



Carl Vinson Institute of Government  
The University of Georgia

# Regional Civics 101

A presentation to the

**Regional Leadership Institute Class of 2011**

for

The Atlanta Regional Commission

By

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# Course Goals

- To present a broad overview of selected organizations; Federal, State, Regional and Local; their structure and relevance to community leaders in the Atlanta Region
- To provide a background for participants as they explore the issues to be covered in the remaining sessions of RLI 2011



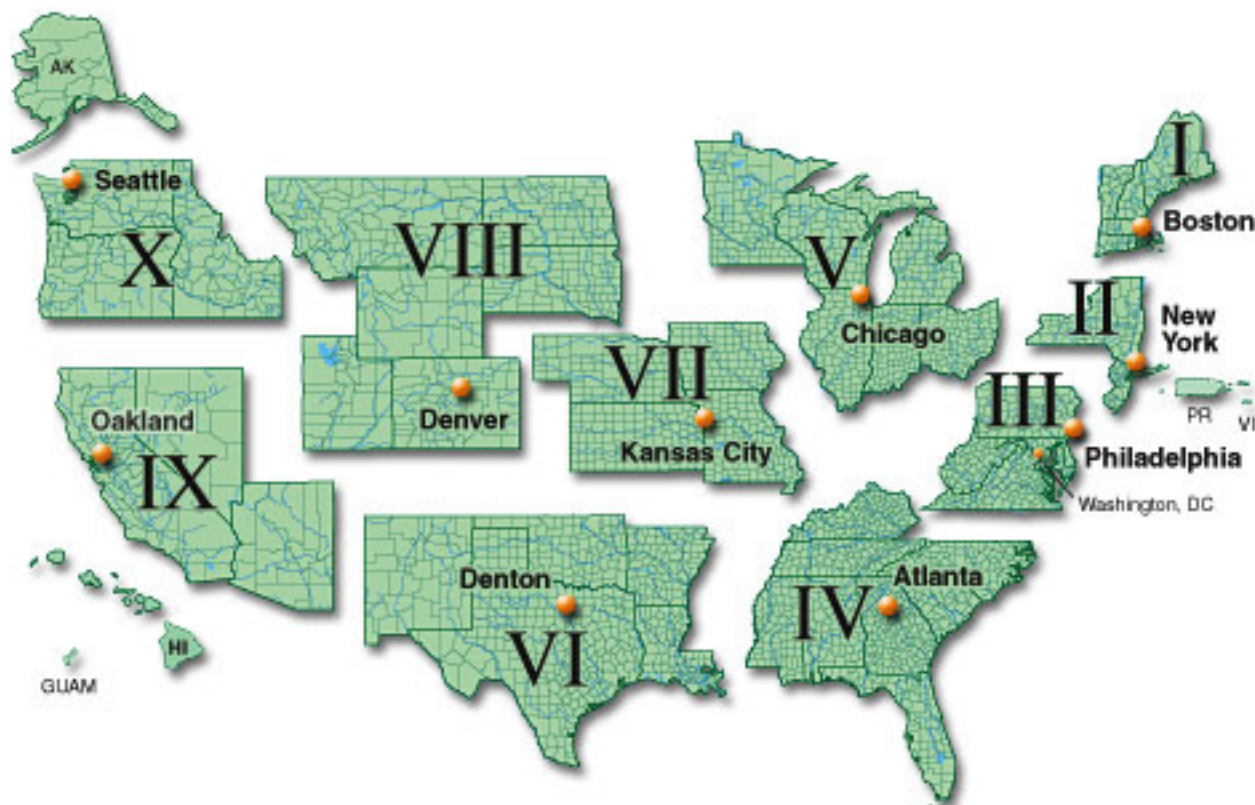
# Do you know these acronyms?

- **USACE**
- **USDOT**
- **DOC**
- **NOAA**
- **NWS**
- **USDOE**
- **EPA**
- **HUD**
- **GDOT**
- **GDEcD**
- **DNR**
- **EPD**
- **WRD**
- **GaDOE**
- **RC**
- **APDC**
- **ARC**
- **MNGWPD**
- **GMA**
- **ACCG**
- **NACo**
- **EIEIO**



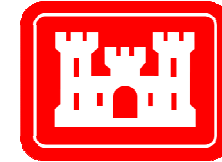
# Federal Government

- For most, but not all, federal agencies the country is divided into administrative regions.
- We are in region IV that includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
- Many of the Region IV agency offices are located in Atlanta.

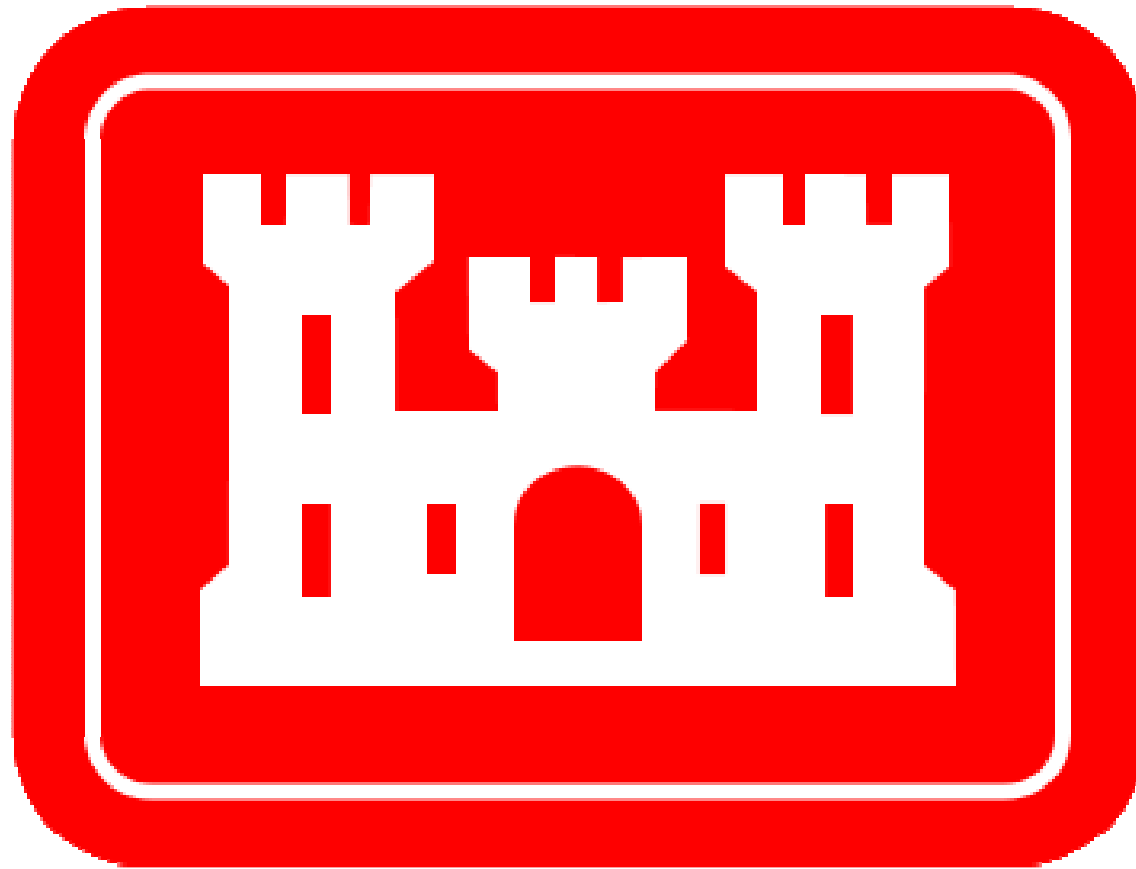


# Selected Federal Agencies

- ***US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)***
- ***US Department of Transportation (USDOT)***
- ***Department of Commerce (DOC)***
- ***US Department of Education (USDOE)***
- ***Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)***
- ***Housing & Urban Development (HUD)***



# ***US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)***



# ***US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)***

- The USACE has a long history of which they are extremely proud.
- **Q** – What was the first Corps Project, an assignment given to the Army's Chief Engineer?
- **A** – Fortifications at Bunker Hill in 1775.





# Service Regions of USACE



# What is the USACE's function?

- The Corps' mission is to provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen the nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters.
- Their most visible missions include:
  - Planning, designing, building, and operating locks and dams. Other civil engineering projects include flood control, beach nourishment, and dredging for waterway navigation.
  - Design and construction of flood protection systems through various federal mandates.
  - Design and construction management of military facilities for the Army and Air Force and other Defense and Federal agencies.
  - Environmental regulation and ecosystem restoration.



# More specifically

- Navigation. Supporting navigation by maintaining and improving channels was the Corps of Engineers' earliest Civil Works mission (The Chattahoochee is classified as a navigable waterway.)
- Flood Risk Management. The Flood Control Act of 1936 gave the Corps the mission to provide flood protection to the entire country.



# USACE Functions cont.

- Recreation. The Corps of Engineers is the nation's largest provider of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 463 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park and recreation authorities or private interests.



# USACE Functions cont.

- Hydroelectric Power. The Corps was first authorized to build hydroelectric plants in the 1920s, and today operates 75 power plants, producing one fourth of the nation's hydro-electric power—or three percent of its total electric energy. This makes USACE the fifth largest electric supplier in the United States.



# USACE Functions cont.

- Shore Protection. With a large proportion of the U.S. population living near our sea and lake shores, and an estimated 75% of U.S. vacations being spent at the beach, there has been Federal interest — and a Corps of Engineers mission — in protecting these areas from hurricane and coastal storm damage.
- Dam Safety. The Corps of Engineers develops engineering criteria for safe dams, and conducts an active inspection program of its own dams.



# USACE Functions cont.

- Water Supply. Today USACE reservoirs supply water to nearly 10 million people in 115 cities. In the drier parts of the Nation, water from Corps reservoirs is also used for agriculture.
- Environmental Programs, that run the gamut from cleaning up areas on former military installations contaminated by hazardous waste or munitions to helping establish/reestablish wetlands that helps endangered species survive. **The Corps regulates all work in wetlands and waters of the United States.**



# ***US Department of Transportation (USDOT)***





# ***US Department of Transportation (USDOT)***

- The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT or DOT) is a federal Cabinet department concerned with transportation. It was established by an act of Congress on October 15, 1966, and began operation on April 1, 1967. It is administered by the United States Secretary of Transportation.
- The DOT is **responsible** for all forms of air travel, highways and roads, pipelines used to transport materials, public transit and railways, and also maritime highways.



# The Government Section of USDOT

- The government section of the DOT's services deals with issuing grants to state and local government for transportation needs. This includes maintaining state highways, building commercial airports, expanding and updating public transportation and enforcing federal safety regulations.



# Divisions of USDOT

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- Office of Inspector General (OIG)
- Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST)
- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA)
- Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC)
- Surface Transportation Board (STB)



# Former divisions of USDOT

These organizations were transferred to Department of Homeland Security in 2003:

- Transportation Security Administration (**TSA**)

