

# ***Topic I***

# **The Office of Governor**





**TOPIC I**  
**THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR**  
**LESSON 1**  
**GEORGIA'S PREVIOUS GOVERNORS**

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

*The student will*

- ☐ analyze characteristics of the "typical" Georgia governor.
- ☐ describe unique situations which have arisen during Georgia gubernatorial elections.
- ☐ evaluate past gubernatorial administrations.

**MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

**Activity 1**

- ☐ Handout 1.1 "Georgia's Governors, 1931- Present"

**Activity 2**

- ☐ Worksheet 1.1 "Administration Highlights"
- ☐ Study Prints 1.1 - 1.6 "Statues of Georgia Governors"
- ☐ Handout 1.2 "Statues on the Capitol Grounds: A Fact Sheet"

**STRATEGIES**

**Activity 1**

**"Who were Georgia's recent governors?"**

The governor is the chief executive of state government. Who were some of the modern Governors, the chief executives, of Georgia? Provide students with a copy of Handout 1.1 "Georgia's Governors." Ask students to summarize the information by forming generalizations about the "typical" Georgia governor. Students should describe Georgia governors as relatively young, white males who graduated from college (usually the University of Georgia) as attorneys. The governors generally have come from rural areas of the state and have prior political experience in state government. There are of course, exceptions to these generalizations (e.g. Lester Maddox).

Point out to students that all of Georgia's governors since the end of Reconstruction had been members of the Democratic party until the 2002 election of Sonny Perdue. At the presidential level, however, Georgia has been voting Republican in every presidential election since 1964 except when native son Jimmy Carter was a candidate in 1976 and 1980, and the 1992 election of Bill Clinton. The 2002 election brought dramatic changes for the two political parties in Georgia in both the executive and legislative branches.



**The Office of Governor, Lesson 1 (continued)**

**Activity 2**

**"What makes a person a "great" governor?"**

Governors, like presidents, are often compared and ranked according to several criteria. Did a particular governor improve the quality of life for Georgians while in office? What personal qualities of character and integrity were displayed during periods of public crisis? How effective was a governor in fulfilling campaign promises, working with the General Assembly, and educating the citizens of Georgia about the need for certain expenditures?

Given a list of contributions, and after conducting research about particular administrations, groups of students can evaluate and draw conclusions about which past governor(s) might be considered "great" and be able to explain why. Worksheet 1.1, "Administration Highlights," may be used to make initial comparisons of modern Georgia governors. Each group should reach a consensus as to which governor was the "greatest" and provide a rational argument to back up its decision. A class presentation and discussion can provide a forum for a class vote. Students may wish to write a letter to state officials nominating this former state leader for recognition with a statue on the Capitol grounds (if he is not already honored) or with membership in the Georgia Hall of Fame. Study Prints 1.1 through 1.6 presents photographs of statues of past governors who have been honored with statues on the grounds of the Georgia Capitol. Handout 1.2, "Statues on the Capitol Grounds: A Fact Sheet," provides a description of each statue. The class presentation and discussion of characteristics will also provide students insights for evaluating the candidates in the upcoming election.

**Activity 3**

**What were some of Georgia's most exciting and controversial elections?**

Since the election of Richard B. Russell in 1930 as Georgia's youngest 20th century governor, there have been several exciting and controversial elections. Have students select one of the following elections to investigate.

- The Election of 1946 (*the Three Governors Episode*)
- The Election of 1962 (*the first after the county unit system was abolished*)
- The Election of 1966 (*election by the General Assembly*)
- The Election of 2002 (*first Republican governor since Reconstruction*)
- The Election of 2010 (*an open field of candidates with a former governor seeking a "come back"*)



## GEORGIA'S GOVERNORS 1931 - PRESENT

GOVERNOR	TERM IN OFFICE	AGE AT ELECTION	EDUCATION	OCCUPATION	POLITICAL OFFICE PRIOR TO ELECTION	RESIDENCE
Richard B. Russell, Jr.	1931-1933	33	University of Georgia	Attorney	Speaker, Ga. House of Representatives	Winder, Barrow Co.
Eugene Talmadge	1933-1937 1941-1943	48	University of Georgia	Attorney Farmer	Ga. Commissioner of Agriculture	McRae, Telfair Co.
Eurith D. Rivers	1937-1941	41	Young Harris College LaSalle Exten. Univ.	Attorney	Speaker, Ga. House of Representatives	Lakeland, Lanier County
Ellis G. Arnall	1943-1947	35	Univ. of the South University of Georgia	Attorney	Attorney General of Georgia	Newnan, Coweta Co.
M. E. Thompson <sup>1</sup>	1947-1948	43	Emory University University of Georgia	Educator	State Revenue Commissioner	Valdosta, Lowndes Co.
Herman Talmadge	1948-1955	35	University of Georgia	Attorney	None	Lovejoy, Henry Co.
S. Marvin Griffin	1955-1959	47	The Citadel	Newspaper Editor	Lt. Governor	Bainbridge, Decatur Co.
S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr.	1959-1963	40	University of Georgia	Attorney	Lt. Governor	Lavonia, Franklin Co.
Carl E. Sanders	1963-1967	37	University of Georgia	Attorney	President Pro Tem Georgia Senate	Augusta, Richmond Co.
Lester G. Maddox	1967-1971	51	Atlanta Public Schools	Businessman	None	Atlanta, Fulton Co.
Jimmy Carter	1971-1975	46	United States Naval Academy	Farmer Businessman	Georgia State Senator	Plains, Sumter Co.
George Busbee	1975-1983	47	University of Georgia	Attorney	Majority Leader, GA House of Rep	Albany, Dougherty Co.
Joe Frank Harris	1983-1991	46	University of Georgia	Businessman	Georgia House of Representatives	Cartersville, Bartow Co.
Zell Miller	1991-1999	59	Young Harris College University of Georgia	College Professor	Lt. Governor	Young Harris, Towns Co.
Roy Barnes	1999-2003	51	University of Georgia	Attorney	Georgia Senate GA House of Rep	Marietta, Cobb Co.
Sonny Perdue	2003- 2011	57	University of Georgia	Veterinarian	Georgia Senate	Perry, Houston Co.
Nathan Deal	2011-	67	Mercer University	Attorney	US House of Rep	Millen, Jenkins Co.

