

Local Government Jobs

How Georgia's local governments began and what they do.

SS8CG6.a "Explain the origins and purposes, of city, county, and special-purpose governments in Georgia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that explain how each type of local government began. Circle the words that explain its purpose, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside county, city, and special-purpose government information.

Government Close to Home

- ① Georgia's local governments grew because people needed public decisions close to home. After the American Revolution, Georgia's 1777 constitution replaced colonial parishes with eight counties. As settlement spread, the state created more counties, and Georgia now has 159. A county is a political subdivision of the state, not an independent state. County governments serve residents across both cities and unincorporated areas. They commonly manage elections, courts, public records, law enforcement, and roads, although the exact services can differ from county to county.
- ② Cities, also called municipalities, begin when a community seeks incorporation and the Georgia General Assembly grants a charter through local legislation. The charter establishes the city's boundaries and government. Cities exist so a concentrated community can provide services and make local rules for its own area. Depending on the charter and local choices, a city may operate police or fire services, maintain streets, provide parks, collect garbage, or manage water service. A person living inside city limits may receive city services as well as county services.
- ③ Special-purpose governments are created to carry out one focused public job that may cross city or county boundaries. Georgia law can create authorities, districts, or other public bodies for needs such as water and sewer systems, public transportation, hospitals, housing, or economic development. Their limited mission distinguishes them from a city or county, which handles many kinds of services. For example, a development authority may work to attract businesses and jobs, while a water authority may build and operate water facilities. These governments allow communities to organize expertise and funding around a particular need.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What did Georgia's 1777 constitution replace, and what local government system did it create?

2 According to the passage, how does a community become a city in Georgia?

3 How is the purpose of a county different from the purpose of a special-purpose government?

4 How can a special-purpose government serve more than one local area? Use one example from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Two neighboring Georgia counties need one shared water system. In 3 sentences, recommend the type of local government that should handle this need, explain how it could be created, and explain why it fits better than a city or county government.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the words that explain how each type of local government began. Circle the words that explain its purpose, then write 1, 2, or 3 beside county, city, and special-purpose government information. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Georgia's 1777 constitution replace, and what local government system did it create?	It replaced colonial parishes with eight counties, beginning Georgia's county system.
2	According to the passage, how does a community become a city in Georgia?	The community seeks incorporation, and the Georgia General Assembly grants a charter through local legislation.
3	How is the purpose of a county different from the purpose of a special-purpose government?	A county serves residents and manages many services, such as elections, courts, records, law enforcement, and roads. A special-purpose government has one focused public job.
4	How can a special-purpose government serve more than one local area? Use one example from the passage.	Its focused job may cross city or county boundaries. For example, a water authority can build and operate water facilities for an area.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A special-purpose water authority would fit this need. It could be created under Georgia law to build and operate a shared water system across both counties. Its focused mission would fit the project better than a city or county government that manages many services.

Accept a special-purpose government, especially a water authority, with an accurate explanation that Georgia law can create it for one focused need. Students should contrast its limited mission with the broader services of a city or county.