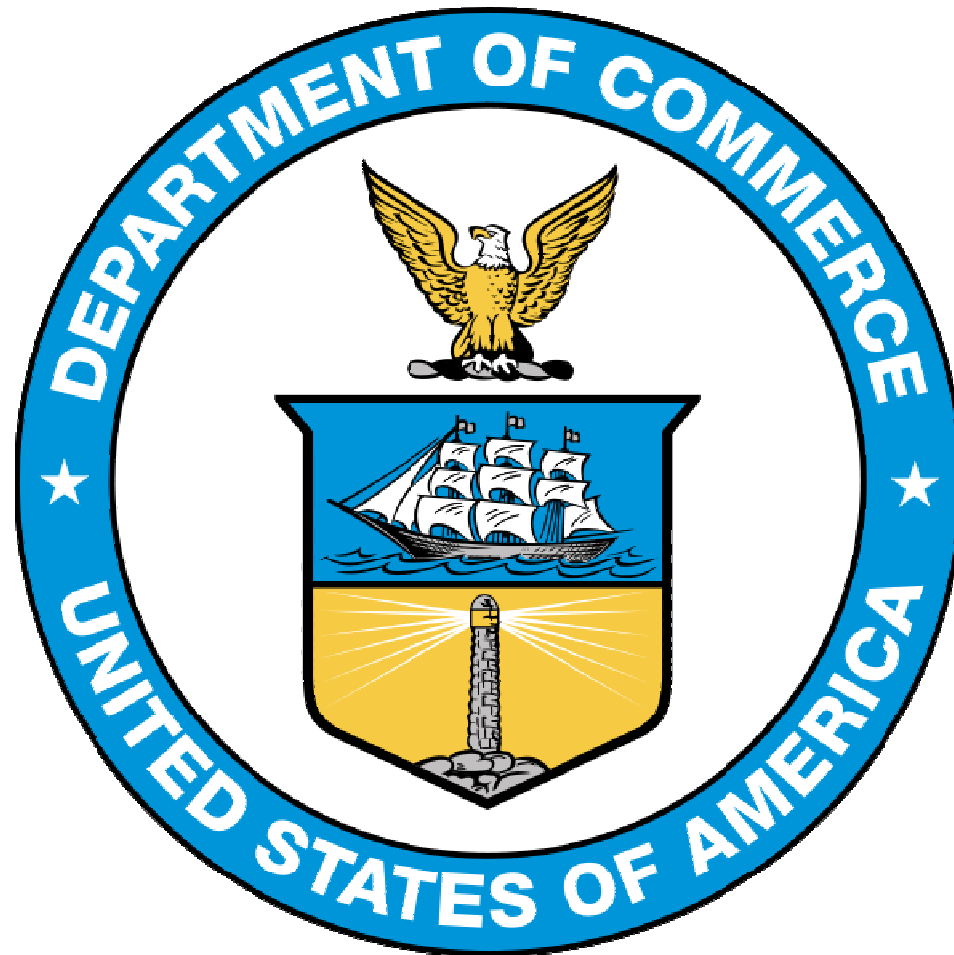


Transportation  
Security  
Administration

- United States Coast Guard (**USCG**)



# ***Department of Commerce (DOC)***



# *Department of Commerce (DOC)*

- The United States Department of Commerce is the Cabinet department concerned with promoting economic growth.
- It was originally created as the United States Department of Commerce and Labor in 1903 and was subsequently renamed the Department of Commerce in 1913, and its bureaus and agencies specializing in labor were transferred to the new Department of Labor.
- Products from the DOC affect Americans daily – from weather alerts to the accurate calibration of gas pumps and grocery scales. Its research determines how many seats a state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and guides both government and industry in tracking the health of the economy and developing economic policies. Its units include some of the oldest agencies in U.S. history.



# The **DOC** has many roles:

- Economics and Statistics Administration (**ESA**)
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (**BEA**)
- **Bureau of the Census** the government agency that is responsible for the United States Census. It also gathers other national demographic and economic data.



# Department of Commerce, cont.

- International Trade Administration (**ITA**) – an agency that promotes United States exports of nonagricultural U.S. services and goods.
- Bureau of Industry and Security (**BIS**)





# Department of Commerce, cont.

- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** - a scientific agency focused on the conditions of the oceans and the atmosphere. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts seas and skies, guides the use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve understanding and stewardship of the environment.



# Department of Commerce, cont.

- **National Weather Service (NWS)** - The NWS is tasked with providing weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas. This is done through a collection of national and regional centers, and 122 local weather forecast offices (**WFOs**).



# Department of Commerce, cont.

- National Ocean Service (**NOS**)
- Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (**OAR**)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps (**NOAA Corps**)



# Department of Commerce, cont.

- Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
- **Patent and Trademark Office (PTO)** - agency in the United States Department of Commerce that issues patents to inventors and businesses for their inventions, and trademark registration for product and intellectual property identification.



# Department of Commerce, cont.

- Economic Development Administration (**EDA**) - an agency that provides grants to economically distressed communities to generate new employment, help retain existing jobs and stimulate industrial and commercial growth.
- Minority Business Development Agency (**MBDA**) - The agency that promotes growth and competitiveness of the United States' minority-owned businesses.



# Department of Commerce, cont.

- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (**NTIA**) - This administration serves as the President's principal adviser on telecommunications policies pertaining to the United States' economic and technological advancement and to regulation of the telecommunications industry.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (**NIST**)
- National Technical Information Service (**NTIS**)



# ***US Department of Education (USDOE)***



# ***US Department of Education (USDOE)***

- A cabinet-level department signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in October 1979, it began operating on May 16, 1980.
- The primary functions of the Department of Education are to "establish policy, administer and coordinate most federal assistance to education, collect data on US schools, and to enforce federal educational laws regarding privacy and civil rights.
- If you are one of millions of Americans who borrowed federal loans to get through college or graduate school, chances are you're familiar with the department because it sends a bill in the mail each month. But the majority of the department's focus lies in shaping education policy, best practices, standards and achievement goals for elementary and secondary schools around the country.





# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- **Q:** Who proposed the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency?
- **A:** President Richard Nixon in 1970



# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment.**

- EPA's purpose is to ensure that:
  - all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work;
  - national efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information;
  - federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively;
  - environmental protection is an integral consideration in U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy;
  - all parts of society -- communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments -- have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks;
  - environmental protection contributes to making our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable and economically productive; and
  - the United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.



# Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Energy Star Program
- Pesticide Registration
- Environmental Impact Statement Review of federal projects
- **Vehicle Fuel economy testing**
- **Air quality**
- Oil pollution
- Water Sense water conservation labeling on consumer products
- **Drinking water standards for public water systems, oversees state and local governments in the enforcement of the standards.**
- Radiation Protection



# Housing and Urban Development (HUD)



# Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- HUD is responsible for:
  - addressing the country's housing needs,
  - improving communities through grants,
  - providing public housing and rental assistance for millions of low-income residents, and
  - helping lower- and moderate-income families obtain home loans through its mortgage and loan-insurance programs.
  - The department also enforces federal fair-housing laws, cracking down on landlords who illegally discriminate against people needing homes.



# Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD)

- The major program offices are:
  - Community Planning and Development: Major affordable housing and homelessness programs are administered under Community Planning and Development.
    - These include:
      - **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**,
      - the HOME program,
      - Shelter Plus Care,
      - Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG),
      - Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program (Mod Rehab SRO), and
      - Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).



# Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD)

- Housing: This office is responsible for:
  - Federal Housing Administration (FHA);
  - mission regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac;
  - regulation of Manufactured housing;
  - administration of Multifamily housing programs, including Supportive Housing for the Elderly (Section 202) and Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (Section 811); and
  - Healthcare facility loan insurance.





# Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD)

- Public and Indian Housing: This office administers
  - the public housing program HOPE VI, the Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly – yet more popularly – known as Section 8),
  - Project-Based Vouchers, and
  - individual loan programs housing block grants for Indian tribes, Native Hawaiians and Alaskans.
- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity: This office enforces Federal laws against discrimination against minority households, families with children, and persons with disability.



# Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD)

- Policy Development and Research (PD&R): This office is responsible for maintaining current information on housing needs, market conditions, and existing programs, as well as conducting research on priority housing and community development issues through the HUD USER Clearinghouse.
- Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae)
- Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control.
- Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (developed in 1998)



# State Government



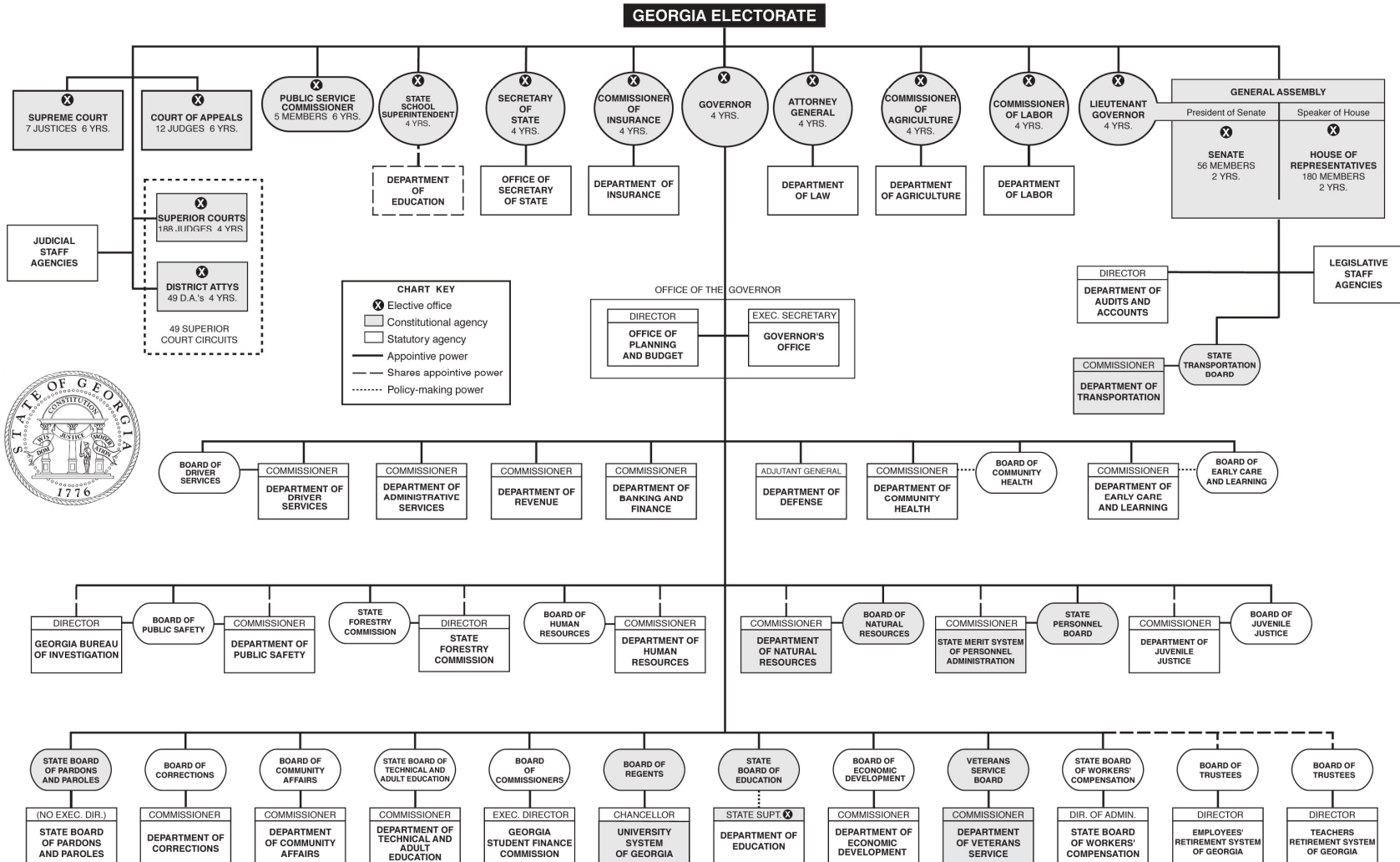
Seal of the State of Georgia, 1881



# State Government

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## GEORGIA STATE GOVERNMENT



# Overview of Selected State Agencies

- Georgia Department of Transportation



- Georgia Department of Community Affairs



- Georgia Department of Economic Development



- Georgia Department of Natural Resources



- Georgia Department of Education



# Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)



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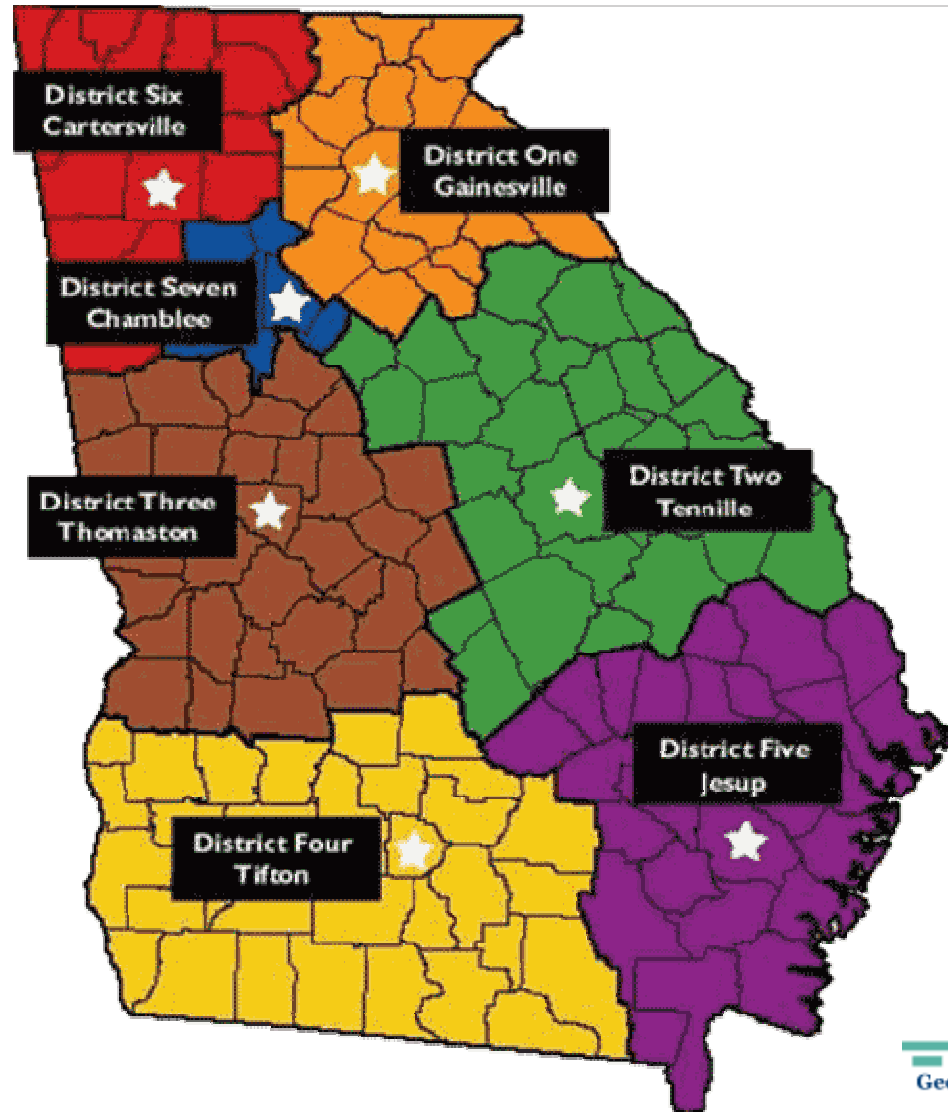
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# Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

