

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

GUIDED READING

Georgia Its Heritage and Its Promise

Chapter 7: Local Government in Georgia

Section 1 County Government

Directions: Use the information from pages 140 - 145 to complete the following.

1. Each _____ can decide how it wishes to carve up its land and create administrative _____.
2. _____, and most other states, chose to call its local districts _____.
3. Georgia's Constitution of 1777 created _____ counties. They [counties] served as districts from which member of the newly formed state legislature were _____.
4. There was little else for the counties to do, other than to _____ laws, keep _____ records, hold _____ sessions, and probate _____.
5. The earliest county structures in each county were a _____ and a _____.
6. The courthouse was where people came to pay their _____, record property _____, and go to court.
7. The town chosen for the courthouse came to be called the _____.
8. It was also the market center for _____, buying _____, selling farm _____, and for social gatherings and sharing news.

9. Those who lived in rural communities were glad to see the courthouses built because the county seats were usually near enough to travel to _____ and back within the same _____.
10. Creating more counties also gave _____ Georgians more _____ in state government, since each county had a certain number of representatives in the legislature.
11. Today, Georgia has _____ counties.
12. Counties serve as _____ of the state in each local area.
13. County officials carry out basic state _____ and enforce state _____ within the boundaries of the county.
14. Some examples are: A county _____ conducts Georgia's elections and voter registration; County _____ are built and maintained as part of Georgia's highway system; County _____ commissioners collect Georgia's motor vehicle taxes and issue state car tags; and, County _____ departments carry out disease-prevention measures (vaccines, flu shots).
15. Every citizen of Georgia lives in a _____, but not all of them live in a _____.
16. An _____ area is an area of the county that is not included in any city boundary.
17. Residents of unincorporated areas look to _____ government to provide basic services.

18. The Georgia Constitution of _____ gave county governments the authority to provide such _____ services as _____ and fire protection, _____ and storm water collection and disposal, _____ utilities, and _____.
19. When it began creating counties, the Georgia constitution established several positions to be filled by _____ officials.
20. Like state officials, these positions are called "_____ officers" because they are specifically _____ in the constitution.
21. The county constitutional officers are _____, judge of the _____ court, _____ of the superior court, and _____ commissioner.
22. County constitutional officers are elected for _____-year terms.
23. In Georgia, the _____ is designated as the "_____ officer" of the county - the officer responsible for preserving the peace and carrying out the order of the county _____.
24. Sheriff's department duties include operating the county _____, delivering _____ (orders to appear in court), enforcing county _____ (local laws), _____ the county, responding to _____, and enforcing traffic laws in cooperation with the Georgia State Patrol.
25. Some counties have a _____ department. County police may carry out some law enforcement duties, but they do not _____ the sheriff.

26. The office of the _____ *commissioner* receives all tax _____ and maintains the county's tax records. The tax commissioner also _____ and pays tax _____ (mainly property taxes and motor vehicle registration fees) to the state and local governments.
27. The _____ *of superior court* is the primary record keeper for the county. The clerk maintains all of the _____ records and supervises the registration of property _____.
28. The _____ *of probate court* oversees matters concerning property _____, marriage _____, guardianships, and wills.
29. In 1868, the state began creating the position of *county* _____.
30. Most have a _____ *of commissioners*, which has from three to nine members.
31. The board of commissioners has the _____ to establish county policies, _____ county ordinances, establish the county _____, establish _____ rates, and provide services for the citizens of the county.
32. Sometimes, a county _____, appointed by the board of commissioners, serves as the chief administrative officer. The county administrator manages the _____-to_____ operations of the county and implements county policies
33. Local governments - both counties and cities- have the power to provide services for their _____ - as long as those services do not violate _____ and _____ laws. This is known as _____.
34. However, the state can require the county to provide certain services and _____ it from handling other services.

35. For example, county commissioners cannot _____ court rules or interfere with the operation of the public _____ system.
36. The Georgia Department of _____ Affairs (DCA) was created to help _____ governments.
37. DCA provides technical and research assistance, and it is the state's key agency in housing _____ and development, comprehensive planning, and solid _____ reduction.
38. Even closer to home are Georgia's twelve _____ commissions.
39. Ranging in size from _____ to _____ counties, the regional commissions help local governments with services that they may not be able to _____ themselves.
40. For example, the regional commission may help a county draw up land use plans for its future _____, write grants to finance _____ (restoring older buildings that are significant in a community's history), and provide expertise in the use of _____ information systems (GIS).

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Georgia Its Heritage and Its Promise

Chapter 7: Local Government in Georgia

Directions: **City Government and Special-Purpose Districts**
Use the information from pages 147 - 151 to complete the following.

1. Georgia's first cities - _____, then Augusta and communities along the coast were originally needed as _____ outposts.
2. *City* is a term we like to use, but the correct legal term is _____ corporation.
3. A city is a municipality that has been _____ (created) by the Georgia legislature.
4. Unlike counties, cities are _____ at the request of the people who live in a particular geographic _____.
5. They [residents] formally _____ (ask) the _____ for a charter to become incorporated.
6. A _____ is a written document that gives a municipality the authority to _____ and function.
7. There are certain conditions that must be met before a _____ can call itself a _____.
8. The area wanting to be incorporated as a city (a) must have at least _____ residents; and (b) at least 60 percent of its area must be divided into _____ (parcels of land) for residential, _____, industrial, institutional, governmental, or _____ purposes.

