

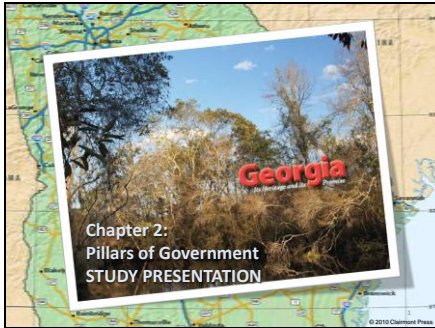
Georgia: Its Heritage and Its Promise

Chapter 2: Pillars of Government

QUICK NOTES

Name: _____

Slide 1




Slide 3

Section 1: Basic Pillars of Government

➤ Essential Question

- How does the Georgia constitution create a framework for the rights and responsibilities of its citizens?




Slide 4

Section 1: Basic Pillars of Government

➤ What terms do I need to know?


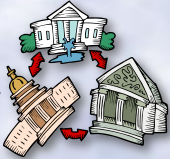
- sovereignty
- limited government
- federalism
- separation of powers
- checks and balances
- preamble
- ratification



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Section 1: Basic Pillars of Government

- Power is given to the government by the people.
- Government power is limited by having different levels (national and state).
- Each level has three branches.
- Each one of the three branches has its limits and is able to keep the others from becoming too powerful.





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Sovereignty and Limited Government

- In the U.S., the power to govern comes from the people.
- U.S. has “limited government.” Government has only the duties and powers granted by the people.
- U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
- Constitution outlines powers and functions of the government.
- “Rule of law” means that a written constitution says what government leaders can and cannot do.




Link: [National Archives Documents of Freedom](#)

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Federalism


- **federalism:** The division of powers between the national and state governments.
- Citizens of Georgia must obey the laws of both the national and state governments.
- **enumerated powers:** The powers of the national government in the U.S. Constitution (e.g. mint coins, maintain armed forces).
- **reserved powers:** The powers of the state governments (e.g. operate public schools).
- **concurrent powers:** The powers shared by U.S. and state governments (e.g. collect taxes).



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Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances


- **separation of powers:** Each branch of government has its own powers limited to its own area of interest.
- Three branches of government:
 - legislative: makes the laws
 - executive: carries out and enforces the laws
 - judicial: interprets the law and how to apply it
- **checks and balances:** A system in which each branch of government has ways to keep the others from becoming too powerful (check), and yet they must work together to govern (balance).



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Georgia's Constitution

- Georgia adopted its first constitution in 1789 modeled after the U.S. Constitution.
- The preamble (introductory statement) states the purpose of the constitution.
- Georgia's government was modeled after the federal government (3 branches).
- Georgia has had 10 constitutions; current one was adopted in 1983.
- The Georgia Constitution can be changed and has been more than a dozen times since 1984.
- To amend (change) the Georgia Constitution, the General Assembly and voters must vote to approve the change.



Link: [Constitution of the State of Georgia](#)



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Section 2: Citizens and Government

➤ Essential Question

- How have the citizens of Georgia organized their government to make sure that all are treated fairly?



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Section 2: Citizens and Government

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- slander
- libel
- search warrant
- probable cause
- bail
- felony
- precinct



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Section 2: Citizens and Government

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- polling place
- nonpartisan
- majority
- referendum
- political party & political ideology
- interest group
- lobbyist



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Rights Under the U.S. and Georgia Constitutions


➤ Since 1861 Georgia's constitutions have included their own Bill of Rights. They are at the beginning of the document and are listed as Article I.

➤ Legal rights are guaranteed by simply being a citizen and are known as civil rights.

➤ Free speech is recognized but does have limits.

➤ Citizens have the right to assemble peacefully.

➤ Both constitutions protect citizens from unreasonable searches and seizures.



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Rights Under the U.S. and Georgia Constitutions

- No person shall be put in jeopardy of "life or limb" for the same offense twice, or, in any criminal case "to be a witness against himself."
- The Eighth Amendment protects citizens against cruel and unusual punishment and outlaws abusive treatment during one's arrest or imprisonment.
- Both constitutions allow citizens the right to bear arms (have weapons), to have "open" rather than secret trials, and to have an attorney if charged with a crime.
- Each constitution forbids holding people in slavery and guarantees that the law treats all people equally.

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Voting and Other Responsibilities of Citizens

- Voting is the basic responsibility of citizenship.
- A basic civic duty is to know what is going on, learn about what's happening, and stay informed about issues.
- Citizens should listen to all sides and make sound decisions based on facts.




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Voting

- Points to remember in order to be eligible to vote in elections held in Georgia:
 - ✓ A resident must be a citizen of the United States.
 - ✓ A person needs to be eighteen years old by the day of the election.
 - ✓ A person needs to be a legal resident of Georgia and the county where he/she wishes to vote.




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Voting

- Additional voting requirements:
 - One cannot vote if convicted of a felony, unless the sentence has been completed.
 - An eligible citizen may register any time up to thirty days before an election.
 - Voters can register at any of the following locations: at county or municipal voter registration offices, military recruitment offices, and offices of state agencies that provide assistance through programs such as food stamps, Medicaid, or TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families).





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Voting

- Points to remember at 18 years of age:
 - You will be asked if you wish to register at the same time you renew your driver's license.
 - You will have an opportunity to register to vote when you apply for a public library card.
 - College students have the opportunity to register at "voter registration drives" on university campuses.

Link: [Georgia Secretary of State's Voting Website](#)




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Voting

- At the Polls:
 - Voting can involve one of three different types of elections:
 - 1) **primary election** – Voters in a political party select a candidate for a particular office for the upcoming general election.
 - 2) **general election** – Voters determine who will hold a particular office.
 - 3) **special election** – Vacant elective office is filled, or an issue is presented to voters.





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Other Citizen Responsibilities

- Citizens must serve on jury duty.
- Georgia citizens pay taxes (i.e., federal and state income taxes, federal social security and Medicare, sales taxes, and local property taxes).
- Citizens can volunteer for various activities that benefit a community or low-income families.
- Citizens can run for political office or support a candidate or a political cause.



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Political Parties

- Political parties are well-organized groups who support their candidates with money and workers.
- The four most common classifications are:
 - Liberal
 - Conservative
 - Libertarian
 - Populist
- Since the 1860's, the two national parties that have lasted are the Democratic and Republican.



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Interest Groups

- An interest group is a group of people that share a common goal or interest and hope to influence public policy.
- They promote their issues by lobbying Congress and state legislatures.
- Interest groups are found in all occupations and economic groups.
- Since 1960, successful lobbying strategies have influenced environmental, civil rights, and the women's movements.



American protesters rally against the President of Russia and opposing to a presidential campaign. Photo: Matt Sordy - public domain



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Additional Notes:

