

GEORGIA

Georgia ranks 23rd among the states in number of local governments, with 1,439 as of October 2007.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS (154)

Georgia counties operate under home rule. The entire area of the state is encompassed by county governments except for the areas of Chattahoochee, Clarke, Muscogee, Quitman and Richmond counties. Muscogee County was consolidated with the City of Columbus in 1971 to form the Consolidated Government of Columbus. Similarly, in January 1991, Clarke County was consolidated with the City of Athens to form the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County. In January 1996, Richmond County was consolidated with the City of Augusta to form the Augusta-Richmond Consolidated Government. In November 2003, Chattahoochee County was consolidated with the city of Cusseta to form the Cusseta-Chattahoochee Unified Government. In November 2006, Quitman County was consolidated with the city of Georgetown to form the Georgetown and Quitman County Unified Government. All of these consolidated governments are counted as municipal governments, rather than as county governments, in census reporting.

Effective July 1, 2007, for a one-year period, or as applicable to a given county, a county having no municipalities within its boundaries may elect to become a consolidated government. In such counties, no municipalities may be created or extended into the county.¹

Most Georgia counties are governed by a board of county commissioners, but in some counties the governing authority is a sole county commissioner.

SUBCOUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTS (535)

Municipal Governments (535)²

Municipal governments in Georgia are the

cities and towns. The cities and towns operate primarily under charters granted by the general assembly in the form of special laws for individual municipalities, although a 1965 law grants home rule. There are no significant differences between the cities and towns with regard to legal status and powers that would affect their classification for census purposes. A 1963 law provides that a minimum population of 200 is required for incorporation as a municipality.

Township Governments (0)

Georgia has no township governments.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS (180)

School District Governments (180)

The following types of school districts in Georgia are counted as separate governments for census purposes:

- County boards of education
- Independent (city) school districts

The county board of education in each county administers all local schools in the county except those operated by independent (city) school districts. Members of all county boards of education are elected. The county boards of education determine the amount of money to be raised by local school taxes and may issue bonds.

The independent (city) school districts in Georgia were established by special acts of the legislature prior to the adoption of the 1945 constitution, and the legal provisions under which they operate are therefore not uniform. By provision of the 1983 constitution, new independent school districts cannot be created. Members of the boards of independent school districts are elected. These school districts operate independently of municipal governments and may determine their own budgetary needs. The board of education of independent school districts recommends the ad valorem tax levy.

Dependent Public School Systems (0)

Georgia has no dependent public school systems.

Other Educational Activities

Several building authorities created for the purpose of providing buildings, facilities, and services for individual school districts, have been created by special acts. These authorities are authorized to issue debt for such purposes with debt service provided under contractual arrangements such as lease/purchase agreements with the school districts. They are counted as dependent activities of the respective school districts. Officers of the authorities are appointed, usually by the school district board of education, and may include school district and board of education officials serving ex officio.

The regional educational service agencies provide supplementary services to school districts and are financed by state funds and by contributions from participating school districts. For census purposes, they are classified as joint educational service agencies of the school districts they serve. They are not counted as separate governments. As of October 2007, 16 regional educational service agencies were reported in operation.

Any city, county, county school system, independent school system, or other political subdivision of the state possessing a power to tax may separately or jointly establish, maintain, and operate junior colleges. The creating government establishes a mill tax to help fund the junior college. No junior colleges currently operate under this provision.

Gwinnett Technical College, previously known as Gwinnett Technical Institute, is governed by the board of education of Gwinnett County but conforms to state standards applicable to technical colleges. Other technical colleges in Georgia are operated by the state government.

SPECIAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS (570)^{3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10}

Georgia statutes authorize the creation of a variety of special districts or authorities that are counted as governments. These are discussed in detail below.

Airport Authorities

A number of airport authorities have been authorized by special acts but with similar provisions for administration and operation. The authorities are governed by boards appointed by officials of the establishing governments and, in a few cases, also have one or more local officials serving ex officio. These authorities may issue revenue bonds and impose charges for their facilities and services.

Airport authorities lacking autonomy are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Americus Theater and Cultural Center Authority

This authority was created by special act to develop and promote cultural and educational projects. It is governed by a nine-member board consisting of eight members appointed by the city council, plus the mayor serving ex officio. The authority may fix and collect fees and issue revenue bonds.

