

## Government/Civic Understandings

### **SS8CG1 The student will describe the role of citizens under Georgia's constitution.**

a. Explain the basic structure of the Georgia state constitution.

(1) List the articles of the Georgia Constitution

Preamble

I. Bill of Rights \_\_\_\_\_

II. Voting and Elections

III. Legislative Branch

IV. Constitutional Boards and Commissions

V. Executive Branch

VI. Judicial Branch

VII. Taxation and Finance

VIII. Education

IX. Counties and Municipal Corporations

X. Amendments

XI. Miscellaneous Provisions

Explain the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances.

Separate powers to keep one branch from being too powerful. Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.

Checks and Balances: Legislative passes a bill; Executive may sign or veto; judicial may declare unconstitutional

Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

1. Rights: Speech, worship, trial by jury, no double jeopardy, freedom of the Press

2. Responsibilities: respect other's rights, obey the laws.

d. Explain voting requirements and elections in Georgia.

1. Who can vote? Citizen of the U.S., legal resident of Georgia and the county in which one wishes to vote, 18 years old

2. Who can't vote? convicted of an felony or capital crime; declared mentally incompetent by a judge

3. What must one do to vote? register (one must be registered 30 days before an election)

4. When are elections held in Georgia? Primaries are held usually on a Tuesday in July even numbered years, general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November on even number years. Executives in Georgia are elected every four years (not on the same year as the president of the U.S. Polls open from 7 a.m, to 7 p.m.

5. Explain the role of political parties in government.

a. Nominating candidates

b. Organizing campaigns and funding candidates

c. educating the electorate about issues.