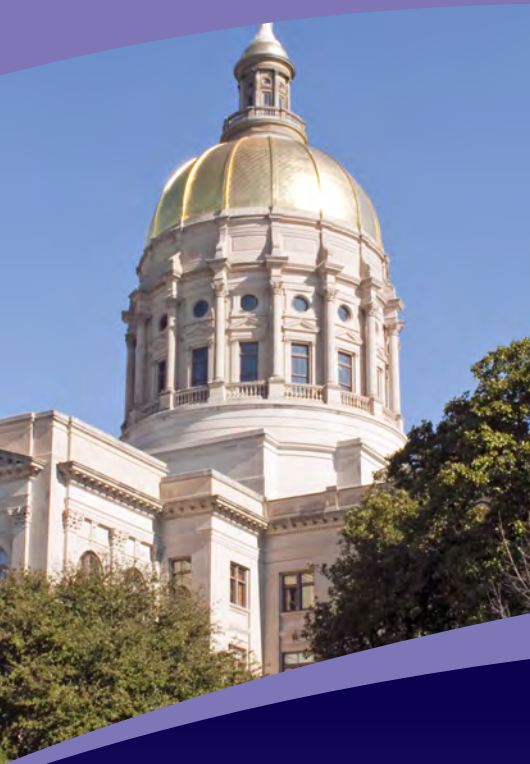


GEORGIA CIVIC HEALTH INDEX





ABOUT THE PARTNERS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP

At the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), we believe everyone has the power to make a difference in how their community and country thrive.

We are a dynamic, non-partisan nonprofit working at the forefront of our nation's civic life. We continuously explore what shapes today's citizenry, define the evolving role of the individual in our democracy, and uncover ways to motivate greater participation. Through our events, research and reports, NCoC expands our nation's contemporary understanding of what it means to be a citizen. We seek new ideas and approaches for creating greater civic health and vitality throughout the United States.

CARL VINSON INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

For more than 80 years, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia has worked with public officials throughout Georgia and around the world to improve governance and people's lives. From Georgia's early days as a largely agrarian state with a modest population to its modern-day status as a national and international force in business, industry, and politics with a population of almost 10 million, the Institute has helped government leaders navigate change and forge strong directions for a better Georgia.

In creating Georgia's first *Civic Health Index*, the Vinson Institute seeks to reveal a clearer, more complete picture of civic life in Georgia. As Georgia grows, regions change, and demographics shift, the Vinson Institute's research is key in understanding the ways Georgians interact with each other and with their institutions.

GEORGIA FAMILY CONNECTION PARTNERSHIP

Georgia Family Connection Partnership (GaFCP) works to achieve a Georgia where all children are healthy, ready to start school and do well when they get there, and where every family is stable and self-sufficient. As a nonprofit, public-private intermediary, GaFCP exists to unify public and private organizations' commitment to Georgia's children and families; make sure their efforts to improve the lives of children and families work; and protect every dime of their investment in Georgia's future.

GaFCP wants to help build communities where children and families can thrive, and hopes to use the *Civic Health Index* to spark and sustain a conversation about Georgia's civic engagement.

GEORGIAFORWARD

GeorgiaForward is an independent, non-partisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to improve the state of Georgia by engaging business, government, and civil society leaders to collaboratively shape a statewide policy agenda. Specifically, through conferences, reports, and programs, GeorgiaForward works to engage leaders to (1) find a common vision for Georgia; (2) create an environment in which vision and pragmatism trumps political deadlock; and (3) discuss innovative solutions to our state's challenges.

GeorgiaForward is part of this *Civic Health Index* because it believes that strong civic health can reduce the perceived and real gaps between areas of the state and contribute to the articulation of a common statewide vision.

This first-ever *Georgia Civic Health Index* was produced in 2012 and released in 2013.



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*This report has been graciously
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to download the *Georgia
Civic Health Index*

INTRODUCTION

As the first-ever *Georgia Civic Health Index*, this report asks and seeks to answer the question: “How do Georgians participate in civic life and what does it mean for Georgia?” Specifically, the Civic Health Index examines (1) how Georgians engage civically — with one another, with their communities, with institutions, and in politics; (2) how civic participation varies across key demographic variables such as educational attainment, age, and geographic location; and (3) how Georgia’s rates of civic participation compare with other states. This report is intended to launch a statewide conversation among citizens and private, nonprofit and public sector leaders and decision-makers about how to promote and strengthen civic life in Georgia.

What is Civic Health?

Civic health reflects the degree to which residents talk to neighbors, spend time with friends or family, participate in community groups, vote, talk about politics, and act to further a civic interest. Civic health also relates to the overall well-being of neighborhoods, communities, states, and the nation.

This report explores four main areas of civic health:

- Social Connectedness
- Community Involvement
- Political Action and Participation
- Confidence in Institutions

In each of these areas of civic health, this report examines patterns in civic engagement through various demographic characteristics, such as educational attainment, geographic region (rural/urban/suburban), race/ethnicity, and income level.

Why is Civic Health Important?

