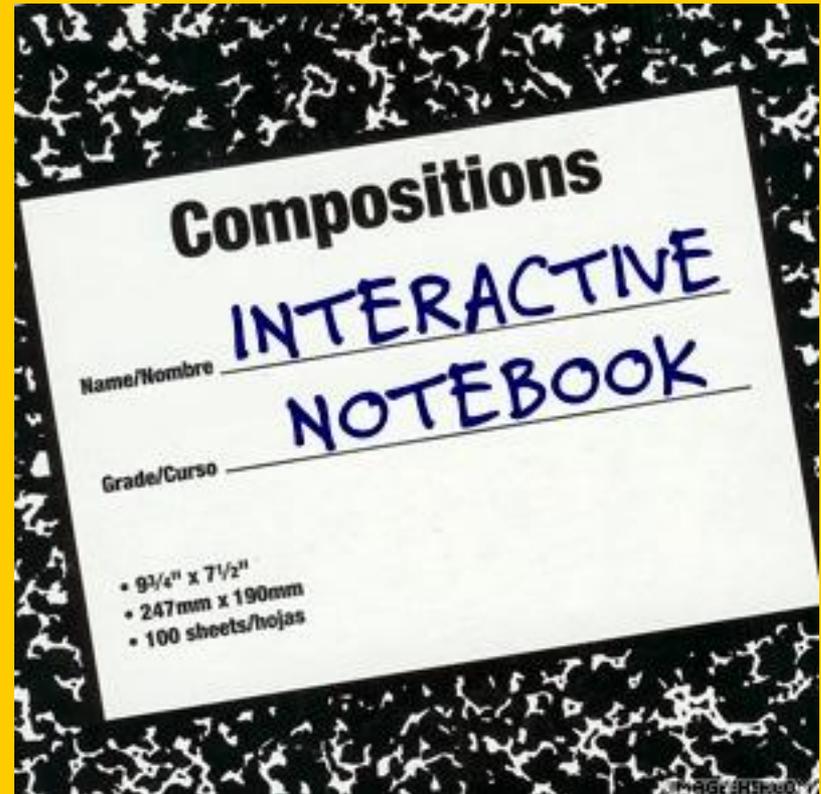
# Summary Discussion (CG1e)

- Can you answer the Essential Question now? (CG1e)
  - Governance
    - How did the new government assure citizens that it would not impose the oppression of the past monarchy?

# Role of Georgia Citizens

## SS8CG1

- In your notebook:
- Describe the role of citizens under GA's constitution
  - Describe: to represent or give an account of in words; *recount, report*



# Role of Georgia Citizens SS8CG1

- Describe the role of citizens under GA's constitution
  - Describe- to represent or give an account of in words:  
*recount, report*



# Unit 11: State and Local Government



SS8CG1 – SS8CG5

Griffith-GA Studies-Unit 11

# THE BIG IDEA

- **SS8CG2: The student will analyze the role of the legislative branch in Georgia state government**
  - Analyze: to divide a complex idea into parts or elements; *dissect, break down*

# Legislative Branch In GA

## SS8CG2a

- **SS8H2a: Explain the qualifications, term, election, and duties of the members of the General Assembly.**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out; *illustrate, interpret*