9. Since _____, state law has required those municipal corporations - new and existing ones - provide certain _____ services.
10. To keep its charter active, a municipality must provide at least _____ of the following services, either directly or by contracting it out to other governments or private companies: _____ enforcement; _____ supply and/or distribution; _____ or gas utility service; planning and _____; and, _____ facilities.
11. In Georgia, cities have adopted one of the following forms of government: (a) strong _____ - council form, (b) _____ mayor-council form, or (c) council - _____ form.
12. In the _____ mayor-council form, the elected mayor is the city's chief _____ officer and is _____ for seeing that the city's laws are carried out and its city departments do their jobs.
13. Because of this strong leadership role, the mayor can _____ department heads and other city staff, prepare the city's _____, and implement it once it is approved by the city council
14. Georgia cities usually hold their municipal elections in _____ - numbered years.
15. The elected city _____ sets policies by enacting ordinances and _____ (informal statements of opinion). Although the mayor can _____ city council actions, the city's charter may allow the council to _____ the mayor's veto.

16. _____ and _____ have a strong mayor-council form of government.
17. Under the weak _____ - council form of government, the elected city council has more _____ than the mayor.
18. Not only does the _____ enact ordinances and set policy, it also shares the job of carrying out _____ through its system of committees. The council also takes the lead in developing the city _____.
19. Under this form, the mayor's role is primarily _____.
20. The mayor _____ have some authority to appoint department heads, but they must be _____ by the city council.
21. _____ has a weak mayor-council form of government.
22. In the council-manager form of _____, the city's _____ elect a city council that enacts city ordinances and sets the city's policies.
23. The council hires a _____ manager who is responsible for the city's day-to-day operations.
24. The city manager can _____ and _____ department heads and develop the city's annual budget.
25. The _____ of a council-manager form may be elected _____ or _____ by the city council from among its members. He or she is usually a member of the city council and can _____ over its meetings
26. _____ and Savannah have a council-manager form of government.

27. A _____ government is one that has formally _____ its county operations and governance with one or _____ of the cities in the county.
28. Consolidated governments reduce _____ by eliminating duplicated services. Combining _____ enforcement personnel, _____ protection, solid waste (_____) collection, land use planning, and zoning functions are examples.
29. There are a number of _____-purpose governments in Georgia.
30. A special-purpose _____ is a "mini-government" that is set up for a _____ purpose or a particular service area.
31. _____ districts are the most common form of special-purpose districts.
32. Georgia has _____ county school systems and _____ independent city school systems. They are governed by locally elected boards of _____.
33. Within the guidelines set by _____ law, local school systems can establish starting and stopping _____ for the school day, spell out standards of _____ and punishment, determine _____ codes, and schedule students' time during the school day.
34. The _____ and operation of public schools are _____ through taxes on _____ within the county.
35. The Georgia legislature can also establish local _____ authorities, which are special-purpose governments that generate their own _____ through revenue bonds.

36. _____ bonds are long-term _____ that are repaid by the revenue received from _____ for the use of facilities or services provided by the authority.

37. Another type of special-purpose district is the central _____ improvement district (CBID). The CBID imposes property _____ on the commercial _____ in the district and uses the revenue to make improvements such as street _____ and parking or _____ that will attract new business to the area.

(The answers to these questions are found on pages 152 - 153)

38. Just as in government at the state level, _____ government must _____ for the services they provide.

39. _____ and _____ collect several types of taxes.

40. The one relied upon by counties throughout Georgia is the _____ tax.

41. _____ taxes are called _____ taxes, which means "according to the value."

42. Ad Valorem taxes are based on a property's _____ value, which is what it could be _____ for.

43. Property taxes are levied on real property, _____ and buildings that are considered permanent or not easily _____ (your family's house) or personal property, which refers to movable items of value such as _____ vehicles, boats, industrial machinery, and merchandise in storage (_____ inventory).

44. Revenue to _____ public school systems, administer the courts and public _____, and maintain roads depends upon the _____ taxes paid by the owners of real property in a county.
45. The _____ tax is another source of funds for local government.
46. The state of Georgia collects a _____ percent sales tax on retail sales.
47. Local governments can collect an additional _____ percent general purpose _____ *sales tax* ((LOST).
48. "Local option" means that _____ in the county or city may decide upon that additional sales tax amount through a referendum.
49. LOST funds are used for _____ in infrastructure (basic facilities such as roads and bridges) and projects that serve the entire county.
50. In addition, counties may ask the voters for permission to _____ and additional 1 percent _____ *local sales tax* (SPLOST).
51. Examples of SPLOST projects include a new county _____ or jail, water system improvements, new _____ stations, civic centers, _____, parks and recreation facilities.
52. Local governments collect a number of other taxes: special use, franchise, insurance, _____, occupational.
53. Counties and cities may decide to charge the _____ of delivering specific services not to the public at large, but to those people who actually _____ the services.
54. This form of "pay-per-use" is called a _____ *fee*.

55. Other examples of user fees are those for _____ collection,
_____ and the use of recreational facilities.

56. Cities and counties are partners with state government in providing many services, so they rely upon _____ *revenues*, financial aid from state and federal agencies.

57. The intergovernmental revenues include funds to pay for the operating costs for health _____ and hospitals, road and _____ construction, regional landfill operations, _____ prevention, and public housing.