<sup>1</sup> In the election of 1946, Eugene Talmadge was elected to a fourth term as governor but died before taking office. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that Thompson, elected as Lt. Governor, would be acting Governor until the next general election which Herman Talmadge, son of Eugene Talmadge, won in 1948.



## **ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Directions: For each governor listed below, identify major contributions of that administration to the state. Statements to get you started are found on the next page.

<b>GOVERNOR</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTION</b>
Richard B. Russell	
Eugene Talmadge	
Eurith D. Rivers	
Ellis Arnall	
Melvin E. Thompson	
Herman Talmadge	
S. Marvin Griffin	
Ernest Vandiver	
Carl Sanders	
Lester Maddox	
Jimmy Carter	
George Busbee	
Joe Frank Harris	
Zell Miller	
Roy Barnes	
Sonny Perdue	



## **ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS**

Write the following statements next to the appropriate governor's name in the table on the previous page. Some statements may be used more than once.

- reorganized state government
- Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act passed
- "Little New Deal" programs for Georgia
- lowered voting age to 18
- traveled to other nations to attract foreign business to Georgia
- reduced powers of the governor
- led the fight to revise the state flag and promoted education reform including lowering class sizes and building new schools
- fought for approval of the lottery and used the funding to create the HOPE scholarship program, technology for Georgia schools, and teacher pay raises
- abolished the chain gangs and implemented prison reform
- improved education by increasing school year to seven months and providing free textbooks for the first time
- abolished the poll tax
- began prison furlough program
- kept taxes low, lowered utility rates, cut government spending
- changed the state flag