# Legislative Branch In GA

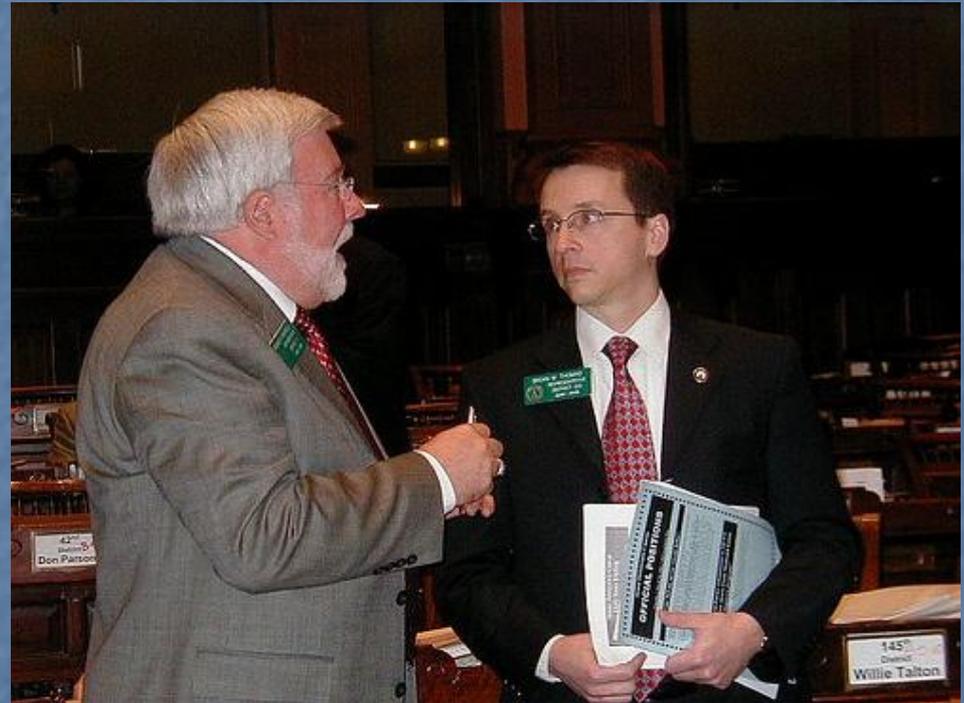
## SS8CG2a

- The Legislative Branch in GA is bicameral and is called the General Assembly.
- To be a member of General Assembly
  - Qualifications
    - The minimum age for the House of Representatives is 21 and for the Senate 25.
    - Also must be....
      - a U.S. Citizen
      - a resident of GA for at least 2 years
      - a resident of your district for at least a year

# General Assembly

## SS8CG2a

- Members of the General Assembly:
  - Term: House and Senate serve 2 yr terms
  - No limit on terms you can serve
  - Election-Elections for the entire General Assembly takes place in November of even numbered years.



House Representative  
Howard Maxwell (R- 17)

# General Assembly

## SS8CG2a



- Duties of General Assembly members
  - Make laws for the state
  - Protect the GA Constitution (Changes need 2/3 majority vote)
  - Check the power of other branches

# Legislative Branch In GA

## SS8CG2b

- **SS8H2b: Describe the organization of the General Assembly, with emphasis on leadership and the committee system.**
  - Describe: to represent or give an account of in words; *recount, report*

# General Assembly Organization

## SS8CG2b

- Organization of General Assembly:
  - Bicameral (Two Houses- Senate and H.O.R.)
  - Leadership
    - H.O.R. led by Speaker of the House
    - Senate led by Lieutenant Governor
    - Majority/Minority Party
  - Committee System
    - Each house has committees that deal with things like education, transportation, agriculture, etc.
    - These committees make recommendations to Senate/H.O.R about potential bills

# General Assembly Organization

## SS8CG2b

**GA's Lieutenant Governor**



**Casey Cagle**  
(Also member of Executive Branch)

**Georgia Speaker of the House**



**David Ralston**

# Legislative Branch In GA

## SS8CG2c

- **SS8H2c: Evaluate how the legislative branch fulfills its role as the lawmaking body for the state of Georgia.**
  - Evaluate: to make a value as to the worth or value of something; *judge, assess*

