

STATEWIDE OFFICES (Georgia)

Governor

The Governor is the chief executive officer of the State of Georgia. The Governor:

- Oversees state agencies and departments
- Proposes the state budget
- Signs or vetoes legislation passed by the General Assembly
- Appoints members to state boards and commissions
- Serves as the commander-in-chief of the Georgia National Guard

Why this office matters:

The Governor's decisions affect state taxes, education funding, transportation, healthcare, and public safety. This role directly impacts how state money is spent and how Georgia responds to emergencies and economic growth.

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor serves as the President of the Georgia Senate. The Lieutenant Governor:

- Presides over Senate sessions
- Assigns senators to committees
- Influences which bills are considered
- Assumes the role of Governor if the Governor is unable to serve

Why this office matters:

Because the Lieutenant Governor controls the Georgia Senate agenda, this office has major influence over which laws are debated and passed, affecting issues such as education, healthcare, and economic development.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is Georgia's chief elections official. This office:

- Oversees statewide elections and voter registration
- Maintains business and professional licensing records
- Registers corporations and businesses operating in Georgia
- Preserves official state records
- **Why this office matters:**
This office ensures elections are fair and secure, manages voter registration, and oversees business filings—impacting both your right to vote and the ease of doing business in Georgia.

Attorney General

The Attorney General is Georgia's chief legal officer. The Attorney General:

- Represents the state in legal matters
- Provides legal opinions to state officials
- Enforces consumer protection laws

Why this office matters:

The Attorney General protects consumers, enforces state laws, and represents Georgia in court. Decisions from this office affect public safety, consumer rights, and legal accountability. Prosecutes certain criminal appeals

Commissioner of Agriculture

The Commissioner of Agriculture regulates Georgia's agriculture industry. Responsibilities include:

- Food safety inspections
- Weights and measures enforcement
- Regulation of gasoline quality
- Support and promotion of Georgia agriculture

Why this office matters:

This office helps ensure food safety, accurate pricing at gas pumps and stores, and supports Georgia farmers—affecting food costs, safety, and the local economy.

Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner

The Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner regulate Georgia's insurance industry and oversees fire safety and prevention efforts statewide. This office:

- Licenses insurance companies and insurance agents
- Regulates health, auto, property, and life insurance
- Investigates consumer insurance complaints and fraud
- Oversee fire safety inspections and investigations
- Manages the State Fire Marshal's Office

Why this office matters:

This office protects consumers by ensuring insurance companies operate fairly and responsibly while also promoting fire safety in homes, businesses, and public buildings. Decisions made by the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner affect insurance costs, consumer protections, and public safety across Georgia.

Commissioner of Labor

The Commissioner of Labor oversees employment services in Georgia. Duties include:

- Administering unemployment insurance
- Providing workforce development programs
- Collecting labor market data
- Enforcing labor laws

Why this office matters:

This office manages unemployment benefits and workforce programs, directly impacting workers and employers during job transitions and economic downturns.

Public Service Commission (PSC)

PSC Commissioners regulate utilities in Georgia. They:

- Set rates for electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications
- Oversee utility services to ensure reliability and fairness
- Protect consumers while ensuring utilities operate responsibly

Why this office matters:

PSC decisions affect utility rates and service reliability. The commission influences what residents and businesses pay for electricity, natural gas, and telecommunications.

STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES (Georgia)

State Senator

What they do:

State Senators represent districts in the Georgia Senate. They:

- Propose and vote on state laws
- Approve the state budget
- Serve on legislative committees
- Represent district concerns at the state level

Why this office matters:

State Senators influence laws affecting education, transportation, healthcare, taxes, and public safety throughout Georgia.

State Representative (Georgia House of Representatives)

What they do:

State Representatives serve districts in the Georgia House. They:

- Introduce and vote on legislation
- Approve the state budget
- Serve on committees
- Advocate for district priorities

Why this office matters:

Decisions made by State Representatives affect schools, roads, local government funding, and laws that impact communities across the state.