- The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is the organization in charge of developing and maintaining all state and federal roadways in the state of Georgia. In addition to highways, the department also has a limited role in developing public transportation and general aviation programs.
- GDOT has broken up the state of Georgia into seven districts in order to facilitate regional development. Each district is responsible for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of the state and federal highways in their region.



# GADOT Field Districts





# GADOT - Management

## Department management

- Georgia DOT is governed by a 13-member State Transportation Board that is elected by the Georgia General Assembly for a five-year term and
- The Board is headed by a commissioner chosen from among the board members.
- The board's powers include:
  - designating which public roads are encompassed within the state highway system;
  - approving long-range transportation plans;
  - overseeing the administration of construction contracts; and
  - authorizing lease agreements.

Offices within the board, other than Commissioner, are Deputy Commissioner; Chief Engineer and Treasurer.



# GADOT Funding Programs

- Local Funding Programs
  - Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement (**CMAQ**) Program
  - GATEway Grants
  - Livable Centers Initiatives (**LCI**)
  - Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant Program
  - Safe Routes to School (**SRTS**)
  - Transportation Enhancement (**TE**)



# GADOT – Intermodal Programs

- Intermodal Programs
  - Aviation Program
  - Rail Program
  - Transit Program
  - Waterways Program



# GADOT

- Transportation Programs
  - Governor's Road Improvement Program (**GRIP**)
  - Public Private Partnerships (**P3**)
  - State Transportation Improvement Program (**STIP**)
  - Stimulus Package
  - Transportation Investment Act (**IT3**)



# Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)



# Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)

- The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was created in 1977 to serve as an advocate for local governments.
- DCA operates a host of state and federal grant programs; serves as the state's lead agency in housing finance and development; promulgates building codes to be adopted by local governments; provides comprehensive planning, technical and research assistance to local governments; and serves as the lead agency for the state's solid waste reduction efforts.

<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/index.asp>



# DCA Structure

- Policy for the department is provided by an eighteen member board of directors appointed by the Governor for staggered terms.
- Each of Georgia 's thirteen congressional districts must be represented by one member and other members are appointed at-large.
- The Board also serves as Board of Directors for three related department activities: the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority (**GHFA**), GHFA Affordable Housing, Inc., and GHFA Economic Development, Inc.

# DCA Management

- Day-to-day management of the department is provided by the Commissioner of DCA, who is appointed by the Board of Community Affairs.
- The Commissioner of DCA also serves as executive director of the Georgia Housing and Finance Authority.



# DCA Divisions

- DCA is organized into eight divisions, as follows:
  - Administration
  - Community Development and Finance
  - Executive
  - Housing Finance
  - Local Government Assistance
  - **Planning and Environmental Management Division**
  - Rental Assistance Division
  - Rural Development

# Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD)



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# Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD)

- The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state's sales and marketing arm and lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, developing new domestic and international markets, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a location for film, video, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development.
- The GDEcD has a 22-member board of directors representing each of the congressional districts plus nine members at large.



<http://www.georgia.org/Pages/default.aspx>



# Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR)



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# Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR)

- The Department of Natural Resources has statewide responsibilities for the management and conservation of Georgia's natural and cultural resources.
- Most of this work is conducted by DNR's six operating divisions, which include:
  - Coastal Resources Division,
  - **Environmental Protection Division (EPD)**,
  - Historic Preservation Division,
  - Sustainability Division,
  - Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division and
  - Wildlife Resources Division.



# GA DNR Governance

- The Board of Natural Resources, which is appointed by the Governor, oversees rulemaking for the agency.
- The Board of Natural Resources consists of 18 citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Georgia Senate.
- The Board is responsible for setting rules and regulations ranging from air and water quality to hunting seasons and provides input into issues such as the agency's budget recommendations and legislative initiatives.



# GA DNR Coastal Resources Division

- The Coastal Resources Division (CRD) has primary responsibility for managing Georgia's marshes, beaches, and marine fishery resources.
- Based in Brunswick, CRD administers permitting programs under the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act and Shore Protection Act; issues revocable licenses for use of state-owned water bottoms; monitors coastal water quality; and manages shellfish harvest areas.
- CRD conducts research; management and development activities associated with recreational and commercial fishery resources; represents Georgia on regional marine fishery boards and commissions; and builds boat ramps, artificial reefs, and fishing piers.
- CRD has primary responsibility for the Protection of Tidewater/Right of Passage Acts.



# GA DNR Environmental Protection Division EPD

- The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) protects Georgia's air, land, and water through the authority of state statutes and major parts of five federal environmental statutes.
- These laws regulate public and private facilities having to do with water quality, air quality, hazardous waste, water supply, solid waste management, surface mining and other areas.
- It issues and enforces all state permits in these areas.
- It has received the authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue and enforce all permits required by federal laws.



# GA DNR - Historic Preservation Division

- The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) promotes the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia.
- Serving as Georgia's state historic preservation office, HPD administers federal and state programs including:
  - archaeology protection and education,
  - environmental review and compliance,
  - grants,
  - historic resource surveys,
  - tax incentives,
  - community planning and technical assistance, and
  - the National Register of Historic Places.



# GA DNR - Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division

- The Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD) manages more than 60 properties that preserve the state's environment and history.
- Currently, 63 state parks and state historic sites are open to the public, offering 374 cottages, 414 lodge rooms, 2,486+ campsites and seven golf courses.



# GA DNR - Sustainability Division

- The Sustainability Division is a non-regulatory division of DNR that provides free and confidential assistance to business in pollution prevention, waste reduction, water and energy efficiency, and sustainability. They can assist any Georgia business, institution or other organization.
- The Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia is the division's primary outreach effort, which assists Georgia businesses in using continuous improvement tools to reach better environmental results and a better bottom line. The program is free and open to any business or organization that operates in Georgia.