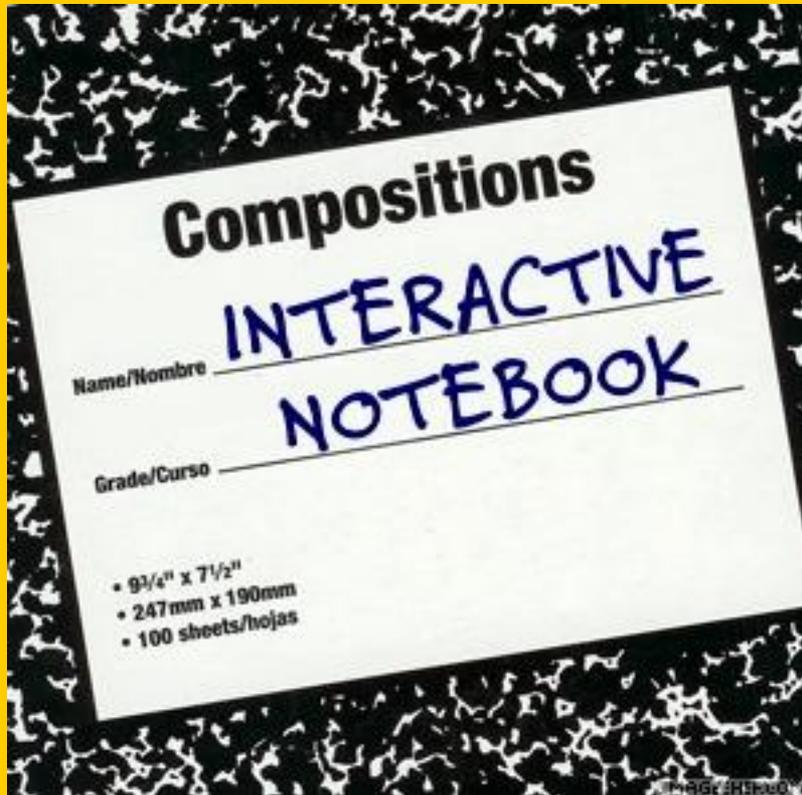
# Legislative Branch- SS8CG2c

- Before it becomes a law... Its a "bill"
- Legislative process (Green Tree Frog)
  - Committees: Groups organized to study bills on certain subject, then make a recommendation to the house
  - Before a bill is a law it must get a majority vote in both houses of the General Assembly.
  - Governor can
    - 1. Sign the bill...it becomes law
    - 2. Ignore the bill... it becomes law
    - 3. Veto the bill... bill dies unless veto is overridden
  - General Assembly can override veto with a 2/3 majority vote.
- How a bill becomes a law Handout
- I am just a bill or ... just kidding.

# Green Tree Frog Bill



# Legislative Branch in GA



- In your interactive notebook:
  - Analyze the role of the legislative branch in Georgia
    - Analyze: to divide a complex idea into parts or elements; *dissect*, *break down*

# THE BIG IDEA

- **SS8CG3: The student will analyze the role of the executive branch in Georgia state government.**
  - Analyze: to divide a complex idea into parts or elements; *dissect, break down*

# Executive Branch In GA

## SS8CG3a

- **SS8H3a: Explain the qualifications, term, election, and duties of the governor and lieutenant governor.**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out; *illustrate, interpret*



Lt. Governor  
Casey Cagle

# Executive Branch In GA

## SS8CG3a



Governor  
Nathan Deal

- The role of the Executive Branch is to...
  - 1) Enforce laws
  - 2) Execute programs of the General Assembly.
- To be a Governor or Lt. Governor:
  - Qualifications
    - The minimum age for Governor/Lt. Governor is 30.
    - Also must be...
      - a U.S. Citizen for at least 15 years
      - a resident of GA for at least 6 years
  - Term: 4 years for both
    - Lt. Gov has no limit on # of terms served
    - Governor has a 2 term limit

# Executive Branch In GA

## SS8CG3b

- **SS8H3b: Describe the organization of the executive branch, with emphasis on leadership and committee system.**
  - Describe: to represent or give an account of in words; *recount, report*

# Executive Branch Organization

## SS8CG3b

- Major Policy Areas of the Executive Branch: (NOT ALL, just a few...)
  - Education
  - Human Resources
  - Public Safety
  - Transportation
  - Natural Resources

# Education

## SS8CG3b

- Provide K-12 Education for children in GA
  - Education is the most important responsibility of state government.
  - Largest portion of the state budget
  - State Dept. of Education funds schools and sets standards for students and teachers
  - 1,946 schools in 179 school systems
  - Run by state school superintendent



State School Superintendent  
John Barge



# Human Services

## SS8CG3b

- Oversees health and welfare related issues
  - Child support, nursing homes, foster care etc.
  - \$1.8 Billion annual budget
  - Family and Children Services (DFCS)
  - Aging Services (DAS)
  - Child Support Services (DCSS)

# Public Safety

## SS8CG3b

- Enforces road & highway laws
  - Georgia State Patrol
  - Capitol Police
  - Motor Carrier Compliance
    - (Weigh stations, HOV enforcement, inspecting school busses etc.)





# Transportation

## SS8CG3b



- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Plans, constructs, maintains & improves the state's transportation systems
  - Build Maintain roads/bridges
  - Plan for/support mass transit and airports
  - Provides airport and air safety planning
  - State Road and Tollway Authority
  - Georgia Rail Passenger Authority.
  - Responsible for: waterways & rail transit
    - Intercoastal waterway
    - Savannah and Brunswick ports.