Augusta-Richmond County Coliseum Authority

This authority was created by a 1973 special act to build and maintain a multiple-use coliseum in the Augusta area. A board of 12 members appointed by the Augusta-Richmond County commission governs the authority. The authority may fix user charges, receive proceeds from hotel-motel taxes and beer excise taxes, and issue revenue bonds.

Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority

This authority was created by a 1980 special act. The seven-member board includes both appointed and ex officio county representatives and the mayors of the cities of Marietta and Smyrna. The authority may fix and collect fees and issue bonds. The county may choose to support bond issues with county-levied taxes, but is not obligated to provide such financial support.

Community Improvement Districts

These districts may be created by the Georgia legislature through the enactment of local legislation, subject to approval of owners of taxable real property within the district. They may provide such services as streets, parks, sewerage, water, ports, public transportation, parking, and other services as specified in the local legislation. They are governed by boards that can consist of local officials, members elected by property owners, or any combination of the two as specified in the authorizing legislation. Districts may levy ad valorem property taxes, special assessments, and fees as specified in the authorizing legislation and may issue general obligation and revenue bonds. Residential, agricultural, and forest production parcels within the district are excluded from taxation, assessments, and fees. Community improvement districts that are classified as special districts include those in Chatham, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Glynn, and Gwinnett counties.

Districts that lack the autonomy to be classified as independent governments are classified as dependent agencies of the county or municipality they serve. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas" below.

Community Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases Service Boards

These boards are created by a county or counties to provide services to regions established by the state. They are governed by boards that include members appointed by

member counties (based on population) from nominations by the counties' boards of health; county and municipal officials from jurisdictions contributing a minimum amount to the budget of the board; and one citizen meeting specified requirements appointed by each county. The boards may fix and collect fees. These boards may be referred to as community service boards.

Community mental health, developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases service boards governed by county boards of health are not counted as separate governments. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas" below.

Conyers-Rockdale-Big Haynes Impoundment Authority

This authority was created by a special act to provide for flood control and water conservation in Rockdale County. The authority constructed the dam and lake that serves as the water supply reservoir for Rockdale County. The lake also is used for recreation. A board of five members, with two appointed by Rockdale County, two by the mayor of Conyers, and one appointed by the other board members, governs the authority. The authority may fix and collect fees and issue revenue bonds.

Covington Parking Authority

This authority was authorized by a constitutional amendment. The five-member board consists of four members appointed by the mayor and the city council and either the mayor or a member of the city council. The authority may issue bonds and fix and collect fees

Development Authorities (Industrial and Economic)

Joint development authorities may be created either by the general assembly or under general law by resolution of any combination of municipalities and counties or by any county in the state of Georgia and any contiguous county in an adjoining state. North Carolina in 2003 authorized Clay County which shares a

border with Towns County in Georgia, by resolution of its governing body, to create a joint development agency with a contiguous county in an adjoining state. The resolution creating a joint development authority specifies the number and composition of the board. Joint authorities conduct a variety of projects including air and water pollution control facilities, sewage and solid waste disposal facilities, and industrial parks. The authorities may issue revenue bonds. These authorities may be designated as a development authority, an industrial development authority, or an economic development authority.

Development authorities lacking the autonomy to be classified as independent governments are classified as dependent agencies of the counties or municipalities they serve. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Dougherty County Stadium Authority

The Dougherty County Stadium Authority(formerly listed as the Albany Stadium Authority) was authorized by special act. The governing body is appointed by the city and county governing bodies and by the county board of education. The authority may fix and collect fees and may issue revenue bonds.

Fort Valley Utility Commission

This commission was created and operates pursuant to the charter of the city of Fort Hunt. The five-member commission consists of the mayor of Fort Valley serving ex officio and four elected members. The commission may fix and collect fees and issue revenue bonds. Excess revenues are transferred to the city of Fort Valley for general government purposes.

Harris County Public Improvements Authority

This authority was created by a special act to provide water supply, water distribution, wastewater collection, and sewerage infrastructure and recreational facilities associated with the dam and reservoir for water supply in a planned development area in Harris County. The authority is also authorized

to acquire and operate facilities for the operation of gas or electric generation and distribution. It is governed by a board appointed by the county governing body. The authority may fix and collect fees for its services and may issue revenue bonds. Revenue bonds for the purchase, construction, extension, or operation of gas or electric generation and distribution systems are subject to voter approval. This authority currently is inactive.