# GA DNR - Wildlife Resources Division (**WRD**)

- The Wildlife Resources Division (**WRD**) regulates hunting, fishing, and the operation of watercraft in Georgia,
- Protects non-game and endangered wildlife, and
- Maintains public education and law enforcement programs to ensure that Georgia's natural resources will be conserved for our present and future generations.



# Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE)



# Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE)

- The Georgia Department of Education (**GaDOE**) oversees public education throughout the state.
- It ensures that laws and regulations pertaining to education are followed and that state and federal money appropriated for education is properly allocated to local school systems.
- It also provides education-related information to students, parents, teachers, educational staff, government officials, and the media.



# Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE)

- GaDOE is comprised of five Offices under the State School Superintendent:
  - Office of External Affairs and Policy
    - Charter Schools, Communications, External Affairs, Human Resources, Legal Services, Policy, State Schools.
  - Office of Standards, Instruction and Assessment
    - Academic Standards, Accountability, Assessment, Career, Technical and Agricultural Education, ESOL, Special Education Services and Support, Gifted Education, Innovative Academic Programs, Languages and International Education, SAT and AP Programs. .
  - Office of Education Support and Improvement
    - 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Alternative Education and Magnet Schools,
    - Learning Support, School Improvement, Teacher Quality, Federal Programs.
  - Office of Finance and Business Operations
    - Accounting Services, Budget Services, Facilities Services, Financial Review, Internal Support, Pupil Transportation, School Nutrition.
  - Office of Technology Services
    - Instructional Technology, Information Technology, GeorgiaStandards.Org, Georgia Virtual School



# State Board of Education

- The State Board of Education provides policy advice and guidelines for the department,
- It has 13 members and a Chief Executive Officer / State School Superintendent
- The Georgia Board of Education with the State School Superintendent provides statewide leadership to:
  - ensure the opportunity for each public school student to be successful
  - to create an environment in which local schools and systems are empowered to develop policies and programs that meet the educational needs of their students, that support teachers, and that involve parents and communities in the education process.





# Regional Government (and related organizations)

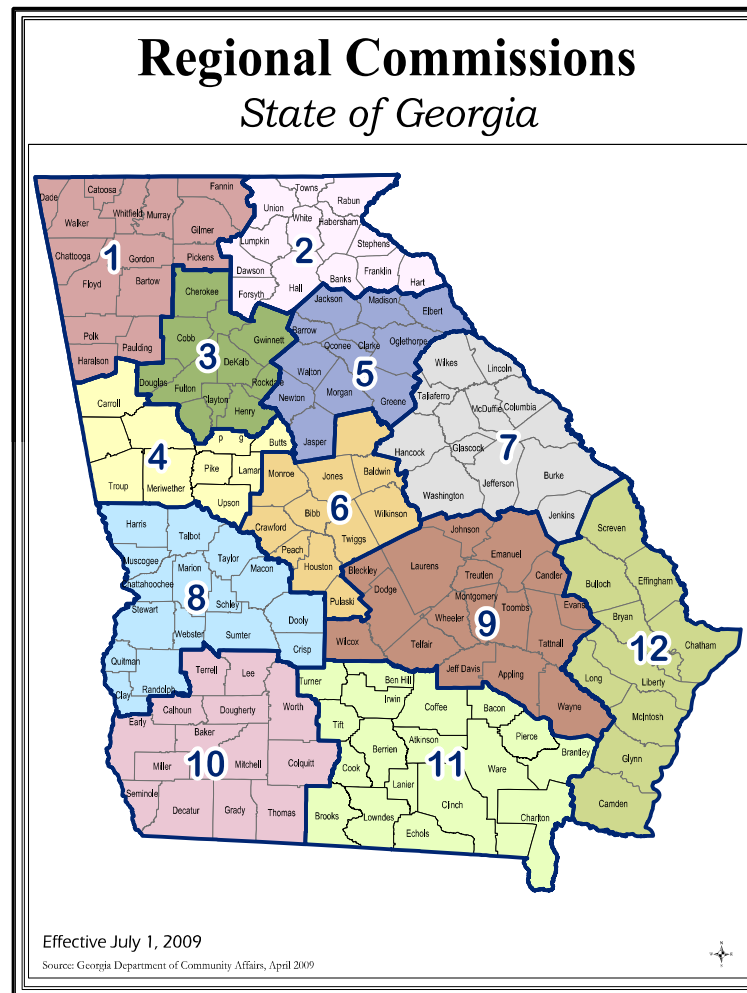


# Regional Governments

- Georgia's regional governments date back to the 1960's
- Atlanta first had a Metropolitan Planning Commission
- Statewide creation of Area Planning and Development Commissions (**APDC's**) - July 1, 1970 (some APDC's existed prior to this date)
- State law changed APDC's to Regional Development Centers (**RDC's**) - July 1, 1989
- State Law again changed RDC's to Regional Commissions (**RC's**) - July 1, 2009
- They have a state wide organization - Georgia Association of Regional Commissions [ <http://garc.ga.gov/main.php?Home-7> ]



# Georgia's Regional Commissions



# Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)

- The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency for the 10-county area including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties, as well as the City of Atlanta.
- For 60 years, ARC and its predecessor agencies have helped to focus the region's leadership, attention and resources on key issues of regional consequence



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION



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# Selected ARC Program Areas

## Area Agency on Aging

- As the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) plans and provides comprehensive services to address the needs of the region's older population.
- The Atlanta region's Area Plan on Aging is carried out through contracts with 10 county-based aging programs and 13 specialized agencies to provide a continuum of home and community-based services. Older citizens and their families have many options, including information and referral services, case management, transportation, home-delivered meals, senior centers, legal services and more through this network of care.
- In collaboration with other AAAs around the state, ARC publishes Georgia Generations, a quarterly magazine that addresses issues of interest to family caregivers throughout the state. The magazine is distributed to hospitals, physician offices, pharmacies and libraries.



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION



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# Selected ARC Program Areas

## Regional Workforce Board

- The Atlanta Regional Workforce Board (ARWB) is responsible for providing policy guidance for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Service Area designated by the Governor representing:
  - Cherokee,
  - Clayton,
  - Douglas,
  - Fayette,
  - Gwinnett,
  - Henry and
  - Rockdale counties.



