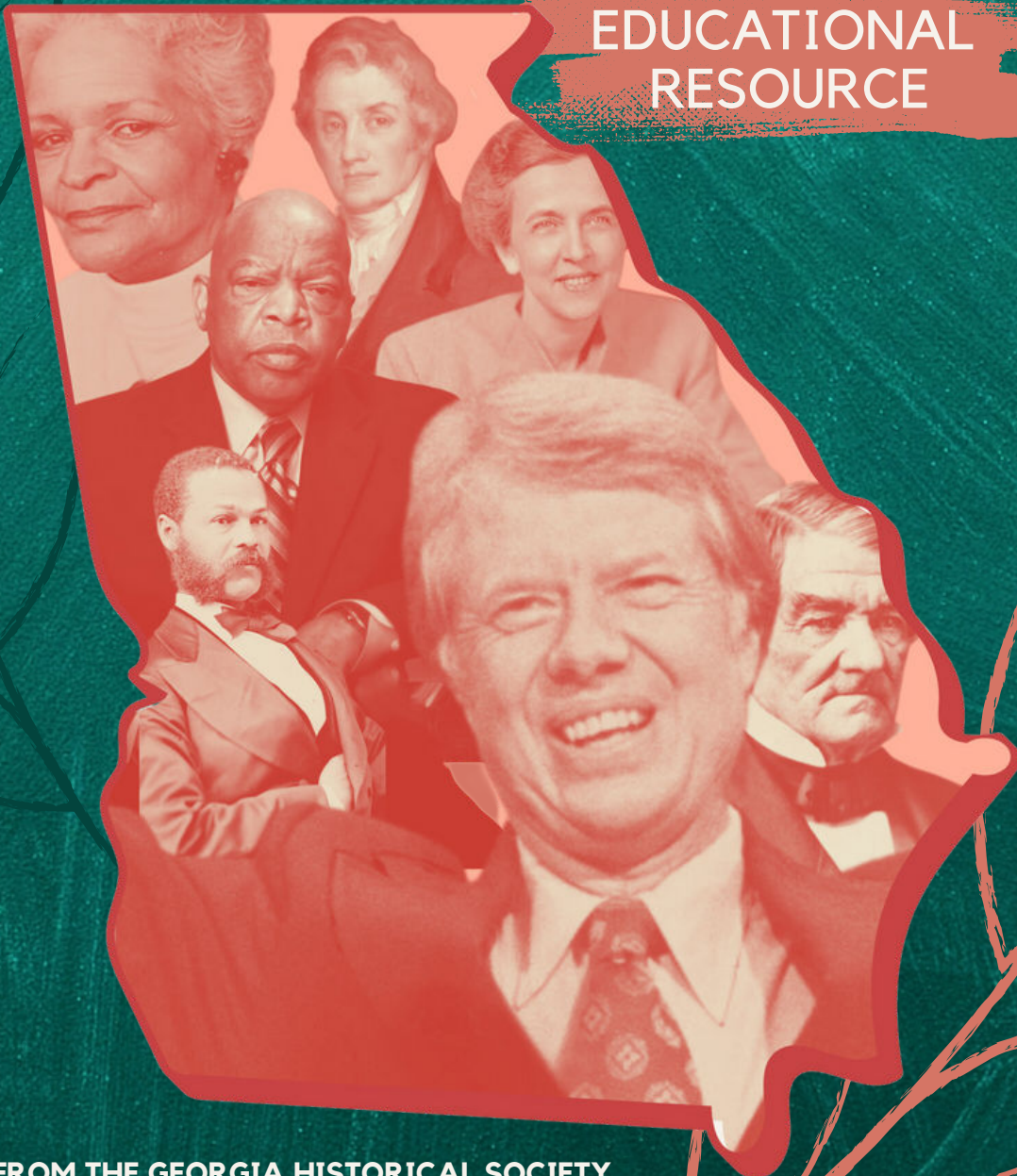


# A Legacy of Leadership

EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCE



FROM THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# A Legacy of Leadership

AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FROM

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

To support the 2024 Georgia Day Banner and Art Competitions, GHS presents classroom-ready resources that encourage students to explore "A Legacy of Leadership." Comprised of a unique digital resource, a primary source set, and a teacher guide, this new classroom resource bundle helps students understand how Georgia's elected officials have demonstrated leadership qualities and executed their responsibility to govern. All resource elements are aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

This standards-based resource features elected officials throughout our state's history to better help students understand some of the most significant moments and trends in Georgia and American history through the stories of our most influential leaders.