Hospital Authorities

Hospital authorities may be created by resolution of one or more county or municipal governing bodies to provide hospital facilities. A board of trustees appointed by the creating governing body(ies) governs each authority. The authority board may issue bonds, fix and collect fees for services, and accept gifts and grants. Although these entities have no authority to levy taxes, the governing body of a county or city may levy an annual ad valorem tax to pay for services or facilities provided by the authorities.

Housing Authorities

Housing authorities may be organized in any county or city where the governing body has adopted a resolution declaring the need for a housing authority. The mayor or the county governing body appoints the commissioners of city or county housing authorities, respectively. The authorities may issue bonds and fix and collect rentals. Georgia laws also provide that two or more contiguous counties may establish regional housing authorities with the same legal powers as city or county housing authorities. The authorizing resolution determines the composition and size of the board.

Interlocal Risk Management Agencies--1986 Laws

These agencies are created by intergovernmental agreement between two or more governments to pool liability insurance under the provisions of either of two laws: one applying to local governments and the other to

school districts. The number and the manner of selection of the agency trustees are specified in the intergovernmental agreement. The agency may fix rates for its services.

Joint Liberty County, City of Gum Branch, City of Midway, City of Riceboro, and the City of Walthourville Fire Protection Facilities and Equipment Authority

This authority, created by special act, represents fire departments throughout Liberty County. The board determines fire facility and equipment needs, establishes priorities, and makes recommendations to the county governing body. The board consists of members appointed by the county and cities. A special local option sales tax levied by the county government, subject to voter approval, funds approved county projects and equipment purchases.

Joint Resource Recovery Development Authorities

These authorities are formed for the purpose of recovering and utilizing resources contained in sewage sludge and solid waste and for the generation of electrical and other forms of energy from water resources. They may be created by ordinance or resolution of any number of counties or municipalities regardless of location. Each participating governing body appoints two members, and the board of the authority appoints one additional member. The authorities may issue bonds.

As of fiscal year 2007, no joint resource recovery development authorities were reported in operation.

Lake Authorities

Two lake authorities have been created by special acts.

The Acworth Lake Authority was created to provide recreational facilities. The Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority was created to preserve Lake Allatoona. Both authorities are governed by regional boards appointed by

the participating governments; the board of the Acworth Lake Authority also includes ex officio members. The authorities may fix and collect fees.

The Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority may issue bonds. The Kinchafoonee Lake Authority statute remains active; however, the lake was never constructed and the authority never organized.

Lamar County Livestock and Agricultural Exposition Authority

This authority was created by special act to construct and operate livestock and agricultural exposition facilities. It is governed by a board appointed by the county and municipal governing bodies in its service area. The authority may fix and collect fees and issue revenue bonds.

Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority

This authority was created by a 1980 special act to acquire and operate a transit system for the City of Macon and Bibb County upon joint resolution by the governing bodies. A board of seven members governs the authority, of whom four are appointed by the mayor of the City of Macon with the consent of the city council and three are appointed by the Bibb County board of commissioners. The authority may set fares and other charges and issue bonds.

Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority

This authority was authorized by a constitutional amendment to operate the transit system in the Atlanta area. It is administered by an 18-member board of directors composed of four members appointed by the city council of Atlanta and ten members appointed by the governing bodies of the counties in the authority, plus the commissioner of the state department of transportation, the state revenue commissioner, the director of the state properties commission, and the executive director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority. The authority may fix and collect

fees and issue revenue bonds. In addition, the authority receives the proceeds of a sales tax.

Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia

This authority was created by 1975 legislation to generate and transmit electric power for sale at wholesale to political subdivisions in the state. The governing body consists of nine members selected by representatives of participating local governments. The authority may impose rates, fees, and other charges on member governments and may issue revenue bonds.

Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia

This authority was created by 1987 legislation to provide wholesale supplies of gas to member governments which own and operate natural gas distribution systems. The governing body consists of nine members selected by representatives of participating local governments. The authority may impose fees and set rates for member governments and may issue revenue bonds.