GA Interstates

# Natural Resources

## SS8CG3b



- The Department of Natural Resources manages and conserves of GA's natural and cultural resources.
  - 6 areas:
    - Coastal Resources
    - Environmental Protection
    - Historic Preservation
    - Sustainability
    - Parks/Recreation/Historic
    - Wildlife Resources.



# Executive Branch In GA

## SS8CG3c

- **SS8H3c: Evaluate how the executive branch fulfills its role through state agencies that administer programs and enforce laws.**
  - Evaluate: to make a value as to the worth or value of something; *judge, assess*

G.S.

# In Summary...

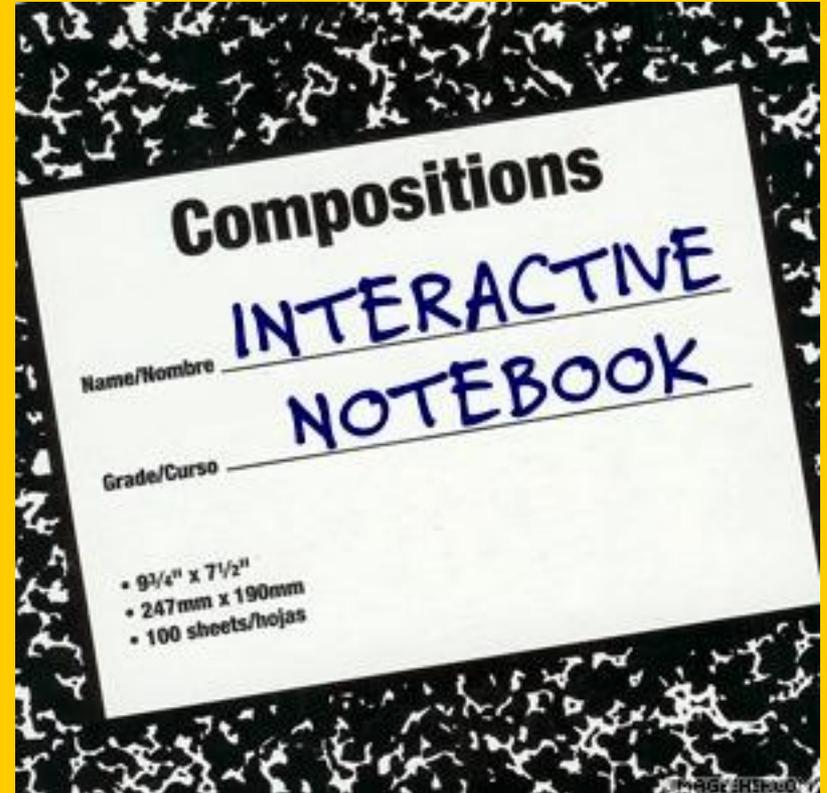
## SS8CG3c

- How does the executive branch fulfill its role?
  - Executive branch has many state agencies
  - They use your tax \$ to create agencies
  - Those agencies...
    - Administer programs
    - Enforce laws



# Executive Branch in GA

- In your notebook:
  - Analyze the role of the executive branch in Georgia
    - Analyze: to divide a complex idea into parts or elements; *dissect, break down*



# THE BIG IDEA

- **SS8CG4: The student will analyze the role of the judicial branch in Georgia state government.**
  - Analyze: to divide a complex idea into parts or elements- *dissect, break down*

# Georgia's Judicial Branch

## SS8CG4

- The judicial branch's role is to interpret the law.
  - 1. Decide whether a law is constitutional or unconstitutional
  - 2. Decide whether or not a person has broken the law.



# Judicial Branch In GA

## SS8CG4a

- **SS8H4a: Explain the structure of the court system in Georgia including trial and appellate procedures and how judges are selected.**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out; *illustrate, interpret*