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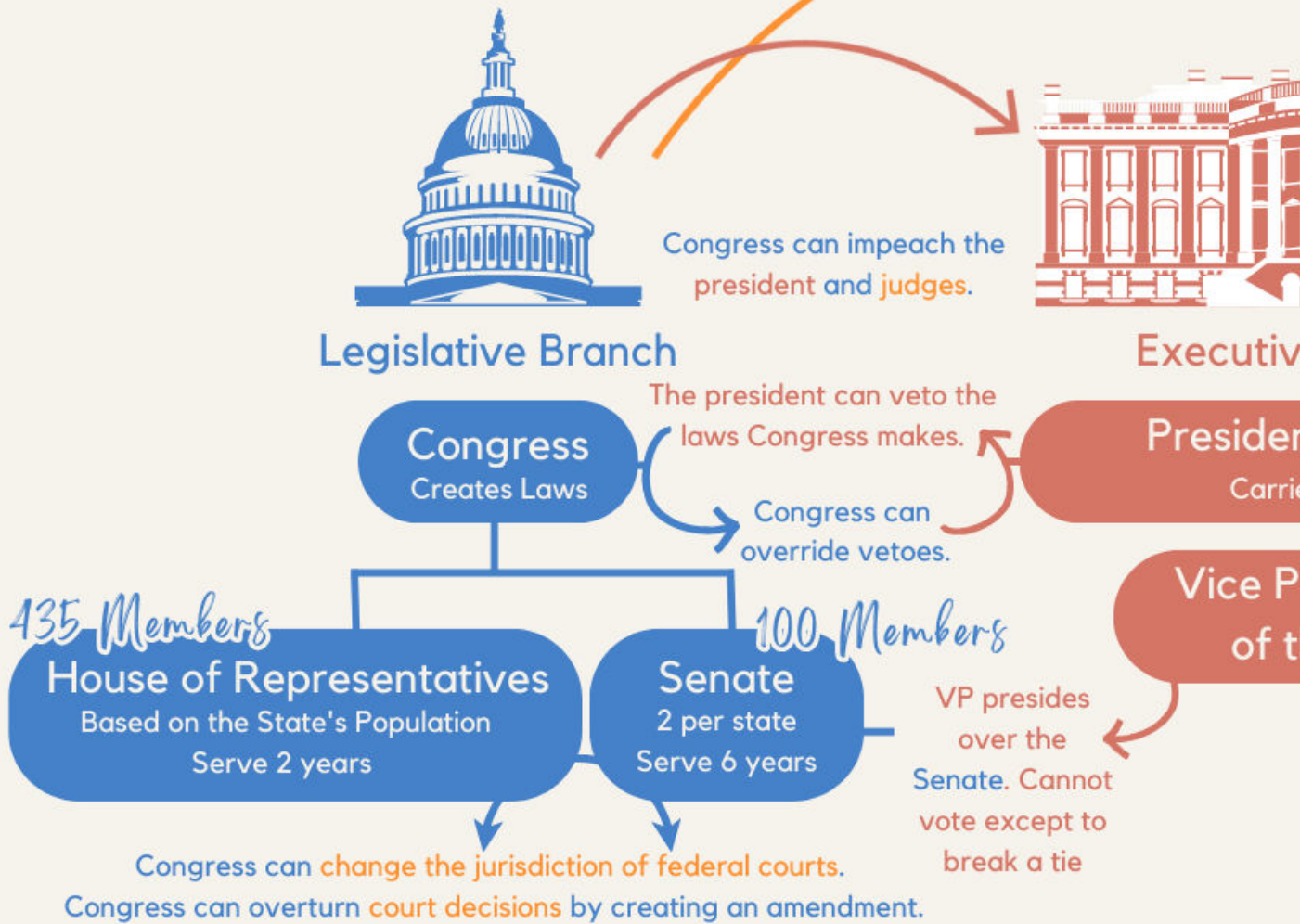
The text for *A Legacy of Leadership* has been color-coded to aid readers.

**Example:** Primary source from a historic event highlighted in the text.

**Example:** Primary or secondary source depicting an individual leader highlighted in the text.

**Example:** [Links](#) to the Georgia Historical Society's website. The links go to primary and secondary sources about the historical events and people highlighted in the text. (Usable only online or downloaded virtual PDF)

