



Understanding Georgia Legislative Session

Introduction

The Georgia Legislative Session is essential for building informed and empowered communities through legislative decision making and public feedback. The decisions made during this period directly affect daily life, from education funding and housing policies to public safety, healthcare, and voting laws. When residents understand how the legislative process works, they are better equipped to advocate for their needs, hold elected officials accountable, and participate meaningfully in shaping public policy. Civic literacy is a powerful tool for transparency, equity, and stronger democratic engagement.

What is the Legislative Session?



The Georgia Legislative Session is the period each year when the Georgia General Assembly meets to propose, debate, and pass laws. The Georgia General Assembly is made up of the Georgia House of Representatives (180 members) and the Georgia State Senate (56 members). During this time, elected officials create laws that affect education, healthcare, housing, transportation, criminal justice, state taxes, voting laws, state budget, etc. Bills that become a Georgia State law begin during the legislative session, making this period a crucial moment of deciding the everyday lives of Georgia residents.

When Does the Georgia Legislative Session Occur?

Legislative Session begins annually each January, typically on the second Monday.

- Lasts for **40 Legislative Days**
- Those 40 days do not take place consecutively. They are spread out between **January and late March or early April.**
- The last and final day of session is known as **Sine Die.**



How Does a Bill Become a Law?

When proposing a new bill to become voted into a law, there is an extensive process that takes place during Legislative Session.

Bill Introduction

- A legislator (Representative or Senator) introduces a bill.
- The bill is assigned to a committee.

Committee Review

- The committee studies the bill.
- Public hearings may be held.
- Citizens, experts, and advocates can provide testimony.
- The committee may:
 - Approve the bill
 - Amend (change) the bill
 - Reject the bill

Chamber Vote

- If approved by committee, the bill goes to the full House or Senate for debate.
- Members discuss and vote.
- If it passes, it moves to the other chamber (House → Senate or Senate → House).

Second Chamber Review

- The process repeats in the opposite chamber:
 - Committee review
 - Debate
 - Vote

Final Approval

- If both chambers pass the same version of the bill, it goes to the Governor.
- If there are differences, a conference committee works out a compromise.

Governor's Action

- The Governor can:
 - **Sign** the bill into law
 - **Veto** the bill
 - Allow it to become law without signing



**WELCOME TO
THE GEORGIA SENATE**

How can the Public Participate?

Community members are encouraged to take full advantage of participating in this Legislative period in multiple ways of engagement.

Attend Committee Meetings

- Most important decisions happen in committees.
- Meetings are generally open to the public.

Provide Public Comment or Testimony

- Individuals can speak at committee hearings.
- Written comments may also be submitted.

Contact Legislators

- Call, email, or schedule meetings with your elected officials.
- Share how proposed bills impact your community.

Official Georgia General Assembly Website

Website: www.legis.ga.gov

You can:

- Search for bills
- Read full bill text

- Check bill status
- Find committee schedules
- Watch live streams of sessions
- Look up your elected officials

Additional Tools:

Search for your Legislative Representatives

Website: <https://pluralpolicy.com/open/>