Recreation Authorities

These authorities are created by special acts to provide park and recreation facilities. They are governed by boards appointed by benefitted local governments. Most authorities may fix and collect fees and issue revenue bonds. The state legislature has authorized the following authorities:

- Americus-Sumter County Parks and Recreation Authority
- Chatsworth-Murray County Recreation Authority
- City of Hartwell Recreation Authority
- Dublin-Laurens County Recreation Authority
- Lincoln County Recreation Authority
- Miller County Recreation Authority
- Towns County Recreation Authority
- Twiggs County Recreation Authority

Recreation authorities lacking the autonomy to be classified as independent governments are classified as dependent agencies of the

counties or municipalities they server. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Regional Jail Authorities

Authorities to fund and operate jail facilities may be created by resolution of two or more counties or two or more municipalities within the same county and approval by the county sheriffs of counties entering into the agreement. Authorities formed by counties are governed by a board composed of the sheriff of each county, one member appointed by each member county, and one member appointed by the aforementioned appointees. Authorities formed by municipalities are governed by a board consisting of two members appointed by each member municipality and one appointed by the aforementioned members. An authority may fix and collect fees for services and issue revenue bonds.

Regional jail authorities lacking the autonomy to be classified as independent governments are classified as dependent agencies of the counties or municipalities they serve. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Regional Joint Public Safety and Judicial Facilities Authorities

Any number of counties or municipal corporations or a combination of counties and municipalities may jointly form a regional joint authority by local ordinance or resolution of each participant. The governing body is appointed as specified in the joint agreement. Each member, in the creating ordinance or resolution, must declare that a sales tax for public transit is being levied. Projects of such authorities include detention facilities; judicial facilities; and public safety facilities for direct support of management and operation of homeland security, police, fire, rescue, and emergency medical services. Jurisdictions with activated public safety and judicial facilities authorities are prohibited from also activating joint authorities after May 24, 2007. After May 24, 2007, authority projects are subject to referendum. Revenues include gifts,

grants, appropriations by member governments, and rentals. Authorities may issue bonds. No regional authorities have been reported.

Authorities activated by a single jurisdiction and regional authorities lacking sufficient autonomy to be classified as independent governments are classified as dependent agencies of the counties or municipalities they serve. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Regional Solid Waste Management Authorities

Regional authorities to provide the collection and disposal of solid waste are created by ordinance of the governing body of two or more county or municipal governments. A board of directors, consisting of representatives appointed by the participating governments, governs each authority. The authorities may fix and collect rentals and other charges and may issue revenue bonds. Some of these authorities have been established by special acts.

Authorities lacking sufficient autonomy to be classified as independent governments are classified as dependent agencies of the counties or municipalities they serve. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below

Savannah Economic Development Authority

This authority was established by constitutional amendment in 1951 as the Savannah District Authority. It subsequently was called the Savannah Port Authority (the Port of Savannah was owned and operated by the Georgia Ports Authority). The authority may acquire, construct, operate, sell, or lease various self-liquidating projects such as industrial and manufacturing plants, wharves, docks, roads, bridges, terminals, and ferries. A 19-member board administers the authority; some members are appointed by the mayor of the City of Savannah with the consent of the city council, some by the Chatham County governing body, and others by the chair of the authority with the consent of the other

members. The authority may issue revenue bonds and fix and collect rentals and charges for its facilities and services.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Soil and water conservation districts may be formed by the state soil and water conservation commission on petition of local landowners, after a local referendum. A board of supervisors of at least five members governs each district, with two members appointed by the state soil and water conservation commission and the others elected. In districts serving three or more counties, the state soil and water conservation commission appoints one member per county and the rest are elected. These authorities may impose charges on benefitted landowners and may accept grants.

South Cobb Development Authority

This authority originally was created by special act for redevelopment and revitalization purposes in the Mableton area of southern Cobb County. The original authority was dissolved and reconstituted as an advisory body to the board of county commissioners. The authority is governed by a board of seven members including one appointed by the chairman of the county commission who serves with no term limit, three elected by property owners, and three elected by business owners.

South Georgia Governmental Services Authority

This authority, which succeeded the South Georgia Business Development Authority, was created by special act to provide broadband cable television and Internet services, particularly a fiber optic network, to specified counties and cities. The eight-member board is appointed by the cities of Cairo, Camilla, Moultrie, and Thomasville and may include city or county officials ex officio. Each member city contracts with the authority to provide management and marketing services for the city's individually owned broadband communications system. The authority

procures certain goods and services on behalf of member cities with member cities reimbursing the authority and also providing annual funding in the form of dues and contributed capital. The authority may issue bonds.