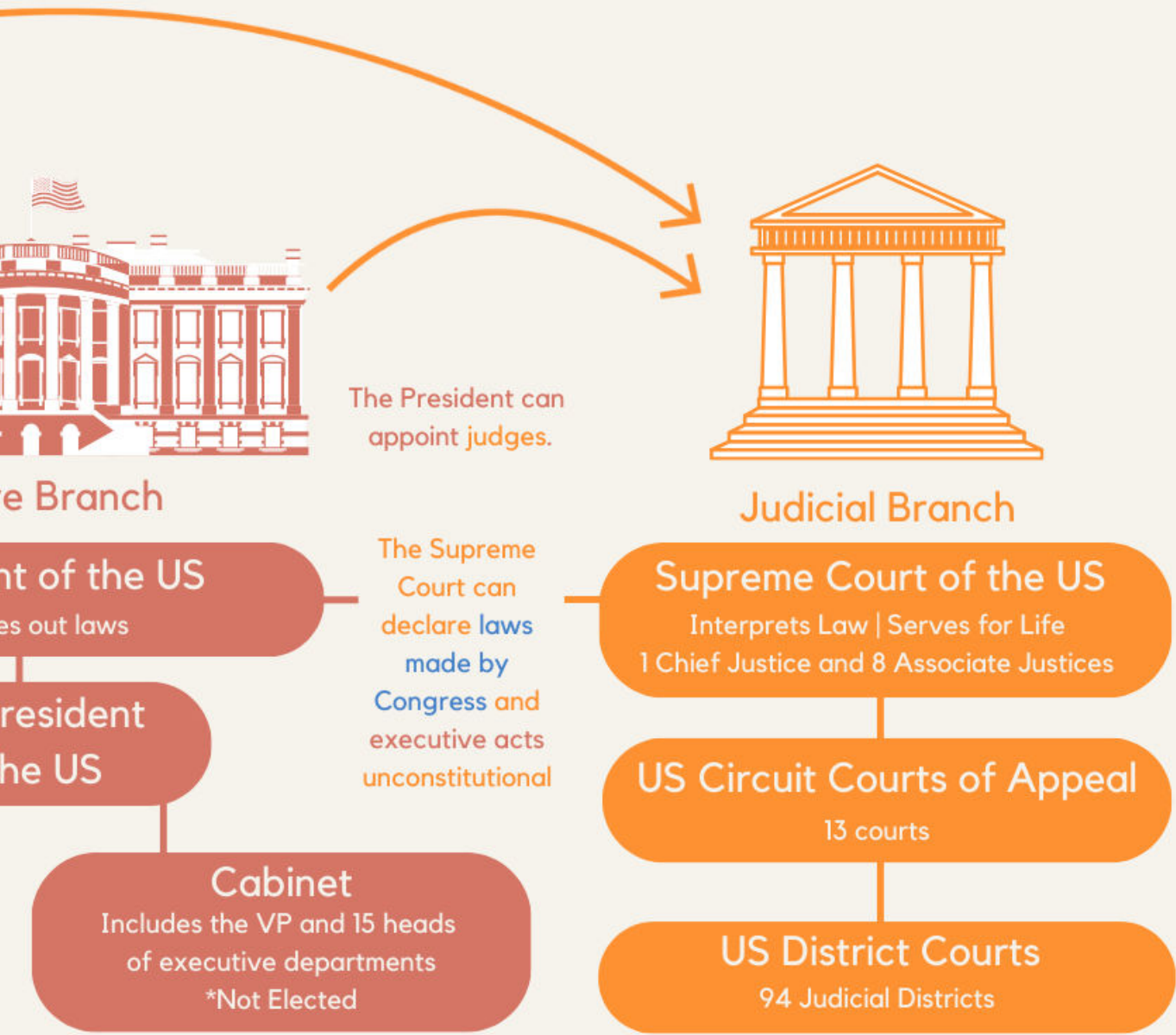
# US Federal Government



For more info about Georgia's government please visit [GEORGIA.GOV](http://GEORGIA.GOV)

These three branches exist at every level of our country's government — federal, state, and local. Here's a quick overview of how it works in Georgia's state government.

- Legislative** - The **Georgia General Assembly** is comprised of the **Georgia Senate** and the **Georgia House of Representatives**.
- Executive** - The head of state is the **governor**. Other executive elected officials include the **attorney general**, and **state school superintendent**.
- Judicial** - Georgia's judicial system has two appellate-level courts: the **Supreme Court** and the **Court of Appeals**. It also has five classes of trial-level courts: the **superior**, **state**, **probate**, **municipal**, and **county** courts.



ederal, state, and local.

ate and Georgia House of Representatives.  
als include lieutenant governor, secretary of state,

reme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals of Georgia.  
robate, juvenile, and magistrate courts.

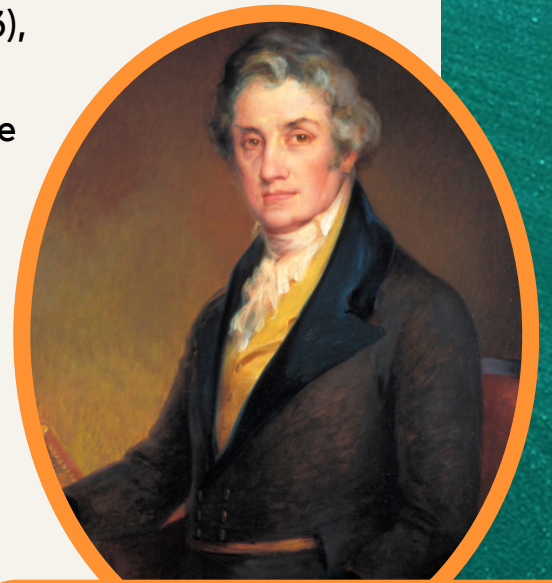
# Leaders Building a Nation

## Abraham Baldwin

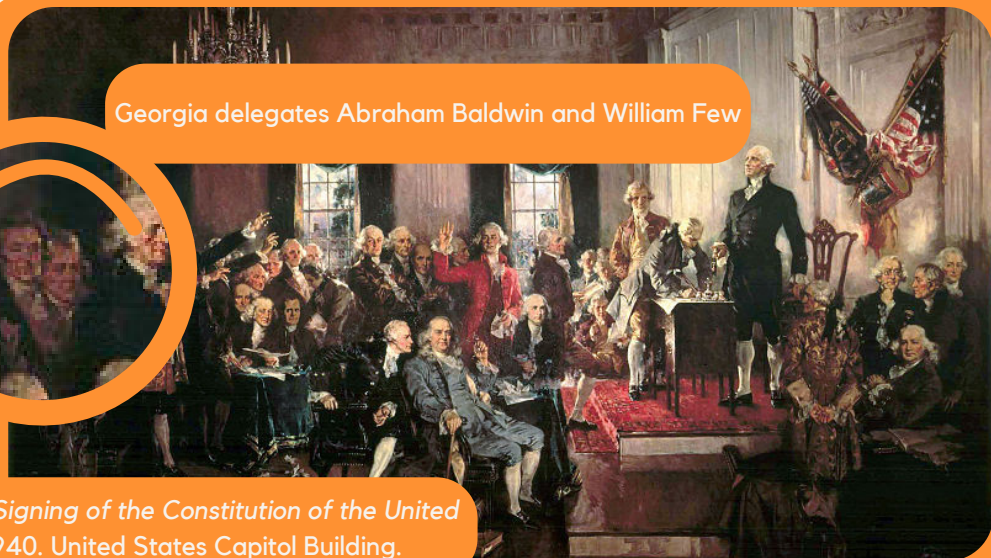
During the [American Revolutionary War](#) (1775-1783), New England-born **Abraham Baldwin** served as a chaplain in the Continental Army. After the war, he followed his friend Nathanael Greene to Georgia to settle in Augusta, practice law, and start his political career. Baldwin was appointed in 1787 to represent Georgia at the **Constitutional Convention** in Philadelphia.

