

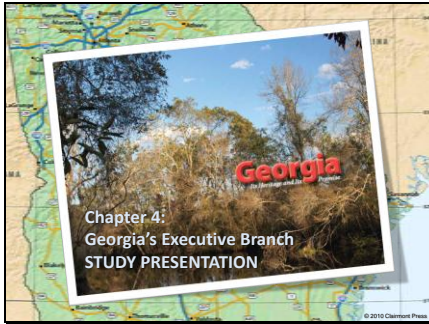
Georgia: Its Heritage and Its Promise

Chapter 4: Georgia's Executive Branch

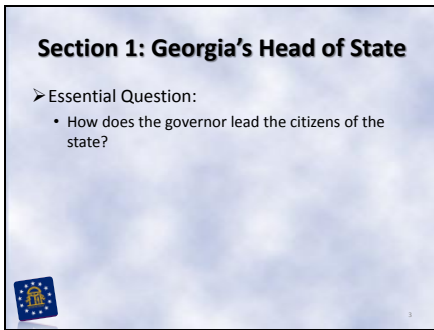
QUICK NOTES

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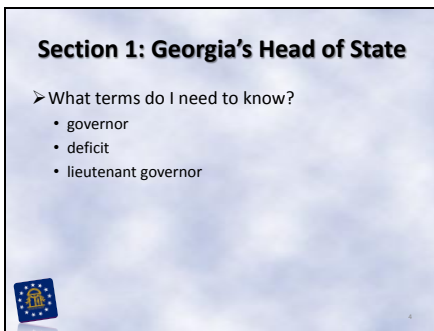
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Section 1: Georgia's Head of State

- Essential Question:
 - How does the governor lead the citizens of the state?

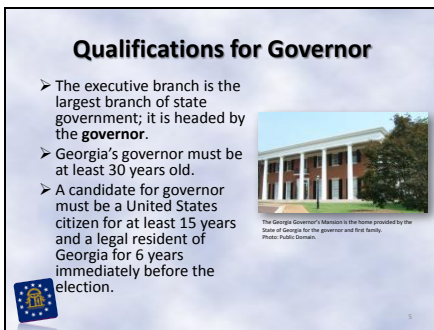
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Section 1: Georgia's Head of State

- What terms do I need to know?
 - governor
 - deficit
 - lieutenant governor

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Qualifications for Governor

- The executive branch is the largest branch of state government; it is headed by the **governor**.
- Georgia's governor must be at least 30 years old.
- A candidate for governor must be a United States citizen for at least 15 years and a legal resident of Georgia for 6 years immediately before the election.



The Georgia Governor's Mansion is the home provided by the State of Georgia for the governor and his family. Photo: Public Domain.



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Term of Office and Election


- The governor is elected for a four-year term. He or she may run again for a second four-year term.
- After eight consecutive years in office (two terms), the governor must step aside.
- Former governors are allowed to run for office for a third term, but only after four years have passed following the end of their second term.
- The scheduled elections for governor of Georgia occur every four years in a different cycle than U.S. presidential elections.



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Formal Powers of the Governor


- According to the Georgia constitution, the governor's job is to:
 - lead operation of the executive branch
 - be chief law enforcement officer
 - serve as commander-in-chief of state's military forces, and he or she
 - may send Georgia's National Guard to restore order in emergency situations
 - may also call out Georgia State Patrol for law enforcement when needed
 - propose annual budget for the state and present it to General Assembly each year
 - recommend new laws



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Formal Powers of the Governor


- The governor can appoint replacements to fill vacancies when they occur in the General Assembly or in the executive and judicial offices.
- The governor can call the General Assembly into special session when necessary.
- The governor must manage the state budget and make spending cuts in state programs, if needed, to avoid a **deficit** (a shortage of funds).
- The governor appoints members to a number of executive commissions and boards.



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Informal Powers of the Governor

- Some duties and powers of Georgia's governor are informal and ceremonial:
 - serving as spokesperson for State of Georgia
 - serving as the official channel of communication between Georgia and other states as well as the national government
 - leading trade delegations to encourage foreign consumers to buy Georgia-made products and do business with Georgia industries
 - acting as honorary head of political party to which governor belong,
 - issuing proclamations to honor individuals, holidays, special events, etc





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The Role of Lieutenant Governor

- Georgia constitution states the *lieutenant governor* will be elected "at the same time, for the same term, and in the same manner" as the governor.
- The lieutenant governor must meet same qualifications for office as the governor.
- He or she may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms in office.
- The lieutenant governor may belong to a different political party than the governor.
- He or she serves as the chief executive when the governor is out of state.




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Succession to Executive Power

- In case of resignation, death, or permanent disability of the governor, the lieutenant governor becomes the governor and serves until a new governor is elected.
- Should something happen to both governor and the lieutenant governor and those offices are vacant, the next person in line is the speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives.
- The Georgia constitution specifies that an election for a new governor is to be held within 90 days.