South Georgia Regional Information Technology Authority

This authority was created in 2007 by special act to provide communication services including broadband, Internet, cable television, and associated services to private and public users in the counties of Baker, Calhoun, Early, Miller, and Mitchell. The 11-member board is comprised of two residents from each county appointed by the governing authority of the county and one member appointed by the other members of the authority. The authority is authorized to accept grants and gifts; to fix and collect rates, fees, and charges for services, facilities, and commodities; and to issue revenue bonds.

Tourism Authorities

Tourism authorities, with a variety of names, have been created by special acts. These authorities construct, maintain, and operate convention centers, arenas, parks, or tourism related facilities. Most are governed by boards appointed by the creating government, but some boards also represent the state, private interests, or other governments such as industrial authorities. The authorities may fix and collect fees and may issue revenue bonds. The following tourism authorities have been authorized:

Adel-Cook County Tourism Authority
Commerce Civic Center and Tourism Authority
DeKalb County Civic Center Authority
Douglasville Convention and Conference Center Authority
Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism Authority

Tourism authorities lacking the autonomy to be classified as independent governments are classified as dependent agencies of the

counties or municipalities they server. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

Water and Sewer Authorities (special acts)

A number of water and sewer authorities to provide water supply or sewerage or both have been created by special acts but with substantially similar provisions. They are administered by boards appointed by officials of the governments they serve. Each water and sewer authority may issue revenue bonds and impose charges for services. Some of these authorities are designated as "utilities authorities."

Water and sewer authorities that are governed by the county commissioners ex officio or otherwise lack the autonomy to be classified as independent governments are classified as dependent agencies of the counties or municipalities they serve. See "Subordinate Agencies and Areas," below.

West Jackson Fire District

This district was authorized by a special act to provide fire protection services for the western portion of Jackson County. An elected board governs the district. The district may levy ad valorem taxes.

West Jackson Fire District is one of ten volunteer fire districts in Jackson County and the only district created by constitutional amendment. All ten districts have elected boards and levy ad valorem taxes and are included in the county's financial reporting.

SUBORDINATE AGENCIES AND AREAS

Shown below are various governmental designations in Georgia that have certain characteristics of governmental units but that are classified in census statistics as subordinate agencies of the state or local governments and are not counted as separate governments. Legal provisions for some of the larger of these are discussed below (see "Public School Systems," above, regarding educational agencies of this nature).

Georgia Building Authority and Georgia Education Authority (state). These authorities have been established to provide for a variety of public buildings including buildings for markets, prisons, hospitals, universities, schools, and state offices. Substantially similar legal provisions apply to each agency. Their governing bodies include state officers in an ex officio capacity plus an additional member appointed by the Governor. These authorities receive revenues from rentals and charges for facilities and may issue revenue bonds.

Georgia Highway Authority (state). This agency was established by act of the general assembly to build state highways and bridges. The authority board consists of the Governor, the commissioner of transportation, and the director of the office of planning and budget. The authority may fix rentals and may issue revenue bonds.

Georgia Housing and Finance Authority (state). This authority, formerly the Georgia Residential Finance Authority, was authorized by act of the general assembly to provide mortgage credit for low- and moderate-income housing. The authority is governed by the board of community affairs serving in an ex officio capacity. The authority may fix and collect fees for facilities and services in connection with its loans and may issue revenue bonds.

Georgia Ports Authority (state). This authority was established by a 1945 general law to acquire, build, operate, and maintain port facilities. Members of the authority governing board are appointed by the Governor. The authority may fix and collect fees and issue revenue bonds. The authority owns the Port of Savannah and the Port of Brunswick as well as the inland Port of Bainbridge and Port of Columbus. The authority operates some facilities and leases others to private operators.

Private Colleges and Universities Authority (state). This authority was created by act of the general assembly to finance facilities for

private institutions of higher education. A board of five members appointed by the Governor governs the authority. The authority may fix and collect fees and may issue revenue bonds.

State Road and Tollway Authority (state). This agency was authorized by act of the general assembly to build toll highway facilities. Authority board members consist of the Governor, the commissioner of transportation, the director of the office of planning and budget, and one member each appointed by the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives. The authority may fix and collect tolls and may issue revenue bonds.