## **JIMMY CARTER**





**RICHARD RUSSELL**



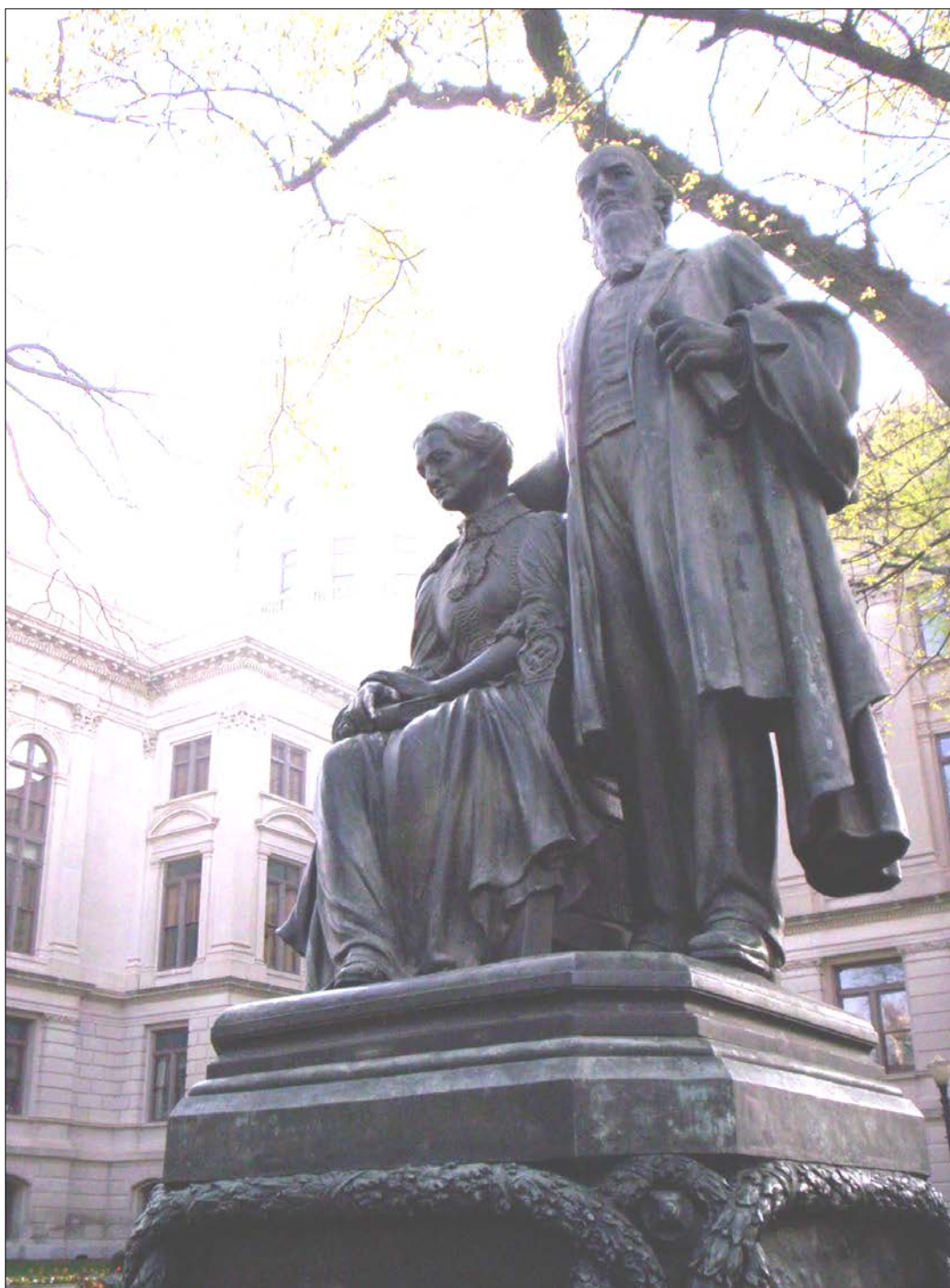


**JOHN B. GORDON**





**JOSEPH E. BROWN**





## **EUGENE TALMADGE**





**ELLIS ARNALL**



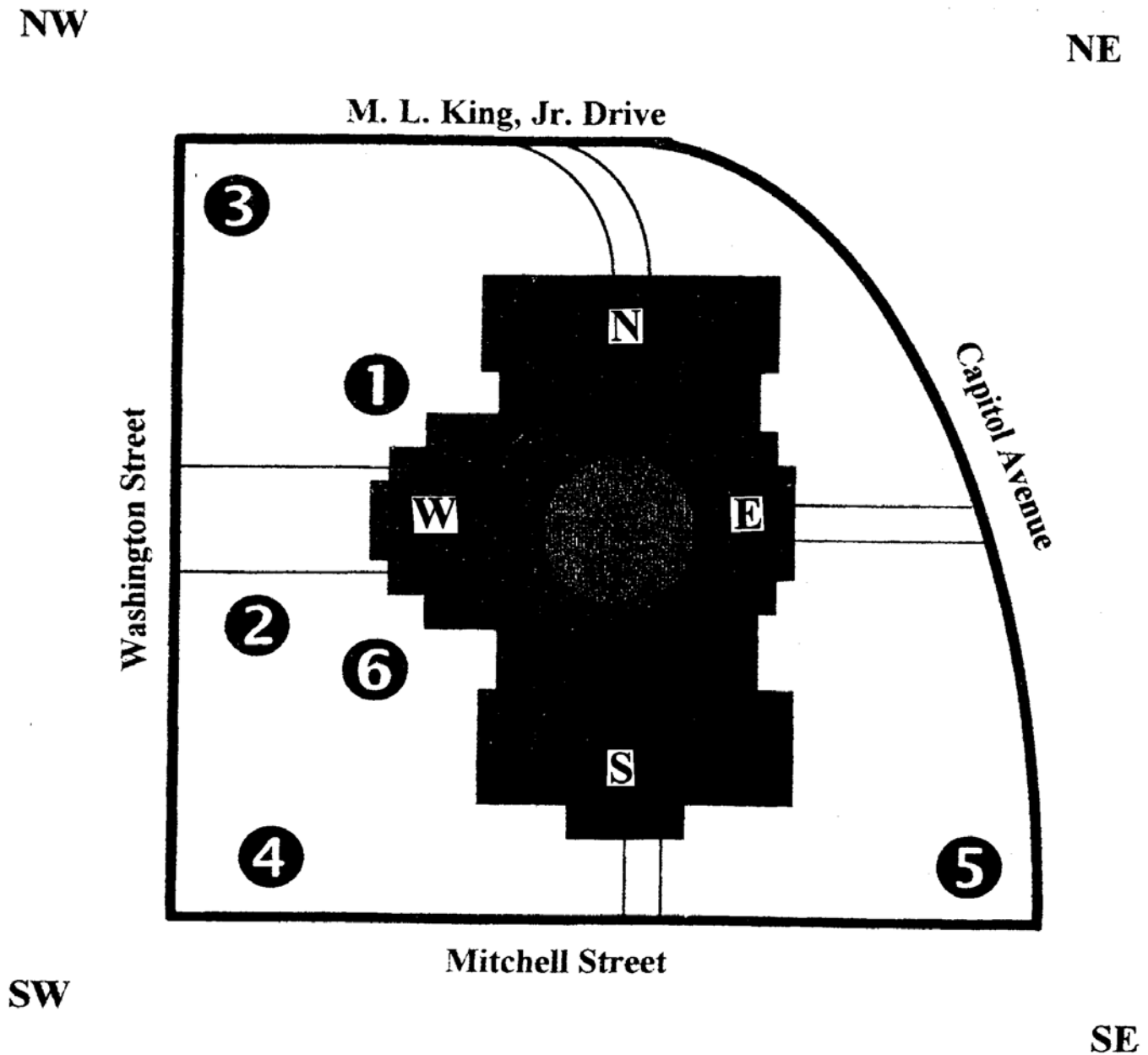


## **STATUES ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS A FACT SHEET**

- 1** One of the most recent statues placed on the Capitol grounds is that of James Earl Carter, President of the United States of America from 1977-1981. Located near the building to the left of the west front, the statue was dedicated in 1994. President Carter is the first Georgian to hold the nation's highest elected office. Before becoming the 39<sup>th</sup> President, Jimmy Carter served as the chairman of the Sumter County Board of Education (1955-1959), as a Georgia state senator (1963-1964), and the 76<sup>th</sup> governor of Georgia (1971-1975).
- 2** In 1975, a statue of Richard Brevard Russell, Jr. was dedicated. Senator Russell served as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives (1921-1931), governor (1931-1933), and United States senator (1933-1971). This is the largest statue on the Capitol grounds and is located just east of the main entrance plaza. The monumental size of the statue is due to the fact that it was originally planned to be placed in the park across Washington Street.
- 3** A statue of General John B. Gordon on horseback, the only equestrian statue in Atlanta, is at the extreme northwest corner of the Capitol grounds. A Confederate hero and general, he was the first governor to occupy an office in the Capitol building in Atlanta. He later served two terms in the United States Senate.
- 4** On the southwest corner, a bronze statue commemorates Governor and Mrs. Joseph E. Brown. Brown, elected four times, served as governor at Milledgeville from 1857 to 1865. He was also a United States senator and chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.
- 5** At the southeast corner of the grounds, a statue of Governor Eugene Talmadge, who served for six years as the Georgia commissioner of agriculture and six years as governor. He was elected governor for a fourth term in 1946 but died before beginning that term as governor. After a controversy over succession, his son Herman Talmadge succeeded him in office. A statue of his son, Governor Herman Talmadge, who later served as a United States senator from Georgia, is located across Washington Street from the west side of the Capitol.
- 6** The most recent statue to be placed on the Capitol grounds is that of Governor Ellis Arnall who served from 1943-1947. Dedicated in November 1997, the statue is located to the right of the steps leading to the west front of the Capitol. Arnall brought about more reforms in state government than any other governor in Georgia history including prison reform, lowering the voting age to 18, revision of the state constitution, and creation of the office of lieutenant governor.



## STATUES ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS A FACT SHEET





## **TOPIC 1**

## **THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR**

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### **LESSON 2**

### **POWERS OF GEORGIA'S GOVERNOR**

#### **LESSON OBJECTIVES**

*The student will*

- ☐ identify constitutional qualifications for holding the office of governor.
- ☐ distinguish executive from legislative and judicial functions.
- ☐ identify both formal and informal powers of the governor.
- ☐ describe the system of checks and balances at the state level.

#### **MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

##### **Activity 3**

- ☐ Handout 2.1 "Organizational Chart of Georgia Government"

##### **Activity 4**

- ☐ Handout 2.2 "Formal Powers of the Governor"
- ☐ Handout 2.3 "Informal Powers of the Governor"
- ☐ Handout 2.4 "Newspaper Articles"
- ☐ Teacher Resource 2.1 "Duties and Powers of the Governor" from the Constitution of the State of Georgia

#### **STRATEGIES**

##### **Activity 1**

##### **"What is an executive?"**

The executive function involves the management of state government - including its personnel, property, and resources. Discuss the term "executive," giving students an opportunity to identify various definitions of the term. Explain that the root word "execute" is sometimes used in relation to the death penalty, but that its other definition means "to carry out."

Sometimes the term "administration" is used instead of executive, and in fact, when used as "The Administration," refers to the chief executive and his or her major department heads and staff.

Ask students to identify who performs the "executive" function within their family...at school...in city government...in the national government.

This lesson adapted from Improving Citizenship Education, Secondary Handbook, Fulton County Schools, 1982.



## **The Office of Governor, Lesson 2 (continued)**

Explain that historically, the executive power has generally been very strong (e.g., Caesar, Napoleon, the kings and queens of nations, etc.). Beginning with the Magna Carta, however, an inroad was made which paved the way for a separate legislative function. Eventually, this led to division of power in the United States with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

### **Activity 2**

#### **"What is the role of the governor in the system of checks and balances?"**

Identify some of the checks in Georgia state government that the legislative and judicial branches have over the governor, and checks the governor has over these two branches.

**Legislative checks on the governor:** can override governor's veto; must fund all state programs and salaries through appropriation act; approves most of governor's appointments to government offices, boards, and commissions; broad power to change the organization and powers of the executive branch.

**Judicial checks on the governor:** can declare acts of the governor unconstitutional; final judge of meaning of laws if legislature and governor are in disagreement.

**Governor's checks on the legislature:** can veto legislation; call legislature into special session; important source of legislation; tells legislature each year how much money will be available to the legislature to spend.

**Governor's checks on the judiciary:** appoints vacancies occurring in trial and appellate courts; supports or opposes changes in the organization and powers of state courts .

### **Activity 3**

#### **"How is the executive branch of government organized?"**

Provide students a copy of the Organization Chart of Georgia State Government (Handout 2.1). In terms of comparative size, what can be observed about the executive branch in contrast to the other two branches? [99% of the employees in state government, and 99% of the money in the state budget, are found in the executive branch] Ask students why the executive branch is so much larger in terms of people and funding than the legislative or judicial branch. [It is the branch of government that implements programs.] The legislature makes the laws, and the courts interpret the laws and administer justice, but it is the executive branch that must carry out all the laws and programs.