JUDICIAL OFFICES

Supreme Court Justice

Georgia Supreme Court Justices:

- Hear appeals on constitutional and legal issues
- Interpret Georgia law
- Review decisions from lower courts

Why this office matters:

Supreme Court decisions shape Georgia law and constitutional rights, setting legal standards that affect families, businesses, and communities statewide.

Court of Appeals Judge

Court of Appeals Judges:

- Hear appeals from trial courts
- Review legal errors in civil and criminal cases
- Do not hold trials or hear new evidence

Why this office matters:

These judges review whether trials were conducted fairly and legally, helping ensure justice and consistency in how laws are applied.

Superior Court Judge

Superior Court Judges:

- Preside over felony criminal cases
- Handles major civil cases
- Hear divorce, custody, and property cases
- Oversee grand jury proceedings

Why this office matters:

Superior Court Judges oversee serious criminal cases and major civil matters that directly affect public safety, families, and property rights.

FEDERAL OFFICES

United States Senator

What they do:

U.S. Senators represent the entire state of Georgia in Congress. They:

- Write and vote on federal laws
- Approve the federal budget and taxes
- Confirm federal judges and cabinet members
- Approve or reject treaties

Why this office matters:

U.S. Senators influence national policies that affect taxes, healthcare, national defense, infrastructure, and federal funding that flows to Georgia communities.

United States Representative (U.S. House of Representatives)

What they do:

U.S. Representatives serve specific congressional districts. They:

- Introduce and vote on federal legislation
- Represent local district interests in Congress
- Vote on the federal budget
- Assist constituents with federal agencies

Why this office matters:

This office gives Wayne County a direct voice in Washington, D.C., affecting federal funding, economic development, and policies that impact daily life.

LOCAL OFFICES (Wayne County)

County Commissioner

County Commissioners serve as the governing authority for Wayne County. They:

- Adopt the county budget and tax rate
- Set county policies and ordinances
- Oversee county services such as roads, public safety, and buildings

Why this office matters:

County Commissioners decide how local tax dollars are spent and what services are provided, influencing roads, public safety, facilities, and quality of life in Wayne County.

Board of Education Member

School Board members:

- Set policies for the public school system
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent
- Approve the school budget
- Establish educational goals for students

Why this office matters:

School Board members shape educational policies, budgets, and leadership, influencing the quality of education and future workforce development.

State Court Judge

State Court Judges:

- Hear misdemeanor criminal cases
- Handle traffic offenses
- Preside over civil cases with limited monetary amounts

Why this office matters:

These judges handle cases many citizens encounter, including traffic offenses and misdemeanors, affecting everyday legal outcomes.

Probate Court Judge

Probate Judges:

- Handle wills and estates
- Appoint guardians and conservators
- Issue marriage license
- Issue of gun handling permits

Why this office matters:

Probate Judges handle vital life events such as wills, estates, marriage license, and gun handling permits directly impacting families and local governance.

Sheriff

The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer for the county. Duties include:

- Operating the county jail
- Providing courthouse and courtroom security
- Serving civil and criminal court documents
- Enforcing state and local laws

Why this office matters:

The Sheriff is responsible for law enforcement, jail operations, and courthouse security---key elements of public safety in the county.

Tax Commissioner

The Tax Commissioner:

- Collects property, vehicle, and other local taxes
- Manages vehicle tag and title services
- Maintains tax records for the county

Why this office matters:

This office collects taxes that fund county services and manages vehicle registrations, directly affecting local government operations and compliance.

Coroner

The coroner:

- Investigates deaths within the county
- Determines cause and manner of death
- Works with law enforcement and medical professionals

Why this office matters:

The Coroner provides independent investigations into deaths, helping ensure public trust, accurate records, and proper legal processes.

District Attorney (Judicial Circuit)

The District Attorney:

- Prosecutes felony and misdemeanor criminal cases
- Represents the state in criminal trials
- Works with law enforcement agencies

Why this office matters:

The District Attorney decides how crimes are prosecuted, influencing public safety, victim advocacy, and justice within the community.