Many leaders believed that the Convention gathered to update the Articles of Confederation, the document that served as the United States's constitution from 1777-1789. The Articles of Confederation carried serious limitations for a federal government that made it impractical.

Weaknesses under the Articles of Confederation included the federal government being unable to impose taxes to fund the government, a strong legislative branch, and contained no executive or judicial branches.



*Abraham Baldwin, Undated.*  
Georgia Museum of Art, GMOA 1949.214.



Georgia delegates Abraham Baldwin and William Few

*Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States, 1940.* United States Capitol Building.

Representation of states in Congress was a major issue. States with larger populations wanted representation based on population. States with more people living in them would receive more representatives. States with smaller populations wanted equal representation regardless of population. Smaller states were concerned that their interests would become secondary to states with a significantly greater population. The smaller states were also concerned because many larger states also had territorial claims that extended beyond the Mississippi River, and had more potential for expanding their population than smaller states with fixed boundaries.

Despite Georgia being a larger state, Baldwin ultimately sided with the smaller states in favor of equal representation. His vote ended the contested debate so delegates could find a compromise. While Georgia had other representatives attend, only **Abraham Baldwin** and **William Few** stayed through all the debates of the Convention and signed the Constitution. After the Convention, Baldwin was elected to the US House of Representatives for five consecutive terms. He was then elected to the Senate for two terms. During his legislative career, Baldwin was a frequent supporter of the policies of Thomas Jefferson and often worked with James Madison.

Baldwin's working **copy of the Constitution**, with his handwritten notes visible in the text and along the margins, is in the collections of the [Georgia Historical Society](#).

*United States Constitution Draft Annotated by Abraham Baldwin, 1787. From the Georgia Historical Society, GHS 1703-01-02-01.*





For the next decade, Ross fought to keep the Cherokee in Georgia. On several occasions, he traveled to Washington, DC, advocating for the Cherokee and seeking support after Congress passed the Indian Removal Act in 1830. In 1831, Ross found an unlikely ally in Chief Justice John Marshall, who ruled that the Cherokee should receive the federal government's protection in *Cherokee Nation v Georgia*. One year later, the Supreme Court declared that Georgia had violated the rights of the Cherokee Nation in [Worcester v Georgia](#). Despite the Supreme Court's rulings and Ross's efforts, Cherokee land was put up for lottery in 1832 and 1833.



John Ross, A Cherokee Chief  
Lithographic, 1843. From the  
Library of Congress, 94513504.

Ross firmly believed that the Cherokee's political strength and their supporters in the US Supreme Court and Whig Party would be enough to protect his nation. Ross fought to keep the Cherokee unified and opposed their removal until 1838, when President Martin Van Buren ordered the US Army into the Cherokee Nation, rounding up the Cherokee into stockades. Ross negotiated to oversee the forced migration of the Cherokee over 800 miles to the Oklahoma Territory. An estimated 4,000 Cherokee died on the "trail where they cried," including John Ross's wife, Quatie.

Despite being removed from their homeland, the Cherokee established a new government in Oklahoma 68 years before its statehood (1907) and is currently the largest tribe in the United States.



John P. Riley Land Grant and Plat, 1832.  
From the Georgia Historical Society,  
GHS 661-01-01-01.

# Leaders during Change

Jefferson Long



*The First Black Senator and Representatives - in the 41st and 42nd Congress of the United States, 1872. From the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-17564.*

Characterized by major social, political, and economic change after the devastation of the American Civil War (1861-1865), the [Reconstruction era](#) (1865-1877) greatly impacted the United States and Georgia. During Reconstruction, formerly enslaved people, or freedmen, experienced new freedoms established by the federal government and the expansion of civil rights under the [13th](#), 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution, which outlawed slavery and established rights of citizenship for all Americans and voting rights for Black men.

Early in Reconstruction, Republicans gained the upper hand in Georgia politics after African Americans were guaranteed full citizenship. This shift in political power allowed for the election of African-American men at both the state and national levels. In 1868, **thirty-two African Americans** were elected to the Georgia General Assembly, and Georgia had its first African-American congressman in **Jefferson Long**.



Hon. Jefferson Franklin Long of GA, c. 1860-1875. From the Library of Congress, LOC 2017894227.