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION



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# Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD)



# Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD)

- The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 2001 to establish policy, create plans and promote intergovernmental coordination of all water issues in the District from a regional perspective. The Metro Water District includes 15 counties and over 90 cities within the metro Atlanta region.
- 
- The primary purpose of the Metro Water District is to develop regional and watershed-specific plans for stormwater management, wastewater treatment and water supply and conservation. Three comprehensive water plans, originally adopted in 2003, were updated in 2009.

<http://www.northgeorgiawater.com/html/aboutus.htm>





# Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

## Governing Board

- The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board manages the business and affairs of the District. The Board is comprised of:
  - The county commission chairs of counties with 200,000 or more population (Cobb, Clayton, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett Counties)
  - The mayor of the District's most populous city (City of Atlanta)
  - The remaining counties are represented by either the county commission chair or a mayor whose city has a water or sewer system
  - 10 citizen members



# Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

## Executive Committee

- The Executive Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Governing Board and oversees the District's Plan Amendment Process.

## Finance Committee

- The Finance Committee advises the Governing Board on all financial matters and develops an annual budget for the District.



# Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)



# Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)

- The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority or MARTA is the principal rapid-transit system in the Atlanta metropolitan area and the ninth-largest in the United States.
- Formed in 1971 as strictly a bus system, MARTA operates a network of bus routes linked to a rapid transit system consisting of 48 miles (77 km) of rail track with 38 train stations.
- MARTA operates almost exclusively in Fulton and DeKalb counties, with bus service to two destinations in Cobb county (Six Flags Over Georgia and the Cumberland Transfer Center next to the Cumberland Mall) and a single rail station in Clayton County at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.
- MARTA also operates a separate paratransit service for disabled customers.



# Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)

- MARTA is a multi-county agency that is governed by a board of directors, consisting of representatives appointed from
  - the city of Atlanta (3 members), and
  - the remainder of the counties of Fulton (3 members) and DeKalb (4 members).
  - Additionally, there is 1 member from the Georgia Department of Transportation, and
  - 1 member from Georgia Regional Transportation Authority) who also serve on the MARTA Board of Directors.

Positions on the MARTA board are directly appointed by the organizations they represent.

- The highest position at MARTA is the general manager and chief executive officer.
- The Georgia General Assembly has a standing Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Oversight Committee (MARTOC). This committee is charged with financial oversight of the MARTA organization.
- In 2006, MARTA joined the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority in partnership to create the Transit Planning Board (TPB). The TPB's mission is to create the next regional plan for expanding and funding public transportation for the entire Atlanta Region.



# Local Governments

- Georgia has several types of local governments
- Some characteristics of our local governments vary from other states
- The role of the State as it relates to the form and function of local governments varies from state to state and has been changing here in Georgia

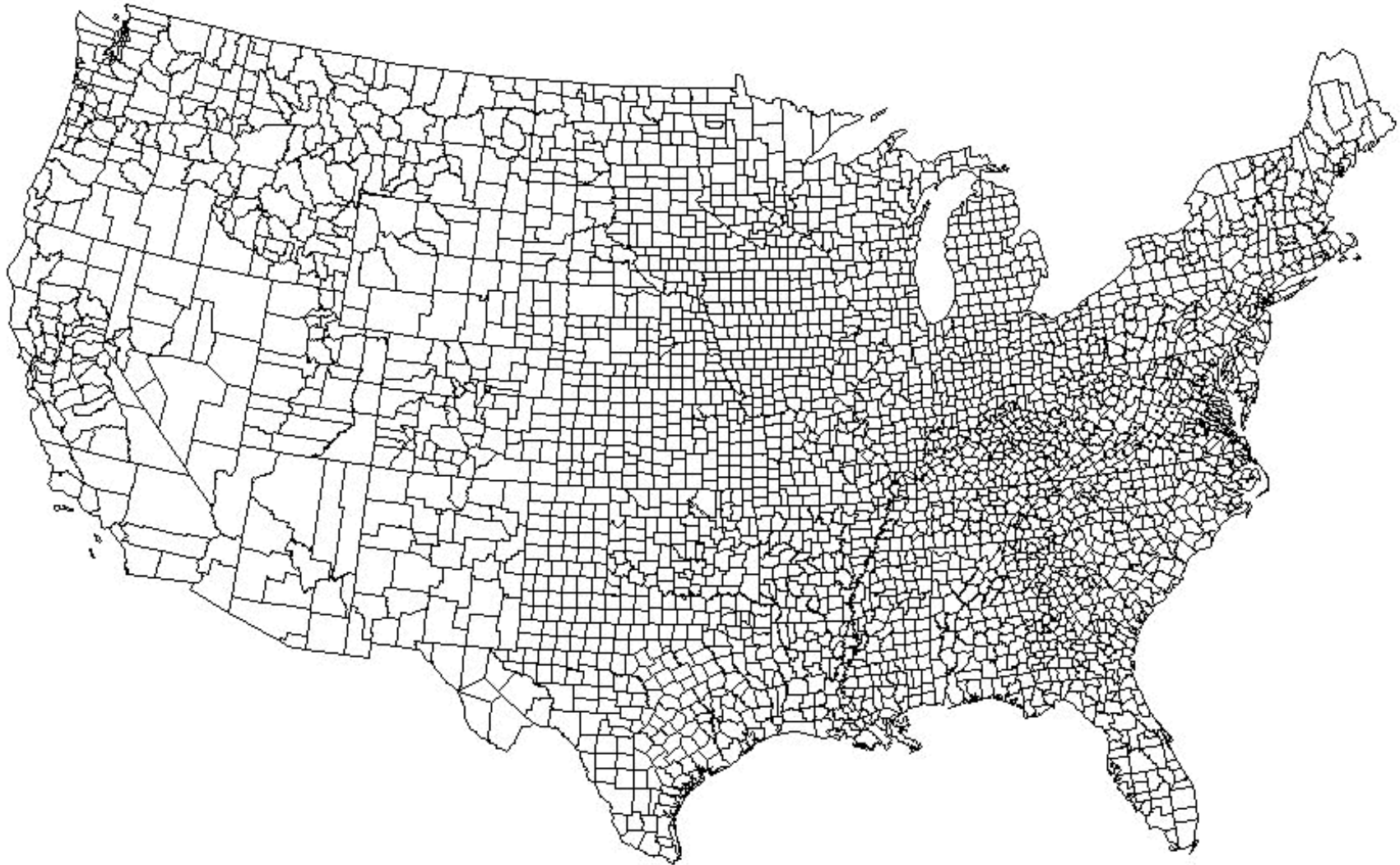


# Types of Local Government

- Special Purpose Local Government
  - School Boards
  - Elected Water or Sewer Utility Boards
  - Authorities
- General Purpose Local Government
  - City Government
  - County Government



# How many is too many?





# Local Government

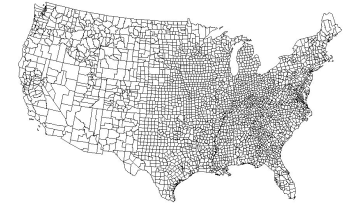


While the Georgia Constitution specifies the number of counties (159) it does not specify the structure. Likewise city charters do not have to follow just one structure; so we have a lot of variation in Georgia.