Urban redevelopment agencies (municipal or county). A municipality or county, in lieu of undertaking urban redevelopment itself or conferring the power on a housing authority or on a downtown development authority may, by resolution, establish an urban redevelopment agency. An agency board of commissioners, appointed by the mayor or by the board of county commissioners, governs each agency. These agencies may issue revenue bonds.

Other examples include:

State^{11,12}

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund
Commission
George L. Smith II Georgia World Congress Center Authority
Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority
Georgia Agrirama Development Authority
Georgia Development Authority
Georgia Education Trust
Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
Georgia Environmental Training and Education Authority
Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Authority
Georgia High Risk Health Insurance Plan
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corporation
Georgia Higher Education Facilities Authority
Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority¹³
Georgia Lottery Corporation

Georgia Medical Center Authority
Georgia Music Hall of Fame Authority
Georgia Public Telecommunications
Commission
Georgia Rail Passenger Authority
Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
Georgia Seed Development Commission
Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority
Georgia Student Finance Authority
Georgia Student Finance Commission
Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative
Authority
Georgia Technology Authority¹⁴
Jekyll Island State Park Authority
Lake Lanier Islands Development Authority
North Georgia Mountains Authority
Oconee River Greenway Authority
OneGeorgia Authority
Power Alley Development Authority
Regional mental health, developmental
disabilities, and addictive diseases planning
boards
Sapelo Island Heritage Authority
Southwest Georgia Railroad Excursion
Authority
Stone Mountain Memorial Association

County^{15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23}

Agencies established under general law:
Community mental health, developmental
disabilities, and addictive diseases service
boards (governed by county boards of health)
County boards of health
Development authorities (industrial and
economic)
Health districts (one or more counties)
Public safety and judicial facilities authorities
Recreation systems created as authorities
under general law
Regional public libraries
Residential care facilities for the elderly
authorities
Resource recovery development authorities
Solid waste management authorities

Agencies established under special act:

Agribusiness development authorities
Airport authorities (county)
Bibb County public service districts²⁴
Building authorities

Camden County Public Service Authority
Catoosa County Public Works Authority
Chatham Area Transit Authority
Chatham-Savannah Authority for the
Homeless
Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority
Coliseum authorities (county)
Community improvement districts (lacking
sufficient autonomy including those in the
counties of Burke, Douglas, Fulton, Henry, and
Sumter)
Development authorities (economic and
industrial)
Fire districts with separate financial
administration
Briggs Fire Protection District (Brooks
County)²⁵
Douglas County Fire District²⁶
Livestock and agricultural exposition authorities
Museum authorities (county)
Public facilities authorities
Recreation authorities (county)
Recycling authorities (county)
Tourism authorities (county)
Water and sewer authorities (county)

Municipal^{27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34}

Agencies established under general law:

Business improvement districts
Development authorities (industrial and
economic) created under general law
Downtown development authorities
Public safety and judicial facilities authorities
Recreation systems created as authorities
under general law
Regional public libraries
Residential care facilities for the elderly
authorities
Resource recovery development authorities
Solid waste management authorities
Urban residential finance authorities for large
municipalities

Agencies established under various special
acts:

Airport authorities (municipal)
Albany-Dougherty Inner City Authority³⁵
Augusta Canal Authority
Augusta Port Authority³⁶

Building authorities
Business improvement districts in Atlanta
Coliseum authorities
Columbus Industrial and Port Development Commission
Community improvement districts (lacking sufficient autonomy including those in Atlanta and Dahlonega)
Convention center authorities
Convention and visitors bureau authorities (municipal)
Development authorities (industrial and economic)
Downtown development authorities
Park and recreation authorities
Parking authorities (municipal)
Tourism authorities (municipal)
Utility commissions (municipal)

Georgia laws also provide for various types of local areas for election purposes and administration of justice.

1 Echols County has no municipalities within its boundaries.

2 The town of Bibb City, previously located within the area of Muscogee County, was disincorporated as a separate municipal government effective December 7, 2000. The city of Winterville, located within the area of Clarke County, continues to exist as a separate municipal government. The city of Hephzibah and the town of Blythe continue to exist as separate municipal governments in the Richmond County area.

3 Upon ratification of the Georgia Constitution of 1983, all authorities and districts created by constitutional amendment, except those that were subsequently legislatively continued, were repealed. Districts and authorities created subsequent to the 1983 constitution have been created under general law or by special act.