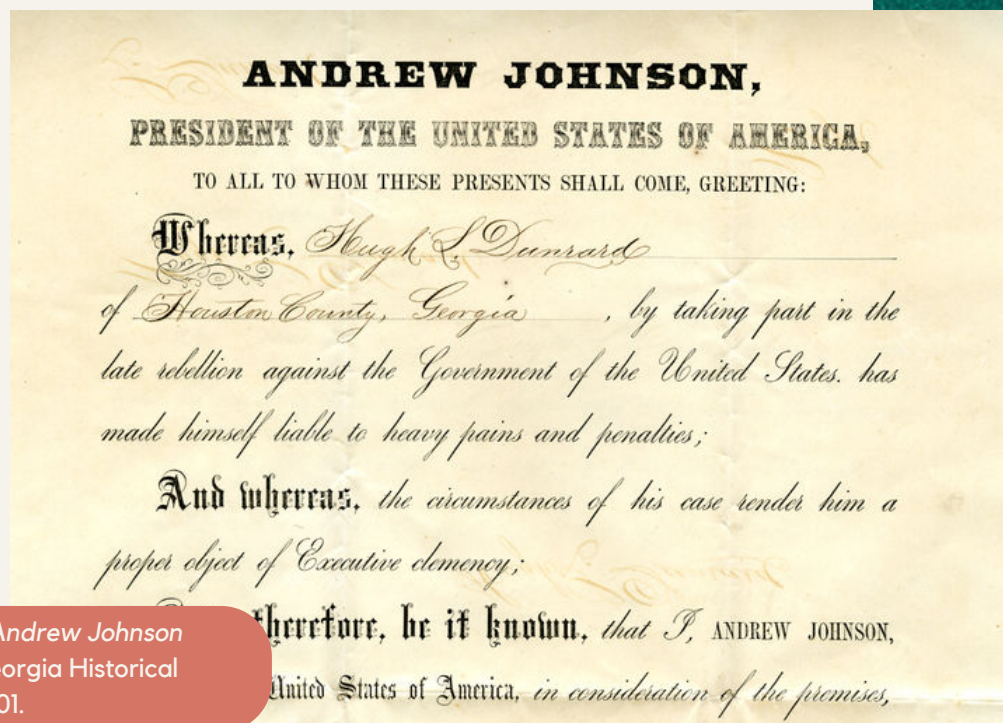
Long was born enslaved in Alabama and later sold to a man in Crawford County, Georgia. In the 1850s, Long was moved to Macon and sold to a local businessman. Jefferson Long taught himself to read and write while setting type for the Macon newspaper. In December 1870, Long won a special election and became the state's first Black

congressman. Long dedicated his life outside of government to humanitarian efforts. He fought for better conditions for African Americans in

the South by advocating for better education and wages and negotiating better terms for sharecroppers.

Long became the first African American to speak on the floor of the US House of Representatives when he opposed **an amnesty bill for former Confederates**. The amnesty bill would restore political rights to former Confederates, softening the political power of Republicans including Black leaders like Long, in the South. When addressing the House of Representatives on February 1, 1871, Long said, "the country is not ready for it." Despite his opposition, the amnesty bill passed by a vote of 118 to 90.

At Reconstruction's end, White conservative Democrats controlled political power. An African American would not represent Georgia in Congress again until Andrew Young's election in 1972.



Top Portion of Pardon from President Andrew Johnson to Hugh L. Dennard, 1865. From the Georgia Historical Society, GHS 1999-01-01-01.

# Leaders during Change

Bessie Kempton Crowell | Viola Ross Napier | Grace Towns Hamilton

During the summer of 1919, both houses of the US Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, [granting women the right to vote](#). One year later, in August 1920, the amendment was **ratified**. As one of the most important events of the 20th century, its passage marked the culmination of an extensive struggle for [women to achieve full citizenship](#).

In 1922, White women in Georgia could vote and run for office for the first time. The 1922 election was the beginning of change in Georgia's political landscape as **three women ran for election** to the Georgia General Assembly. On [September 13, 1922](#), Bessie Kempton Crowell and Viola Ross Napier became the first women elected to Georgia's House of Representatives.



National Woman's Party activists watch Alice Paul sew a star onto the NWP Ratification Flag, representing another state's ratification of the 19th Amendment, 1920. From the Library of Congress, mnwp000263.

## THREE WOMEN SEEK OFFICE IN GEORGIA

Mrs. Napier of Macon, Miss Kempton of Atlanta, Miss Powell, Marion Co., in Race

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 12.—On of the statewide democratic

Three Women Seek Office in Georgia. 1922. From the Macon News.



Miss Kempton Announces Legislative Candidacy, 1922. From the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.

**Bessie Kempton Crowell** was a reporter for the *Atlanta Constitution* who served three terms in the legislature. While reporting for the *Atlanta Constitution*, Kempton Crowell showcased an interest in politics. She wrote on several topics, including the disenfranchisement of women, people of color, and some poor White men after the Voting Act of 1913. She also wrote on business and construction, hinting at what would become her legacy of the authorization of the "Viaduct Bill." She served in the Georgia House until 1931.