**The Office of Governor, Lesson 2 (continued)**

**Activity 4**

**"What are the formal and informal powers of the governor?"**

Have students read Article 5 of the Georgia Constitution and list five powers or responsibilities of the governor (see Teacher Resource 2.1). Ask students how these powers make the governor an important leader of the state.

Project a copy of Handout 2.2 "Formal Powers of the Governor." Discuss each of the powers briefly with students.

Distribute copies of Handout 2.3 "Informal Powers of the Governor." Again discuss each of the powers briefly. Ask students whether a governor's formal or informal powers are more important in making the governor the leader of the state .

Divide the class into groups of 4-6 students. Provide each group one of the newspaper articles about one of Georgia's former governors (or a current newspaper article). Ask students to read the article and identify the power and function being described in the article.

**Activity 5**

**"What are the qualifications a person must meet to serve as governor?"**

According to the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the only formal qualifications a person must meet to serve as a governor are:

- be a citizen of the United States for at least 5 years
- be a legal resident of Georgia for at least 6 years
- be at least 30 years old.

Based on the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the governor as described in Activities 1 through 4 of this lesson, ask students to develop a list of "informal" qualifications of the candidates that voters should (or do) consider when they cast their ballots .

This lesson adapted and expanded from Improving Citizenship Education, Secondary Handbook, Fulton County Schools, 1982.



GEORGIA STATE GOVERNMENT





## **FORMAL POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR**

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

1. Insures that laws are carried out.
2. Appoints executive officials and fills vacancies (unless otherwise provided by law).
3. Appoints advisory boards and commissions, special study committees, etc.
4. Requires information from executive officers and employees.
5. Directs that audits and investigations be conducted of state agencies.
6. Reviews and revises budget requests from state agencies each year before they can go to the General Assembly.
7. Issues "executive orders" in areas under authority of the Governor.

### **CHIEF LEGISLATOR**

1. Proposes new laws or changes in existing laws (submitted through Administration Floor Leader in each house, or through other legislators).
2. Signs legislation.
3. Vetoes legislation (including "item veto" of appropriation acts).
4. Addresses General Assembly in joint session each year with "State of the State" address and budget message.
5. Calls special sessions of the General Assembly.
6. Adjourns sessions when two houses are in disagreement on a time to adjourn.

### **JUDICIAL OFFICER**

1. Decides on extradition requests from other states for suspects or escapees from those states found in Georgia. Also requests return of suspects or escapees wanted in Georgia who have fled to other states.
2. Suspends death sentence until Board of Pardons and Paroles can hear appeals.
3. Appoints vacancies that arise in elected judicial offices due to death, resignation, or disability.
4. Directs Attorney General to represent state in civil and criminal cases.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

1. Heads state army and air national guard (except when they are called into federal service).
2. Heads state's civil defense.
3. Serves as "conservator of peace" throughout state; sends state patrol or national guard into cities or trouble spots when needed.



## **INFORMAL POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR**

### **STATE-AT-LARGE**

1. Speaks throughout state on important issues.
2. Appears at special events, holiday occasions, commencements, dedications, etc.
3. Issues executive proclamations commemorating events, honoring people, etc.
4. Serves on boards of directors of charities, projects, etc.
5. Spouse meets with organizations and groups; gives speeches; and works with charities, etc.
6. Calls on prominent citizens to testify on important issues facing state, or to serve on special boards and commissions, study committees, etc.

### **STATE BUREAUCRACY**

1. Participates, directly or indirectly, in appointment of many department heads appointed by department boards.
2. Supports, or opposes, changes in laws sought by state agencies.
3. Advises or directs agencies on administration and management of programs.
4. Serves as a contact person for citizens with complaints against state agencies and contacts agencies regarding these complaints.
5. Calls in department heads, board members, and other officials for consultations.
6. Attempts to mediate interagency and intragency conflicts.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

1. Gives legislative addresses and special messages.
2. Meets with legislative leaders and members on bills, funding and other policy matters.
3. Attempts to negotiate conflicts among legislators and leaders, and between the House and Senate from time to time.
4. Pushes bills through administration floor leaders in each house.
5. Publicly endorses legislation.
6. Consults with legislators regarding appointments of constituents to boards, commissions, etc. from their districts.
7. Requests department heads, and other agency officials, to personally lobby for administration measures.



## **INFORMAL POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR**

### **PRESS**

1. Calls press conferences, states administration positions, responds to major issues .
2. Through press office issues press releases and responses on issues.

### **POLITICAL PARTY**

1. Serves as honorary head of political party.
2. Heads state's delegation to national party convention.
3. Attends major party events.

### **INTEREST GROUPS**

1. Meets with interest group leaders and lobbyists.
2. Keynotes speeches to annual conferences of interest groups and associations.
3. Consults with interest groups and professional associations about nominations to examining boards and other agencies that affect those interest groups.

### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

1. Serves on National Governor's Association, Appalachian Regional Commission, Coastal Plains Regional Commission, and other regional and interest organizations.
- 2 . Meets with other governors on issues of regional and national concern (e.g. energy).

### **FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

1. Visits foreign countries, meets with government and business leaders, establishes trade missions, seeks markets for Georgia products, and seeks foreign businesses to come to Georgia.
2. Recruits foreign businesses to open factories in Georgia.
3. Contacts federal officials to expedite trade relations abroad.