# Trial Court/Appellate Court

## SS8CG4a

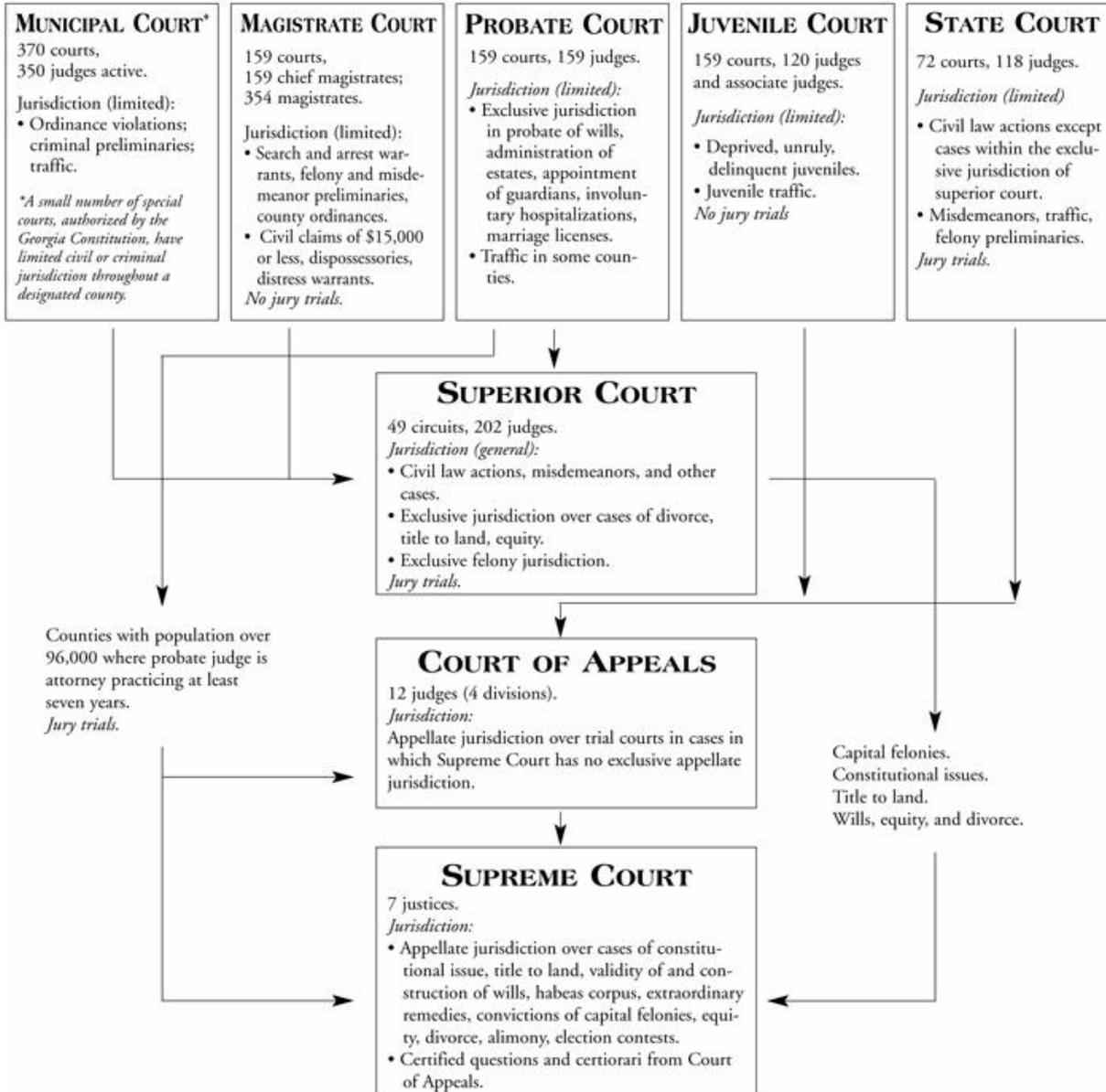
- Terms:
  - Trial court- court judges whether a person's actions are against the law
  - Appellate court- appeal the judgment of another court.
    - (if someone feels like the 1<sup>st</sup> court made a mistake, they can appeal)

# Terms of the Court System

## SS8CG4a

- Jurisdictions- each court is responsible for the cases in its own jurisdiction. The “jurisdiction” is a geographical area or type of case designated for a certain court.
  - Example 1: Jurisdiction of superior court: serious offenses
  - Example 2: Jurisdiction of Paulding magistrate court: minor offenses that occur in Paulding county
  - Example 3: Certain courts cover certain topics. In some cases there are specific drug courts or tax courts

# The Georgia Court System



As of July 2007.