**Viola Ross Napier** was a schoolteacher and mother of four from Macon, Georgia. After her husband died in the 1919 flu epidemic, she pursued a lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer. None of Macon's firms would hire her, so she began her own practice, representing other women and the poor. After her election in 1922, Napier was the first woman to argue a case before the Georgia Supreme Court and the Georgia Court of Appeals. She served in the Georgia House until 1926. She was inducted into Georgia Women of Achievement in 1993.



Viola Ross Napier, 1932. From the *Middle Georgia Archives*.



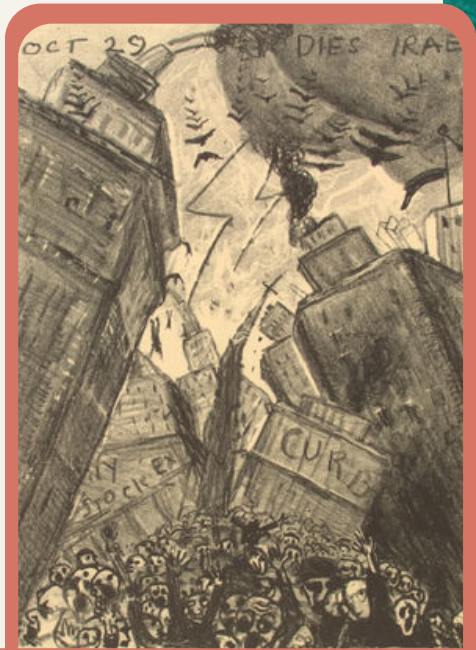
Grace Towns Hamilton, 1984. From the *Atlanta University Center*.

It would be four decades before an African-American woman, **Grace Towns Hamilton**, would be elected to the Georgia General Assembly. Hamilton was born in Atlanta in 1907 and graduated from Atlanta University in 1927 and later earned her master's degree from Ohio State. Elected in 1965, Hamilton served in the Georgia Legislature for eighteen years. She was the [principal architect of the 1973 Atlanta City Charter](#) that increased Black city council members. She also led the reapportionment battle, which redistributed congressional seats based on population, which helped Andrew Young be elected in 1972.

# Leaders in Opposition

Franklin Delano Roosevelt | Eugene Talmadge

The Great Depression was an international economic slump lasting from 1929-1939. It was the longest and most severe depression ever experienced by the industrialized Western world. In the United States, the Great Depression began with the **stock market's collapse on October 29, 1929**. The collapse led to over 10,000 bank failures, a nationwide loss of confidence in the economy, and reduced spending and output. The result was widespread unemployment, with an estimated 12 to 15 million people out of work at one time and US manufacturing falling 54 percent.



*Oct. 29 dies Irae, 1929.*

From the Library of Congress, 96516489.



Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933. From the Georgia Historical Society, GHS 1361-PH-25-09-4864.

This economic distress led to the election of President **Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR)** in 1932. Roosevelt was born in New York but developed a strong connection to Georgia through his numerous visits to the [Warm Springs resort](#) beginning in 1924. He visited Warm Springs for treatment for the effects of polio. While visiting Georgia, Roosevelt became aware of the issues farmers and rural citizens faced during the Great Depression. Many Georgians felt a special kinship with Roosevelt. One Georgian who did not hold this sentiment was Georgia's governor, **Eugene Talmadge**.

[Eugene Talmadge](#) was elected to his first term as governor in 1932, the same year Roosevelt was elected president. Talmadge gained the support of rural Georgians by presenting himself as an advocate for farmers. While running for governor in 1932, Talmadge supported FDR as a Democratic nominee, but that changed when it became apparent that the New Deal vastly expanded the powers of the federal government in order to alleviate the effects of the [Great Depression](#).

During his first one hundred days in office in early 1933, Roosevelt introduced several programs aimed at relief, recovery, and reform. The most notable of the programs included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC), and the [Works Progress Administration](#) (WPA). The federal government added programs throughout the Great Depression, including the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which increased electricity access to rural households. This series of programs became known as the New Deal.

In 1936, Talmadge, a fierce segregationist, won his second election as governor and became outspokenly opposed to the New Deal. Opponents of the New Deal found FDR's policies to be overreaching. Talmadge even opposed the REA, which mostly benefited the farmers who had been his strong base of support.

Talmadge claimed the federal government used the Great Depression to create New Deal programs that **violated states' rights, harmed farmers by forcing them to compete with federal industry, and attacked southern heritage** due to its aid to Black Americans. [Talmadge's critics](#) called him a dictator. He insisted he did it all for the common man, telling farmers: "Sure I stole, but I stole for you!"



*Eugene Talmadge, undated. From the Georgia Historical Society, GHS 1361-PH-25-13-6456.*

This is *the* Year to  
**VOTE FOR**  
**EUGENE TALMADGE**  
for **GOVERNOR**



- To Guide Georgia Through Dangerous Post-War Hazards
- To Fight Alien Subversive Elements in Georgia's Destiny
- For a Constructive Veterans Program
- For Increased Salaries for Teachers
- For a Constructive Road Program Including Rural Post Roads
- For Fair Treatment, Labor and Capital
- For a Democratic White Primary.

