



Executive Branch of State Government

Executive Branch

- Largest branch of state government
- Includes governor and lieutenant governor

Governor

- The chief executive officer of the state
- Elected by majority vote of the popular vote
- 4 year term
- Can serve two consecutive terms

Qualifications to be Georgia's Governor

- 30 years old
- Citizen of the United States for at least 15 years
- Resident of Georgia for at least 6 years

Formal Powers of the Governor

- Formal Powers are spelled out in the state constitution and include executive, legislative, and judicial powers
- Managing the state's budget (plan for spending and receiving money)
- Directing the attorney general to act as a representative of the state in lower court cases involving state law
- Making an annual "State of the State" address to the legislature

Formal Powers of the Governor

- Preparing budget bills for consideration by the Georgia house of representatives
- Serving as commander-in-chief to the Georgia National Guard
- Heading the state's civil defense units
- Sending Georgia Highway Patrol officers and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) into communities in times of danger

Informal Powers of the Governor

- Sometimes result from tradition or culture
- Communicating to the public a personal position on issues of interest to all Georgians
- Acting as honorary head to the political party that elected him or her to office
- Issuing proclamations to honor individuals, holidays, or special events and, with the legislature's approval, adding new state symbols

Informal Powers of the Governor

- Representing the state in meetings with other state officials, federal officers, or foreign dignitaries
- Meeting with business and industry leaders from other states or nations to encourage them to expand their businesses to Georgia
- Working with members of the legislatures to get laws passed
- Guiding state agencies

Lieutenant Governor

Elected by majority vote of the popular vote

- 4 year term
- Can serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms

Lieutenant Governor

- Becomes the chief executive officer if the governor dies, resigns, or is impeached until the next election for the members of the General Assembly when a special election is held to full the unexpired term of the governor
- Serves as the chief executive officer when the governor is out of state
- Is the presiding officer of the state senate- can make senate committee appointments, assigns senate bills to committee and recognizes members of the senate who wish to speak

Qualifications to be Georgia's Lieutenant Governor

- 30 years old
- Citizen of the United States for at least 15 years
- Resident of Georgia for at least 6 years

Other Elected Officials

- The state constitution requires the election of the following officers:
- State Attorney General
- Commissioner of agriculture
- Commissioner of labor
- Commissioner of insurance
- Public service commissioners
- Secretary of state
- State school superintendent

Statutory Officials

- Their positions are not provided for in the state constitution
- Are not elected officials
- Jobs are called for by statute (law)
- These officials are appointed by the governor or by the head or directing boards of the department in which they serve

Boards and Agencies

- Created by the state constitution or by statute
- More than 30 boards and agencies in our government
- Members of most boards are appointed by the governor
- Usually, boards have staggered terms of office that the terms of all members do not expire at the same time