# General Purpose Local Government

- County Government
  - A piece of the Nation-wide “Quilt” of local governments, static boundaries
  - Representation from within boundary, typically include incorporated (city) areas
- City Government
  - Boundaries not static
  - Representation from within boundary, typically overlaps county or counties



# Consolidated Governments in Georgia are both Cities and Counties

## Georgia's Consolidated Governments – 2011

<i>Consolidated Government</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>2000 Pop</i>	<i>2009 Estimated *</i>
Columbus Muscogee County	1971	186,291	190,414
Athens Clarke County	1991	101,489	116,342
Augusta Richmond County	1995	199,775	199,768
Cusseta Chattahoochee County	2003	14,882	14,402
Georgetown Quitman County	2006	2,598	2,569
Preston Webster County	2008	2,390	2,192
Echols County**	2008	3,750	4,231

\* Source U.S. Census Bureau 2009 Estimate of Population

\*\* Echols County had no incorporated municipality within the county and via an act of the General Assembly was given the opportunity to vote on whether to be classified as a consolidated government. The vote passed in 2008.



# Functions of General Purpose Local Government

- **As Extensions of the State** (usually the County)
- **As Service Providers**
  - Basic levels (courts, health, roads & revenue)
  - Urban-type Services
    - Planning
    - Parks and Recreation
    - Police and Fire Services
    - Etc.



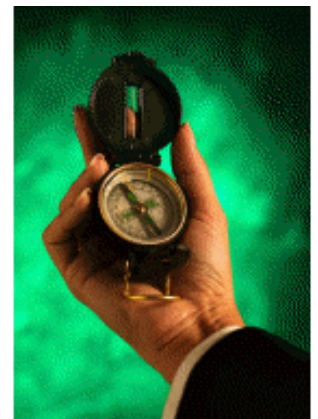
# Traditional City vs. County Government Functions

- Cities – urban-type services, frequently higher levels of service where population density justifies the increased cost
- Counties – state-mandated services, Georgia also permits counties to provide urban-type services similar to those provided by cities via a constitutional amendment in 1972



# These Roles (Functions) Have Been Changing

- Cities as Entrepreneurial Service Providers (extending services into the unincorporated areas of the County)
- Counties initiating their own urban-type Services (including contracting with cities for services)
- Increased potential for overlap and duplication of services
- Competition for revenue sources



## Forms and Functions of Local Governments in Georgia are increasingly crossing paths

- Local Comprehensive Plans must address intergovernmental coordination and compatibility
- Service Delivery Strategy Act mandates coordination of services, funding, and land use
- LOST revenue distribution agreements and SPLOST project coordination affirm the need to coordinate funding of services
- Citizens increasingly demand more efficient and higher levels of service
- Continuing economic stress



# Other member organizations representing local government

- For Cities in Georgia

- **Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)**



- For Cities Nationally

- **National League of Cities (NLC)**



- For Counties in Georgia

- **Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)**



- For Counties Nationally

- **National Association of Counties (NACo)**





# Special Purpose Local Governments

## School Districts - City and County School Boards

159 - County Systems

21 – City Systems

180 - Total systems

- School Superintendent
- Georgia School Board Association (GSBA)
- <http://www.gsba.com/>



# School Districts - City and County School Boards

- The responsibility for administration and financial support of the local public school systems in Georgia is divided between the state and the county and/or city government. The state Board of Education has authority to formulate educational and administrative policies and standards for the improvement of public education.
- Management and control of the local public schools within each county are the responsibility of the county (city) board of education. In order to receive state funds the county board must also raise money to operate the schools, this is done via constitutional authority to levy an annual school property tax.
- The Georgia Constitution and general law provide that members of a local board of education are to be elected by the voters of the school district that the board members represent.



# Local School Superintendent

- School Superintendents serve as the executive officer of the local board of education.
- It is the duty of the superintendent to enforce all regulations, rules, and instructions of the state superintendent of schools and the local board of education.
- The local school superintendent is appointed by the board of education for terms of not less than one year and not more than three years.



# Other Local Governing Units

## Community Improvement Districts (CID's)

- The Georgia Constitution provides that the General Assembly may by local law provide for the creation of community improvement districts (CIDs) for any county or city or some combination of cities and a county.
- The best-known example of a CID in Georgia is the “Platinum Triangle” embracing the Galleria complex in Cobb County.
- In order to provide funds to pay for such facilities or services, or to repay the indebtedness of the community improvement district the administrative body of each CID can assess fees , taxes, and assessments on commercial or industrial real property within the district.
- The services and facilities provided by the community improvement district must be provided through a cooperative agreement executed by the administrative board of the community improvement district and the governing authority of the county or city within which the community improvement district is located.
- A majority of the owners of real property subject to assessment within the community improvement district and the owners of real property constituting at least 75% by value of all real property subject to assessment within the CID must give written consent to the creation of such a district.
- An administrative board must be established for each community, improvement district in the manner provided by the governing law. The governing authority of the county, or city (or both) for which the community improvement district is created must be represented by at least one seat on the administrative board of the community improvement district.



# Other Local Governing Units - Authorities

- Authorities (water and sewer, industrial development, downtown development, economic development, etc.)
  - Authorities can serve to bridge the gap between public and private sectors
  - Most authorities are appointed by their respective general purpose local government, either the city or the county
  - Georgia has a few independently elected authorities such as the water and sewer authority in Macon and Bibb County



# Data Sources

- *Each Federal Agency's web site*
- *Who Runs Government from the Washington Post* <http://www.whorunsgov.com/Institutions>
  - *Each Georgia Agency's web site*
  - *GMA, ACCG, NLC, and NACo web sites*
- *Handbook for Georgia Mayors and Councilmembers – Carl Vinson Institute of Government*
- *Handbook for Georgia County Commissioners – Carl Vinson Institute of Government*
  - *Handbook for Georgia Legislators – Carl Vinson Institute of Government*
- *Wikipedia*



Questions?