*Handbill from Talmadge's final gubernatorial election, 1946. From the Georgia Archives, 2009.02.0001.*

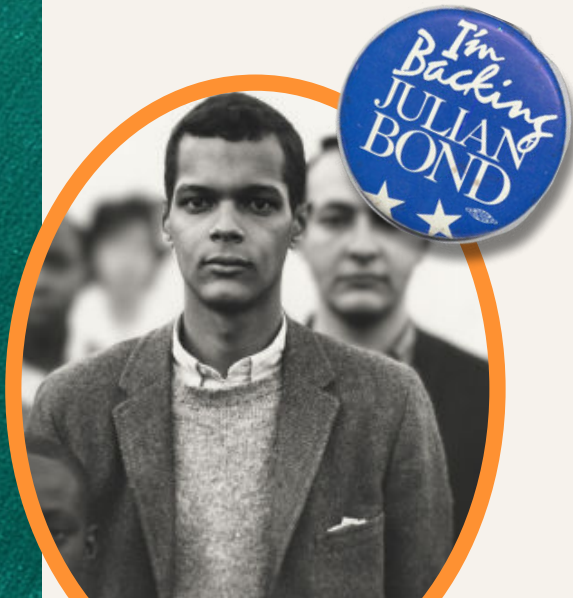
# Leaders in the Civil Rights Movement

Julian Bond | John Lewis

The [Modern Civil Rights Movement](#) specifically refers to the struggles between 1945 and 1970 to end discrimination against African Americans and end racial segregation. Several important events occurred during Georgia's Civil Rights Movement, including the ending of the "[white primary](#)" in 1946, the [beginning of desegregation in schools](#), and the [Albany Movement](#). Activists from the Civil Rights Movement would be elected to public office and become some of the most influential leaders in Georgia's history.



SNCC Chairman, John Lewis, 1963. From the Library of Congress, LOT 15609, no. 3



Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee Headed by Julian Bond, 1963. From the Modern Museum of Art, 234.2019.

**Horace Julian Bond** of Nashville, Tennessee, co-founded the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](#) (SNCC). **Bond**, a Morehouse College student in Atlanta was inspired to participate in the ongoing Civil Rights Movement. He assisted in coordinating nonviolent campaigns that led to the [integration of theaters, lunch counters, and parks](#). "To our mind," Bond recalled, "lunch-counter segregation was the greatest evil facing Black people in the country."

At the SNCC founding conference, Bond learned of more ways for activists to protest and push back against discrimination.



As a result, Bond turned his attention to registering African Americans to vote through voter registration drives and became an editor of a protest magazine, the Atlanta Inquirer. In [1965 Bond entered politics](#) and was elected to the Georgia Legislature after campaigning door-to-door in Black communities. "Literally 100% of the people I canvassed had never had anyone come to their house, sit down and seriously talk to them about their community," Bond stated.

Bond was an outspoken objector to the Vietnam War (1964-1975). Bond's objections prompted the legislature to deny him his seat as a state representative. Bond was elected three more times and denied his seat by the legislature each time until the US Supreme Court ruled in his favor. He was sworn in on January 9, 1967, serving until 1974. In 1986, Bond ran for US Congress but lost the election to fellow civil rights activist John Lewis.

Like Bond, [John Lewis](#) was a [champion of the Civil Rights Movement](#) and an advocate for nonviolent campaigns. [John Lewis was the chair of SNCC](#) from 1963 to 1966 after participating in the Freedom Rides. During this time, he spoke at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963) and helped coordinate the "Freedom Summer" project in Mississippi (1964). Lewis faced down Alabama State Troopers in 1965 on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on the day known as "Bloody Sunday."

Lewis left SNCC in 1966 but continued his activism, including becoming the executive director of the Southern Regional Council's Voter Education Project. In 1981, Lewis won his first election for a seat on Atlanta's City Council. In 1986 he resigned from the city council to run for US Congress against Julian Bond. Lewis served in the United States House of Representatives until his death in 2020 and was known as the "Conscience of the Congress."



*John Lewis in the Cannon House Office Building, 2009. From Getty Images.*

# Leader in the White House

Jimmy Carter



Anti-Vietnam War Demonstration New York, 1969. From the Library of Congress, LC-GB05- 7831.

By the mid-1970s, the United States was reeling from the lengthy and brutal **Vietnam War** (1964-1975) and the political scandals of Watergate under President Richard Nixon. The Watergate era brought immense distrust of the federal government, leaving citizens looking outside of Washington, DC, to fill the presidential seat in the election year of 1976. Former Georgia governor **James "Jimmy" Earl Carter, Jr.** was considered a political outsider with minimal ties to federal politics. Some questioned whether this made Carter a qualified candidate, while others found the affluent peanut farmer ideal.



