

Government and Constitutions: U.S. vs GA

The Georgia Constitution contains many similarities as well as differences to the U. S. Constitution.

DIRECTIONS: Read through the list below. Create a Venn Diagram in your IN and place the facts in the correct area of the Diagram. Read carefully- some of the descriptions contain similarities AS WELL AS details that are unique to Georgia government or US government! Make sure your diagram is has enough room for all of these details! :)

- Both governments adopt the concept of separation of powers with specific legislative, executive and judicial branches.
- Georgia's Constitution is longer in length due to the specific, detailed policies.
- Georgia voters must approve any amendments to the constitution while there is no comparable role for amending the U. S. Constitution.
- Georgia's Constitution requires that the state maintain a balanced budget while the U.S. Constitution does not place that limitation on the federal government.
- According to the Georgia Constitution, the Georgia Governor has line-item veto power (can cut a specific item in a spending bill) while the U. S. President does not have the same power.
- The legislative branches (the U.S. Congress and the Georgia General Assembly) are bicameral and each calls the two chambers the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- Georgia elects almost all of its judges on non-partisan (non-partisan: not biased or partisan, especially toward any particular political group) ballots while the President nominates judges for Senate approval.
- Both governments allow judicial review (the power of the courts to declare acts unconstitutional.)
- Legislators (both Senators and Representatives) in Georgia serve two-year terms while at the national level, Representatives serve two-year terms and Senators serve six-year terms.
- The Georgia Governor does not function with a cabinet of advisors as does the President.
- Each constitution contains a bill of rights (U.S. and Georgia constitutions).
- The Georgia Constitution provides detailed information regarding how local governments should function. The U. S. Constitution does not mention local government.
- Executive leaders of the U.S. and Georgia both have power to appoint officials and veto bills.

