

# National Government Study Guide

## Vocabulary & General Information:

- The **Constitution** is our country's written plan for government.
- We have a democracy. A **democracy** is a government that is ruled by the people. We have a representative democracy, which means that we elect representatives to represent us in government.
- Separation of power**- one of the seven principles in the Constitution. It states that each of the three branches of government have different jobs to do. This also helps to keep one branch from having too much power.
- Checks and Balances**- a system used to balance the power of the government by putting limits on each branch so that no one branch becomes too powerful
- Taxes** are money the government collects from citizens and other people to pay for services provided by the government.
- An **election** is the process by which citizens vote for people to represent them.
- Citizens **vote**, or make an official choice, for their representatives. Voting must happen in order for our government to work.

## Three Branches

<u>Legislative Branch</u>	<u>Executive Branch</u>	<u>Judicial Branch</u>
<b>CONGRESS</b> -made up of the Senate & the House of Representatives	<b>PRESIDENT</b> -also includes the Vice President and the Cabinet	<b>SUPREME COURT</b> -9 justices (judges) -serve for life
-law makers (make laws for our country) -has the power to declare war - <b>SENATE</b> : each state gets 2 senators for a total of 100 senators - <b>HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</b> : there are a total of 435 representatives in the House of Representatives; the number of representatives from each state is determined by the state's population	-enforces or carries out laws -the President is the leader of this branch -the President has the power to veto (or deny) bills -the executive branch limits the power of the judicial branch by appointing members to the Supreme Court	-determines what laws means -decides if laws obey the Constitution -the judicial branch limits, or checks, the power of the legislative branch by deciding if laws obey the Constitution

## Local & State Government Study Guide

### General Information:

- A council is a group of officials who makes rules or laws at the local level of government.
- An election is the process by which citizens vote for people to represent them.
- Taxes are money citizens and others pay the government.
- A government is an organization that makes laws and keeps order.
- Our country is a representative democracy. This means that the citizens decide what the government will do.
- Citizens elect representatives by voting.
- To pay for services the government collects taxes.
- The building where leaders meet to make laws is the capitol.

### Local Government:

- The local government provides services. Example: fighting fires, police protection
- The local government leads a city, a town or a county.
- A city council would help run city government.
- Most counties in Georgia are led by a board of commissioners.
- Most local governments have 3 branches, or parts.

### Three Branches

<b>Legislative Branch</b>	<b>Executive Branch</b>	<b>Judicial Branch</b>
<b>City Council or County Commission</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Courts</b>
-makes rules of laws	-leads the group who works with the council to make decisions -leader of a community's government	-settles disagreements and decides whether or not laws have been broken

### State Government:

- The leader of our state is a governor.
- The State Supreme Court is the highest court in Georgia.
- The state government provides services. Examples: schools, builds state roads, protect state lands, animals, and waters, set laws to keep people safe

<b>Legislative Branch</b>	<b>Executive Branch</b>	<b>Judicial Branch</b>
<b>General Assembly</b>	<b>Governor</b>	<b>State Supreme Court</b>
-makes laws for the state -rewrite old laws -Two Parts: Senate and House of Representatives	-head of the executive branch -leader of our state government -main job is to carry our state laws	-they decide whether state laws have been broken -make sure laws follow the Constitution

\*All laws made by state & local governments, must be in line with the National Constitution and laws. They cannot conflict.