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Section 2: Organization of the Executive Branch

➤ Essential Question:

- How do the governor and the agencies of the executive branch protect the citizens of the state?




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Section 2: Organization of the Executive Branch

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- plural executive system
- constitutional officer
- statutory official
- statute
- parole
- Medicaid
- entrepreneur
- tourism
- conserve
- reservoir





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Georgia's Other Elected Officials

- Georgia has a **plural executive system**. Voters in Georgia elect a governor, lieutenant governor, and state executive officers (**constitutional officers**) which include:
 - the secretary of state (keeps state's official records, supervises elections, etc.)
 - the attorney general (chief legal officer for the state)
 - the state superintendent of schools (head of the Department of Education)
 - The commissioner of insurance (regulates insurance carriers and issues insurance licenses)
 - The commissioner of agriculture (head of Agriculture Department)
 - The commissioner of labor (head of the Labor Department)
- Each of these elected officials heads an executive department and serves a 4-year term.
- Public service commissioners (five members who regulate Georgia utilities and serve 6-year terms).




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Executive Branch Departments and Agencies

- In addition to officials named in the Georgia Constitution, there are a large number that are not provided for and are known as **statutory officials**.
- These jobs are called for by **statute** (a law enacted by the governor or by those in charge of a department in which they serve).
- Georgia has hundreds of state departments, agencies, boards, and commissions.



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Public Service Commission

- The **Public Service Commission** is the only constitutional board whose members are elected statewide, and its responsibilities are:
 - regulating public utilities (electric power; telephone, cable and other telecommunications; and, natural gas), and
 - enforcing regulations for passenger buses and household goods movers (moving vans)




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Board of Pardons and Paroles

- The **Board of Pardons and Paroles** is an independent agency that has the power to:
 - grant pardons, parole, and other forms of clemency (acts that reduce the severity of a punishment) to criminal offenders
- Members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles are appointed to seven-year terms by the governor with the Senate's approval.





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Education

- Education is the:
 - most important responsibility of state government, and
 - largest part of the state budget
- Maintaining and operating schools is the job of the local government.
- Over the years, the **State Department of Education**, headed by the state superintendent of schools, has become more involved in funding, setting standards, curriculum, and testing.
- The University System of Georgia is the agency responsible for the state's 35 institutions of higher learning.
- The system is governed by a Board of Regents appointed by the governor.
- Georgia also has 34 technical colleges and schools under the Technical College System of Georgia.




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Human Services

- Human services is the 2nd largest expense in the state budget.
- The **Department of Human Services** is the state agency that oversees welfare and mental health-related issues.
 - One of its units is the Division of Family and Children Services which administers Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- The **Department of Community Health** serves as the lead agency for health care planning, and since 2009 includes the Division of Public Health and Emergency Preparedness.
- **Note: Medicaid** is a jointly funded federal and state program.




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Public Safety

- The executive branch, under the governor's direction, has the duty of protecting the state's people and property.
- The Georgia State Patrol is the most visible part of the **Department of Public Safety** enforcing traffic laws on the public highways in the state.
- The Department of Driver Services manages driver's license applications and ensures that vehicles are registered and covered by auto insurance.
- The **Georgia Bureau of Investigation** helps to solve criminal cases (e.g., arson or murder) that may extend beyond a county's boundaries.





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Transportation

- The **Georgia Department of Transportation** is responsible for planning, mapping out new highway routes.
- The **Georgia Ports Authority** operates the state's two deepwater seaports – Savannah and Brunswick which are key to shipping Georgia goods internationally and bringing goods into the state.

Above: Highways are planned and developed by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Photo: GDOT.
 Below: The port of Savannah is managed by the Georgia Ports Authority. Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



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Economic Development

- The state helps Georgians find and keep jobs that provide them with income.
- Jobs and businesses (organized by **entrepreneurs**) generate state tax revenue which in turn pays for state programs (e.g., education, public safety, public health, roads, etc.).
- The **Georgia Department of Economic Development** is the state's marketing agency responsible for attracting new businesses; operates a tourism website.
- The state's Film, Music, & Digital Entertainment Office promotes Georgia as the ideal backdrop for film and video production projects.




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Natural Resources

- The **Department of Natural Resources** (DNR) administers laws passed by the General Assembly designed to **conserve** land and water resources for the future of Georgia.
- The DNR sets limits on the amount of groundwater used for irrigation, restricts the cutting of trees and vegetation that could lead to erosion, etc.
- The Georgia Environmental Protection Division – a division of the DNR – implements the regulations for water quality and air pollution, plus monitors hazardous waste handling.
- The DNR operates the state parks, campsites, lodges, and historical sites in addition to managing 63 properties that preserve the state's environment and history.
- Georgia's forests come under the protection of the Georgia Forestry Commission whose goal is to put out and prevent wildfires, offer management advice to landowners, and grow tree seedlings for planting and replenishing the forests.



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Additional Notes:

