**SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GEORGIA AND U.S. CONSTITUTIONS**

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

**Similarities** include:

• Each constitution contains a bill of rights.

• Each adopts the concept of separation of powers with specific legislative, executive and judicial branches.

• Executive leaders have power to appoint officials and veto bills.

• The legislative branches (the U.S. Congress and the Georgia General Assembly) are bicameral and each calls its two chambers the Senate and the House of Representatives.

• Both governments allow judicial review (the power of the courts to declare acts unconstitutional.)

**Differences** include:

• 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.

• Georgia elects almost all of its judges on non-partisan ballots while the President nominates judges for Senate approval.

• 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.

• The Georgia Constitution provides detailed information regarding how local governments should function. The U. S. Constitution does not mention local government.