Gov. Jimmy Carter

## Governor's Prestige Takes Upward Swing

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — Gov. Jimmy Carter has emerged from the 1972 legislative session with his prestige on the rise and his stock of legislative tactics considerably refined.

The results of the session may not guarantee him smooth sailing for the next two sessions of his term, but his position for the present is good.

He surmounted severe opposition from special interest groups and a block of hostile senators to pass a program that will give Georgia's government its first overhauling in 40 years.

Passage of the reorganization program boosted his prestige and lowered that of his most vocal Senate opponents, primarily Sen. Stanley Smith, D-Perry, chairman of the Senate Committee on Economy, Reorganization and Efficiency in Government.

The success came through a refinement of tactics partially initiated by Carter and partially forced upon him by the House.

Carter, reticent to employ all the powers of his office in major fights last year, brought them into full play to pass reorganization.

Highway Director Bert Lance, Revenue Commissioner John Blackmon, Game and Fish Director Joe Tanner and State Parks Director George Bagby haunted the halls of the Capitol for weeks to help Carter pass his program.

From daily strategy meetings in Carter's office, a tactic evolved to bring pressure to bear on reluctant lawmakers from their home grounds.

County officials friendly to Carter across the state were enlisted in the campaign to encourage legislators to vote for the program.

The brunt of the effort was directed toward the Senate which has been hostile frequently to administration programs.

The House, under the strong leadership of Speaker George L. Smith II, has been friendly to Carter on many occasions.

But facing the prospect of a divisive vote on one segment of reorganization, Smith seemingly forced Carter to accept a compromise.

A Department of Human Resources combining the departments of health and welfare, but not corrections as Carter had wanted, and containing an expanded governing board, was the result.

It passed the House with the help of House leaders and passed the Senate after Carter forces applied all of the muscle they could muster. The Senate vote was 29-26— the exact number of votes needed to pass a bill in the upper chamber.

Carter did suffer setbacks, however.

A Senate force led by Sen. Hugh Gillis, D-Soperton, blocked Carter's efforts to merge the State Forestry Commission into a new Department of Natural Resources.

It was a sweet victory for Gillis, whose father, former Highway Director Jim Gillis, resigned last year under pressure from Carter.

Gillis— perhaps the most powerful man in the Senate— voted for, but did not actively participate in, the attack on the Human Resources department. His passivity on that issue probably was a key factor in Carter's victory.

The attack was master-

minded by Sen. Smith and Gillis' participation reportedly was not invited.

Carter also suffered a partial setback on his Early Childhood Development Program, a controversial issue which brought forth charges of communism and socialism.

The program was not passed exactly as he wanted it, but still similar enough to attract three-to-one federal matching funds.

Athens Banner Herald-Daily News  
March 12, 1972



Atlanta Journal-Constitution Aug. 23, 1980 11-A

## Busbee Headed For Europe To Woo Industries For State



FOUR-COUNTRY TRIP  
Gov. George Busbee

By Fran Hesser  
Constitution Staff Writer

Gov. George Busbee will go on a European safari next week to hunt for foreign industry he hopes to attract to Georgia on the second of his two annual business trips abroad.

Busbee will spend two weeks talking to industrial prospects in England, Holland, Germany and Spain which have become interested in locating in Georgia through the efforts of the international offices of the state Department of Industry and Trade and the Georgia Port Authority.

The governor will have private appointments with the heads of 23 foreign corporations and will see other business prospects in group meetings.

Busbee will leave for Europe on Aug. 28, accompanied by his wife, Mary Beth; Milt Fold, the commissioner of industry and trade, and Fold's assistant, Ron Robinson.

Busbee traditionally takes two trips abroad to woo foreign industrial efforts and to urge foreign purchase of Georgia exports.

Duane Riner, the governor's press secretary, said the governor is seeking high-technology businesses.

Since Busbee became governor in 1975, 867 new manufacturing plants have located in Georgia. Approximately 30 percent of the firms were from foreign nations, Riner said. The new firms have resulted in 60,510 new jobs for the state.

In the same time period, 1,403 firms have expanded.

## Busbee to Go to Orient to Seek Trade

By TOM CRAWFORD  
Journal Staff Writer

Gov. George Busbee and six Georgia businessmen will leave Friday on a two-week trade mission to mainland China, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong, the governor's office announced Monday.

Busbee said the trade mission was prompted by an invitation from Deng Xiaoping, vice premier of the People's Republic of China. The governor hosted Deng and Vice Premier Fang Yi when they visited Atlanta last year.

"Several Georgia corporations already have paved the way for a productive

business relationship with the People's Republic of China, and it is my hope that we will open the door to further exports of Georgia products and technology in this vast, new marketplace," Busbee said.

During the China visit, Busbee and his business group will meet with officials responsible for the importation of metals, textile machinery, farm products and technology, building construction, electrical generation and electronics.

The businessmen accompanying Busbee are Sidney Topol, president of Scientific Atlanta, Inc.; Georgia Power Presi-

dent Robert Scherer; Atlanta architect John Portman; S.D. Cofer, senior vice president of Southwire Co. in Carrollton; Raiferd Drew, president of Lummus Industries, Inc., in Columbus and Joe Hatfield, president of Fleidale Corp. in Baldwin.