# Structure of the Georgia Court System SS8CG4a

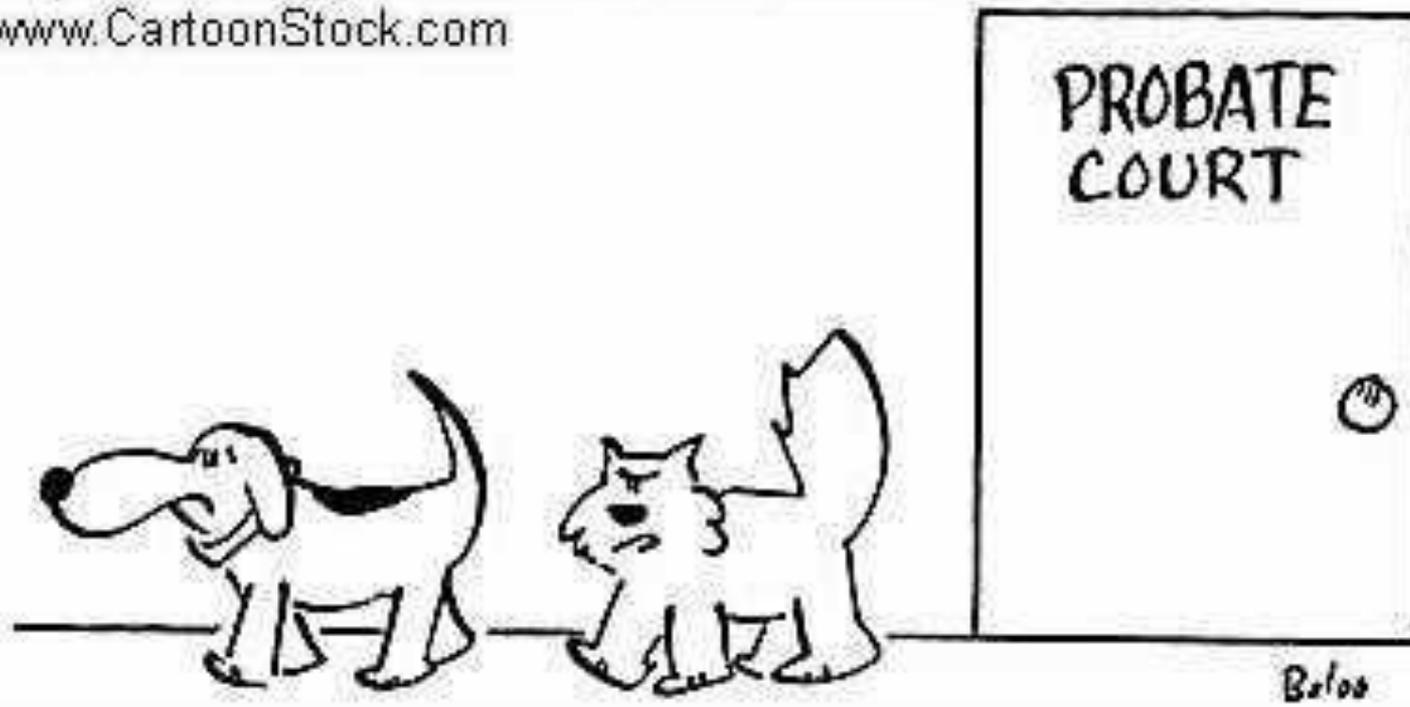
# Structure of the Court System

## SS8CG4a

- Every county has:
  - Probate court
    - Wills, marriage licenses, firearms licenses
    - In small counties they may hear traffic violations, misdemeanors, and violations of game laws
  - Magistrate court
    - Issue warrants, minor criminal offenses, civil cases of \$15k or less
  - Juvenile court
    - Deprived or unruly juveniles



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"I can't believe she left everything  
to that stupid *parakeet!*"

# How judges are selected SS8CG4a

- How Judges are selected
  - A person can become a judge in one of three different ways
    - Partisan election (candidate runs for an office as a member of a political party)
      - Probate court judges, some Magistrate judges
    - Nonpartisan election (candidate runs for an office but not as a member of a political party)
      - Supreme court, Court of appeals, Superior Court, State courts, Magistrate court
    - Appointment (judge is appointed by another judge or by a legislator)
      - Juvenile court judges, some magistrate judges

# In Summary...

## SS8CG4a

- **Why do you think it is important to have judges that are elected in non-partisan elections?**

# Judicial Branch In GA

## SS8CG4b

- **SS8H4b: Explain the difference between criminal law and civil law.**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out  
-illustrate, interpret