4 The Albany-Dougherty Inner City Authority, previously classified as a special district, was reclassified as a dependent activity of the city of Albany, effective for the 2007 Census of Governments.

5 The City of LaGrange Gas Authority, previously classified as a special district, was reclassified as a dependent activity of the city of LaGrange effective for the 2007 Census of Governments. The authority issued debt to finance the installation of new natural gas distribution infrastructure for the city owned and operated gas utility.

6 The Emanuel County Jail Authority, previously classified as a special district, was reclassified as a dependent activity of Emanuel County, effective for the 2007 Census of Governments.

7 The Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority, previously classified as a special district, was reclassified as a state agency effective for the 2007 Census of Governments.

8 The Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority, classified as a special district for the 2002 Census of Governments, has been reinstated as a joint venture of Macon and Bibb County and for statistical purposes has been assigned to the city of Macon, the dominant partner.

9 Payroll development authorities, classified as special districts for the 2002 Census of Governments, have been reclassified as dependent activities of their respective county and city governments. Payroll development authorities were first authorized in 1962. Those that remain operate under the creating constitutional amendments.

10 Effective January 1, 1996, the county commissioners abolished all county fire prevention districts in Walker County. The county government provides fire and rescue services.

11 The Augusta Port Authority, previously classified as a state dependent activity, has been reclassified as a dependent activity of the consolidated government of Augusta-Richmond County, effective for the 2007 Census of Governments.

12 Joint authorities for emergency 911 systems, previously classified as state dependent agencies, were reclassified as joint county-municipal dependent agencies for the 2007 Census of Governments.

13 The Georgia International and Maritime Trade Center Authority, prior to the 2007 Census of Governments, was classified as a special district.

14 The GeorgiaNet Authority was succeeded by the Georgia Technology Authority.

15 Catoosa County sewerage districts, authorized in 1962, no longer exist. Sewerage activities within the county were transferred to the county's two cities, Fort Oglethorpe and Ringgold.

16 Separately administered fire prevention and fire protection districts no longer exist in Charlton, Cobb, Gordon, Paulding, and Thomas counties.

17 Chatham County water, sewer, sanitation, fire protection, garbage and trash collection, and street construction districts authorized by 1960 and 1971 legislation no longer exist.

18 Coweta County sanitation, water, sewerage, and fire protection districts authorized by 1964 legislation no longer exist.

19 The DeKalb County Solid Waste Disposal Authority, authorized by 1976 legislation, no longer exists.

20 The Floyd County sanitation, water, sewerage, and fire prevention districts authorized by 1953 legislation no longer exist.

21 The Fulton County Sanitary and Sewer District, authorized by 1939 and subsequent 1949 legislation, no longer exists.

22 The Griffin-Spalding County Personal Care Health Board, authorized by 1991 legislation, no longer exists.

23 The Gwinnett County fire protection and sewerage districts, authorized by 1966

legislation, no longer exist.

24 Authorization for Bibb County public service districts, originally authorized by 1943 legislation, was continued legislatively in 1988.

25 Briggs County Fire Protection District is the only county fire protection district in Brooks County having financial administration separate from the county government.

26 The Douglas County Fire District is a countywide district.

27 The Atlanta (City of) Group Insurance Board Authority, authorized in 1947, no longer exists.

28 The Clarke County sanitation, water, sewerage and fire protection districts, authorized in 1961, no longer exist.

29 The Columbus Industrial and Port Development Commission currently is inactive. State legislation in 2006 authorized termination of the commission, subject to local referendum.

30 The Conyers Athletic Authority does not exist.

31 The East Point Parking Authority has been inactive for more than 10 years.

32 The Marietta Parking Authority no longer exists.

33 The Savannah River Bridge Commission, created by constitutional amendment in 1947 for the city of Savannah, no longer exists.

34 The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission, created in 1949, is a part of the Savannah-Chatham County Planning Commission.

35 The Albany-Dougherty Inner City Authority, previously classified as a special district, was reclassified as a dependent activity of the city of Albany, effective for the 2007 Census of Governments.

36 The Augusta Port Authority, previously classified as a state dependent activity, has been reclassified as a dependent activity of the consolidated government of Augusta-

Richmond County, effective for the 2007 Census of Governments.