

What is Federalism?



Federalism

- Power is shared between two sets of governmental institutions, those of the states and those of the central or federal authorities, as stipulated by the Constitution.

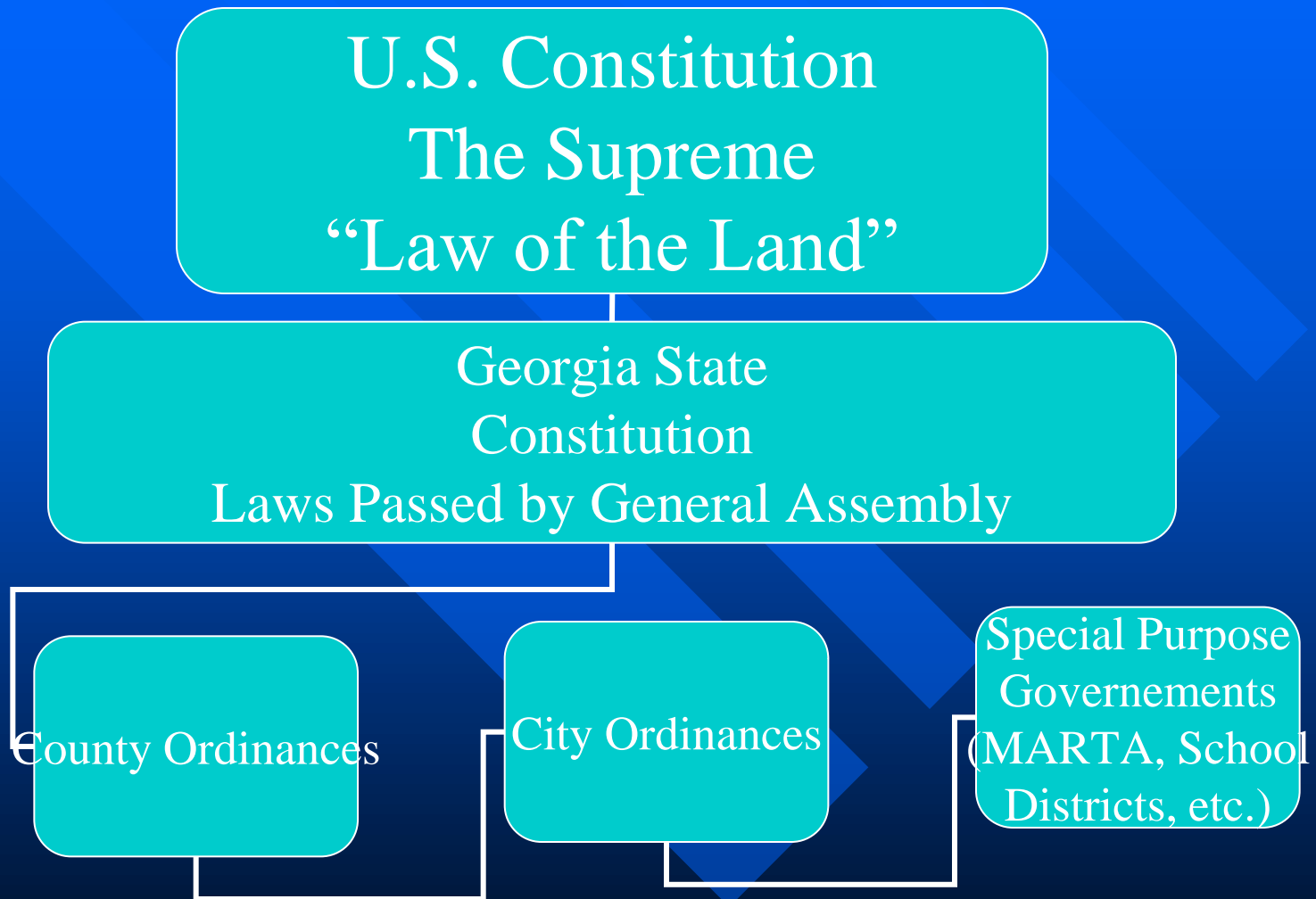
Federalism

**Federal Government
a.k.a. national government**

State Governments

Local Governments

Hierarchy of Law in Georgia



Major Federal Government Powers

- Control of economic activity between and amongst states
- Control of foreign relations
- Control of money
- Protection of Constitutional Rights
- Major taxes of the Federal Government
 - Income tax
 - Social Security
 - Medicare

Major State Government Powers

- Control of most criminal and civil laws
- Control of intrastate commerce and professions
- Control of education
- Control of local governments, e.g., counties, cities, and school boards
- Major taxes of State governments
 - Income tax
 - Sales tax

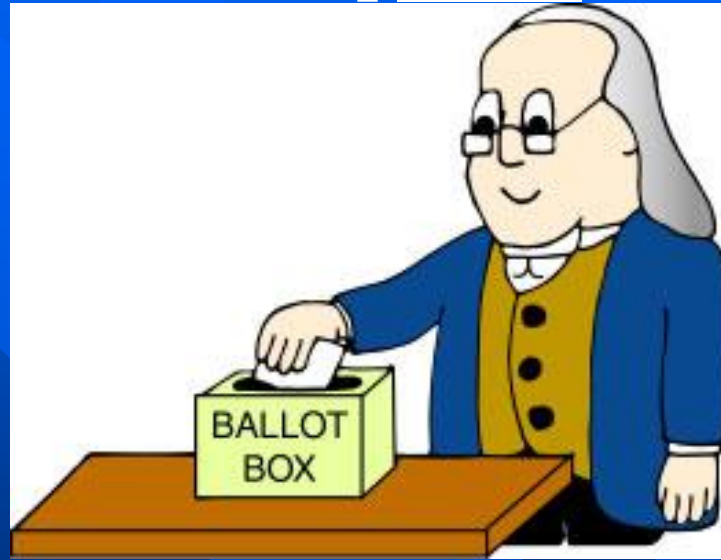
Powers Shared by State and National Governments

- Make Laws
- Collect Taxes
- Enforce Laws
- Punish Those Found Guilty of Breaking the Law
- Establish Courts

Major Local Government Powers

- Land Use (commercial, residential, transportation, etc.)
- Public Safety
- General housekeeping functions
 - Garbage disposal
 - Most traffic laws
 - Building codes
- Major taxes of local governments
 - Property taxes
 - Real estate taxes

U.S. citizens can participate in their government. This process insures that power will always remain where it belongs - with the people.



The most important right citizens have is the right to vote. By voting, the people have a voice in the government. The people decide who will represent them in the government.