# Civil Law vs. Criminal Law

## SS8CG4b

- Terms:
  - Civil case- case where someone says that someone else "did them wrong"
    - Plaintiff-person making the complaint
    - Defendant- person who supposedly did something wrong
  - Criminal case- case where government says a person committed a crime
    - Defendant- person who supposedly committed a crime
    - Prosecutor- usually the government: must prove that the person committed the crime

# Criminal Law

## SS8CG4b

- Criminal Law:
  - Someone has broken a law/committed crime
  - Government (local, state, or federal) is then called the “prosecutor.” They must convince the judge that the person is guilty
    - Felonies- major crimes (murder, armed robbery)
    - Misdemeanors- minor crimes (disorderly conduct, driving without a license)



# Civil Law

## SS8CG4b

- Civil law deals with relationships between and among individuals.
  - Plaintiff- the person who complains about another person
  - Defendant- the person who has supposedly done wrong
  - Some examples of civil cases include:
    - Auto Accidents
    - Divorce proceedings
    - Contract Violations
    - Personal Property damages
    - Custody Cases



# THE BIG IDEA

- **SS8CG5: The student will analyze the role of local governments in the state of Georgia.**
  - Analyze: to divide a complex idea into parts or elements; *dissect, break down*

# Local Governments In GA

## SS8CG5a

- **SS8H5a: Explain the origins, functions, purposes, and differences of county and city governments in Georgia.**
  - Explain: to make understandable, to spell out; illustrate, interpret

# County Governments

## SS8H5a

- County Governments
  - Origins
    - “Parishes” became “counties” after the American Revolution
    - 159 counties in Georgia
  - County governments have many functions:
    - Counties keep track of land ownership, auto registration, and keep records on marriages
    - Register voters, build/maintain roads, operate local courts
    - The largest function of county governments is the operation of the school system.
      - Largest expense (paid for by revenue from property taxes)
  - Purposes
    - The purpose of county governments is to serve people at a local level and provide protection (Sherriff's dept.)

# City Governments

## SS8H5a

- City Governments
  - Towns and cities are called “municipalities.”
  - Cities must charge additional taxes to provide additional services
    - Ex: trash pickup, street lighting, parks, fire department, etc.
  - **More govt. services = Higher taxes**



# Local Government In GA

## SS8CG5b

- **SS8H5b: Compare and contrast the weak mayor-council, the strong mayor-council, and the council-manager forms of city government.**
  - Compare/contrast: to examine so as to note similarities and differences; *judge against, relate*

# Forms of City Governments

## SS8CG5b

- City Governments

- Structure:

- City council is the legislative branch of city government
- The mayor's office is the executive branch

- 3 main forms of city government

- Council Manager

- City manager runs the city may or may not be a mayor. If a mayor, he/she is like a city council member

- Strong-Mayor Council

- Mayor is in charge with the power to hire/fire, run the city and veto city council decisions

- Weak-Mayor Council

- Mayor mostly for show, city council is in charge

# Local Government In GA

## SS8CG5c

- **SS8H5c: Describe the functions of special-purpose governments.**
  - Describe- to represent or give an account of in words; *recount, report*

# Special Purpose Governments

## SS8CG5c



- Special Purpose Districts: a special government created to serve a specific need
  - school districts (most common and most expensive type)
  - parks and recreation
  - housing authorities

# Taxes and Revenue In GA

## SS8E4a, SS8E4b, SS8E4c

- **SS8E4a: Trace sources of state revenue such as sales taxes, federal grants, personal income taxes and property taxes**
- **SS8E4b: Explain the distribution of state revenue to provide services**
- **SS8E4c: Evaluate how choices are made given the limited revenues of state and local governments**

# Taxes and Government

## SS8E4a, SS8E4b, SS8E4c

- Taxes help pay for the services that local and state government provides
- Most of Georgia's tax revenue comes from Personal Income Taxes
- Other revenue comes from sales tax
  - Sales tax: tax charged on retail items, rentals, goods etc.
- Each year, the Governor's office has to predict the state's revenue & this prediction directly affects the programs that are implemented or cut at the state and local level

# Local Governments

## SS8CG5

- In your notebook:
  - **Analyze** the role of local governments in the state of Georgia
  - **Analyze**: To break a complex idea into parts or elements; *dissect, break down*