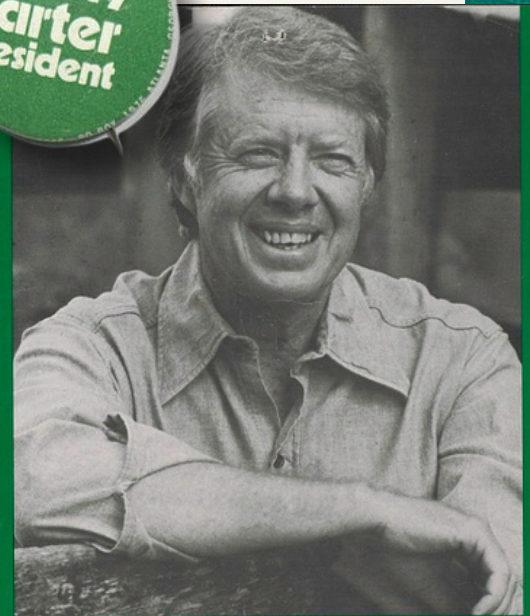
Jimmy Carter Handshake, 1960s. From the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library

Carter had only served in Georgia's state government before 1976. He served four years in the Georgia State Senate and one term as Georgia's governor. After being defeated by **Lester Maddox** in the 1966 gubernatorial election, Carter campaigned for the second time in 1970. The 1966 loss resulted in a change of tactics for Carter. Carter focused on his clean-cut image and presented himself as a conservative Southern farmer. In an interview, he stated, "Nobody in my family before my generation ever had a chance to finish high school. We've always worked for a living."

Carter's campaign as the "ordinary guy" appealed to White conservative Georgians. Carter's controversial racial remarks and denouncing former [Governor Carl Sanders](#) as a crony of Atlanta liberals and chastising him for not inviting Alabama segregationist Governor George Wallace to Georgia, helped win the governorship in 1970. However, Carter surprised many when he announced at his inaugural address in 1970, "The time for racial discrimination is over."

Outgoing Governor Lester Maddox said that Carter had deceived and betrayed Georgians during his campaign. But Carter kept his word, promoting an ambitious reform agenda that streamlined state government. He appointed more women and minorities to state positions than all his predecessors combined. Carter was still governor of Georgia when he announced his candidacy for the [Democratic nomination for president](#) in December 1974.

While running for president, Carter utilized the tactics that served him well in 1970 without the racial rhetoric. He emphasized his self-discipline, working-class roots, and democratic principles that separated him from traditional politicians. In 1976, Jimmy Carter became the [first Georgian to be elected the president of the United States of America](#).



Jimmy  
**CARTER**  
for President

*Georgia Governor Democrat Jimmy Carter for President in 1976, 1976. From the National Museum of American History, 1977.0039.137.*

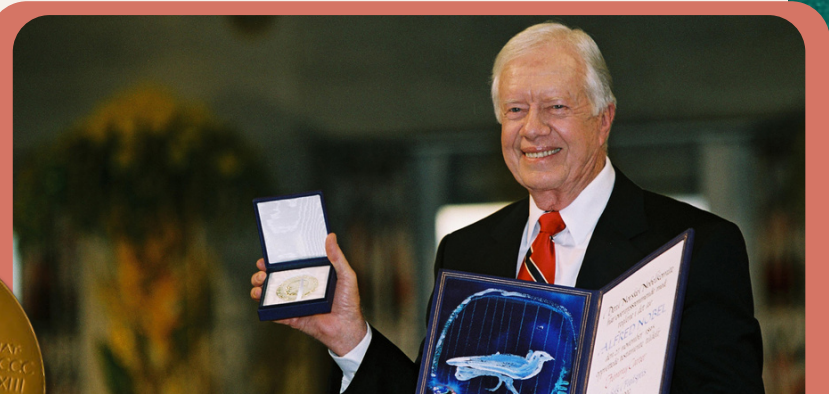


*President Jimmy Carter at the White House, 1978. From the Library of Congress, LC-U9- 35719B-6.*

President Carter's term in the White House was filled with struggles, including the [Iran hostage crisis](#) and the OPEC oil embargo. Because Carter ran on an outsider campaign, he had a troubled relationship with Congress even though fellow Democrats controlled it. Additionally, Carter's fiscal conservatism clashed with his political party.

Carter's successes included his National Energy Policy and the expansion of the National Park System. Just as he had as governor, Carter expanded the number of women and minorities in government positions and created the US Department of Education.

Since his presidency, [Carter](#) has played an important role as a philanthropist and activist for peace in Georgia and throughout the world. Carter has been praised for his humanitarian efforts, including creating the Carter Center and supporting Habitat for Humanity. In 2002, Carter became the third US president to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his [worldwide humanitarian efforts](#).



*President Carter receives the Nobel Peace Prize, 2002.  
From the Carter Center.*

## A Legacy of Leadership

The political landscape of Georgia has changed greatly since the colony's founding in 1733. By exploring some of Georgia's most influential elected leaders in all their complexities, this brief review offers an opportunity to reflect on how individuals challenge, shape, and strengthen our democracy.

# A Legacy of Leadership

## Leaders for Further Inquiry

[Button Gwinnett](#) - Georgia Governor  
Born: 1735 - Died: 1777

[William Few](#) - Georgia Senator  
Born: 1748 - Died: 1828

[Tunis Campbell](#) - Georgia Senator  
Born: 1812 - Died: 1891

[Henry McNeal Turner](#) - Georgia State Representative  
Born: 1834 - Died: 1915

[Asa Candler](#) - Mayor of Atlanta  
Born: 1851 - Died: 1929

[Carl Vinson](#) - United States Representative  
Born: 1883 - Died: 1981

[Helen Douglas Mankin](#) - Congressman  
Born: 1896 - Died: 1956

[William Hartsfield](#) - Mayor of Atlanta  
Born: 1890 - Died: 1971

[Andrew Young](#) - Mayor of Atlanta | Congressman  
Born: 1932

[Leah Ward Sears](#) - Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia  
Born: 1955