Busbee is also taking along his wife, Mary Beth, his executive assistant Cecil Phillips, and Milton Folds, state commissioner of Industry and Trade.

The business executives traveling with the governor will pay their own travel and lodging expenses on the trip, which begins May 16 and ends June 1.

Atlanta Journal  
May 13, 1980



# Busbee Orders Medicaid's Asset Rules Stiffened

By Fran Hesser  
Constitution Staff Writer

Gov. George Busbee said Thursday he has ordered state Medicaid regulations stiffened to stop elderly or sick Georgians from giving their money and property to relatives to force the public to "foot the bill" for nursing-home care.

The governor said he ordered the state regulations amended to track closely new federal legislation which allows states to limit Medicaid eligibility resulting from senior citizens' disposal of assets to qualify for welfare benefits.

Under the federal legislation, states may impose requirements that a person applying for Medicaid eligibility count as assets any property or money given away within the prior two years — or longer, if the amount exceeds \$12,000.

Busbee said the state has been pouring money into the Medicaid program during his administration.

In 1968, the first year of the program, Medicaid benefits in Georgia totaled \$28 million.

Busbee estimated the program would cost \$200 million in 1982.

He said more than 40 percent of the Medicaid benefits are paid for nursing-home care for less than 10 percent of the recipients.

Busbee said the problem of divestiture of assets has been most acute in the area of nursing-home care.

He charged that the process also encouraged the family or others involved to "rid themselves of the elderly person for whom they no longer wish to care."

"At the same time, the public resents footing the bill for the elderly citizens whose relatives or associates are enjoying the fruits of the divested assets," Busbee said.

Also on Thursday, the governor disclosed that West Virginia Gov. Jay Rockefeller had accepted Busbee's invitation to be the guest speaker at the state Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner.

The \$100-a-plate dinner, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on March 13, is the party's main fund-raising effort.

At his weekly press conference, the governor also announced that the Geor-



*'At the same time, the public resents footing the bill for the elderly citizens whose relatives or associates are enjoying the fruits of the divested assets'*

—Gov. George Busbee

gia Institute of Technology has opened a research center to develop new architectural modifications to aid handicapped citizens in their homes and at work.

Tech's new research center will provide assistance to determine the needs of handicapped people and to test and evaluate technical systems.

Busbee also named a new member to the Board of Natural Resources Thursday and reappointed a member to a new term.

The governor said Robert B. Ormsby of Atlanta is the new member and Donald J. Carter of Gainesville has been reappointed for another term. Ormsby, 56, will represent the 5th Congressional District, succeeding Mary Izard whose term has expired.

Atlanta Constitution, January 9, 1981



## **CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

### **SECTION II. DUTIES AND POWERS OF GOVERNOR**

Paragraph I. *Executive powers.* The chief executive powers shall be vested in the Governor. The other executive officers shall have such powers as may be prescribed by this Constitution and by law.

Paragraph II. *Law enforcement.* The Governor shall take care that the laws are faithfully executed and shall be the conservator of the peace throughout the state.

Paragraph III. *Commander in chief* The Governor shall be the commander in chief of the military forces of this state.

Paragraph IV. *Veto power.* Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, before any bill or resolution shall become law, the Governor shall have the right to review such bill or resolution intended to have the effect of law which has been passed by the General Assembly. The Governor may veto, approve, or take no action on any such bill or resolution. In the event the Governor vetoes any such bill or resolution, the General Assembly may, by a two-thirds vote, override such veto as provided in Article III of this Constitution.

Paragraph V. *Writs of election.* The Governor shall issue writs of election to fill all vacancies that may occur in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

Paragraph VI. *Information and recommendations to the General Assembly.* At the beginning of each regular session and from time to time, the Governor may give the General Assembly information on the state of the state and recommended to its consideration such measures as the Governor may deem necessary or expedient.

Paragraph VII. *Special session of the General Assembly.* (a) The Governor may convene the General Assembly in special session by proclamation which may be amended by the Governor prior to the convening of the special session or amended by the Governor with the approval of three-fifths of the members of each house after the special session has convened; but no laws shall be enacted at any such special session except those which relate to the purposes stated in the proclamation or in any amendment thereto.



(b) The Governor shall convene the General Assembly in special session for all purposes whenever three-fifths of the members to which each house is entitled certify to the Governor in writing, with a copy to the Secretary of State, that in their opinion an emergency exists in the affairs of the state. The General Assembly may convene itself if, after receiving such certification, the Governor fails to do so within three days, excluding Sundays.

(c) Special sessions of the General Assembly shall be limited to a period of 40 days unless extended by three-fifths vote of each house and approved by the Governor or unless at the expiration of such period an impeachment trial of some officer of state government is pending, in which event the House shall adjourn and the Senate shall remain in session until such trial is completed.

Paragraph VIII. *Filling vacancies.* (a) When any public office shall become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor shall promptly fill such vacancy unless otherwise provided by this Constitution or by law; and persons so appointed shall serve for the unexpired term unless otherwise provided by this Constitution or by law.

(b) In case of the death or withdrawal of a person who received a majority of votes cast in an election for the office of Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture, or Commissioner of Labor, the Governor elected at the same election, upon becoming Governor, shall have the power to fill such office by appointing, subject to the confirmation of the Senate, an individual to serve until the next general election and until a successor for the balance of the unexpired term shall have been elected and qualified.

Paragraph IX. *Appointments by Governor.* The Governor shall make such appointments as are authorized by this Constitution or by law. If a person whose confirmation is required by the Senate is once rejected by the Senate, that person shall not be renominated by the Governor for appointment to the same office until the expiration of a period of one year from the date of such rejection.

Paragraph X. *Information from officers and employees.* The Governor may require information in writing from constitutional officers and all other officers and employees of the executive branch on any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices or employment.



## **TOPIC I**

### **THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR**

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## **LESSON 3**

### **GEORGIA'S NEXT GOVERNOR**

#### **LESSON OBJECTIVES**

*The student will*

- ☐ identify the candidates seeking the office of governor.
- ☐ describe the background of each candidate.
- ☐ compare the candidates to previous governors.

#### **MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

##### **Activity 1**

- ☐ Handout 3.1 "Who is Running for Governor?"
- ☐ Handout 3.2 "Map of Georgia Counties"
- ☐ Handout 3.3 "Georgia's Governors 1931-Present"

#### **STRATEGIES**

##### **Activity 1**

##### **"Who are the candidates for governor?"**

Beginning earnestly in the spring of 2014 and continuing through the summer, several candidates vied for the nomination of their party to obtain the right to run for governor this November. Who are these final candidates representing the political parties? Provide students with copies of Handout 3.1 and resource materials such as newspapers and campaign literature. Have students complete the chart and then discuss with students such questions as:

- Which candidates have never held public office? Which candidate has the most experience in public office? What are the advantages/disadvantages to having such experience?
- In which parts of the state do the candidates live? Locate and shade these places on a map of Georgia (Handout 3.2). Compare these locations (urban/suburban/rural) to places where Georgia's former governor's reside (see Handout 3.3). What patterns do you notice?
- Based on this historic information only, which candidate(s) might be the next governor? Because of the increasing number of people moving to Georgia from other parts of the nation and from rural to urban areas, how might this historic pattern change?



## WHO IS RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR?

	Candidate 1	Candidate 2	Candidate 3
<b><i>Name and Age</i></b>			
<b><i>Political Party</i></b>			
<b><i>Education</i></b>			
<b><i>Occupation</i></b>			
<b><i>Previous Political Experience</i></b>			
<b><i>Residence</i></b>			



The Office of Governor  
Lesson 3  
Handout 3.2





## GEORGIA'S GOVERNORS 1931-PRESENT

GOVERNOR	TERM IN OFFICE	AGE AT ELECTION	EDUCATION	OCCUPATION	POLITICAL OFFICE PRIOR TO ELECTION	RESIDENCE
Richard B. Russell, Jr.	1931-1933	33	University of Georgia	Attorney	Speaker, Ga. House of Representatives	Winder, Barrow Co.
Eugene Talmadge	1933-1937 1941-1943	48	University of Georgia	Attorney Farmer	Ga. Commissioner of Agriculture	McRae, Telfair Co.
Eurith D. Rivers	1937-1941	41	Young Harris College LaSalle Exten. Univ.	Attorney	Speaker, Ga. House of Representatives	Lakeland, Lanier County
Ellis G. Arnall	1943-1947	35	Univ. of the South University of Georgia	Attorney	Attorney General of Georgia	Newnan, Coweta Co.
M. E. Thompson <sup>2</sup>	1947-1948	43	Emory University University of Georgia	Educator	State Revenue Commissioner	Valdosta, Lowndes Co.
Herman Talmadge	1948-1955	35	University of Georgia	Attorney	None	Lovejoy, Henry Co.
S. Marvin Griffin	1955-1959	47	The Citadel	Newspaper Editor	Lt. Governor	Bainbridge, Decatur Co.
S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr.	1959-1963	40	University of Georgia	Attorney	Lt. Governor	Lavonia, Franklin Co.
Carl E. Sanders	1963-1967	37	University of Georgia	Attorney	President Pro Tem Georgia Senate	Augusta, Richmond Co.
Lester G. Maddox	1967-1971	51	Atlanta Public Schools	Businessman	None	Atlanta, Fulton Co.
Jimmy Carter	1971-1975	46	United States Naval Academy	Farmer Businessman	Georgia State Senator	Plains, Sumter Co.
George Busbee	1975-1983	47	University of Georgia	Attorney	Majority Leader, GA House of Rep	Albany, Dougherty Co.
Joe Frank Harris	1983-1991	46	University of Georgia	Businessman	Georgia House of Representatives	Cartersville, Bartow Co.
Zell Miller	1991-1999	59	Young Harris College University of Georgia	College Professor	Lt. Governor	Young Harris, Towns Co.
Roy Barnes	1999-2003	51	University of Georgia	Attorney	Georgia Senate GA House of Rep	Marietta, Cobb Co.
Sonny Perdue	2003-2011	57	University of Georgia	Veterinarian	Georgia Senate	Perry, Houston Co.
Nathan Deal	2011-	67	Mercer University	Attorney	US House of Rep	Millen, Jenkins Co.

<sup>2</sup> In the election of 1946, Eugene Talmadge was elected to a fourth term as governor but died before taking office. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that Thompson, elected as Lt. Governor, would be acting Governor until the next general election which Herman Talmadge, son of Eugene Talmadge, won in 1948.