Strong civic health is vital to a healthy democracy. Active citizen engagement builds consensus for policy that reflects the needs of a community and “promotes effective governance by fostering transparency and accountability of public institutions.”¹ Moreover, strong social cohesion – defined as talking to neighbors, doing favors for neighbors, trusting neighbors, and seeing and hearing from family and friends – and civic health have been linked to better public health outcomes, including improved child development and adolescent well-being, improved mental health, lower violent crime rates and youth delinquency, and reduced mortality.²

Recent research produced by NCoC, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, and partners has also demonstrated that a community’s civic health is strongly linked to its economic resilience. Among other findings, the research shows that states with high social cohesion had unemployment rates two percentage points lower than their less connected and trusting counterparts, even when controlling for demographics and economic factors.³ In short, civic health is connected to a wide range of outcomes that reflect the overall well-being of our communities.



Photo credit: Georgia Family Connection Partnership

26th

Georgia’s national rank in both eating dinner with and seeing or hearing from family and friends frequently

Georgia and Civic Health

From its inception as one of America's original 13 colonies to its integral role in the Civil Rights Movement, Georgia has been home to instances of transformative citizen engagement. Indeed, Georgia's lasting mark on civic engagement occurred between 1945 and 1965. As the nation saw sweeping changes in civil rights laws, Georgia was a center of action and change in the South, valuing collaboration over confrontation at key moments.

Yet, according to current national data that inform this report, Georgia ranks among the bottom half of states on almost all measures of civic health. While worrisome, these data can serve as a necessary catalyst for action. With a strong network of funders and organizations focused on improving civic health, Georgia has the opportunity to leverage its historical, regional, racial and ethnic, and economic diversity as strengths rather than points of separation. The goal of this report is to spark this dialogue and action—motivating foundations, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and elected officials to acknowledge and address Georgia's civic health challenges. This report is a starting point for a statewide conversation on civic health as the beginning of a more connected, engaged, and prosperous Georgia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Georgia Civic Health Index looks at key indicators of civic life in the Peach State, including how residents engage with their neighbors and community organizations, how connected Georgians are to the political process, and how much confidence they have in public schools, corporations, and media.

Key Findings

Georgia's civic health is not strong. While Georgians who are older, more educated, or have higher incomes exhibit better rates of civic engagement, Georgia on the whole exhibits some of the lowest rates of civic engagement in the nation. Georgia has lower-than-average rates of civic participation across the majority of indicators of civic health. Although sometimes the differences between states are small, Georgia maintains a low national ranking for the following indicators:

| Civic Health Indicator | Ranking |
|---|---------|
| Volunteering | 34th |
| Charitable giving | 40th |
| Attending public meetings | 36th |
| Voter registration (2010) | 41st |
| Voter turnout (2010) | 38th |
| Trust all or most of the people in neighborhood | 44th |
| Contacting elected officials | 34th |
| Confidence in media ⁴ | 46th |
| Confidence in corporations ⁵ | 38th |
| Confidence in public schools ⁶ | 40th |

Georgia maintains an average national ranking for the following indicators of civic health:

| Civic Health Indicator | Ranking |
|--|---------|
| Eating dinner with friends or family | 26th |
| Seeing to hearing from friends or family | 26th |
| Talking to Neighbors | 25th |
| Voting in local elections ⁷ | 29th |
| Exchanging favors with neighbors | 28th |
| Group membership | 28th |
| Buying or boycotting goods to express political opinions | 27th |

BACKGROUND ON THE CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

The findings of this report are based on analysis of the 2011 Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, provided by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE). The development of the Georgia Civic Health Index was coordinated by the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), an organization chartered by Congress to advance the nation's civic life. NCoC began publishing America's Civic Health Index in 2006 and was authorized by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act to expand this civic health assessment in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Census Bureau. NCoC now uses civic data to work in 30 communities nationwide on state- and city-level reports and initiatives.

Georgia maintains an above-average national ranking for the following indicators of civic health:

| Civic Health Indicator | Ranking |
|--|---------|
| Expressing opinions about community or political issues online | 6th |
| Talking about politics with friends or family | 17th |

How Georgia Compares to the Rest of the Nation

With the exception of how often Georgians discuss politics with friends or family and express opinions online, Georgia is ranked among the bottom half of states for all major civic health indicators, and often in the bottom third. However, even as Georgia lags behind other states, encouraging trends exist. Georgia's social connectedness indicators – meaning how often residents interact with and how much they trust friends, family, and neighbors – are consistently stronger than the indicators in other categories. Georgia also ranks 29th in frequency of voting in local elections, while Georgians' registration and turnout for the 2010 election – which included both national and local races – are ranked 41st and 38th, respectively.

These trends may indicate that Georgia has a strong foundation of local social networks upon which to build and improve overall civic health. Moreover, when civic health is examined through various demographic characteristics, areas of strength and areas for improvement emerge. Broadly, while race and ethnicity appear to have little impact on many categories of civic health,⁸ civic health improves with age, income, or educational attainment, and often with a combination of all three.



6th

Georgia's national rank in expressing opinions about community or political issues online

Definitions of Terms and Concepts

Civic Health

Civic health reflects the degree to which citizens participate in their communities, from local and state governance to interactions with friends or family. Civic health also relates to the overall well-being of neighborhoods, communities, states, and the nation.

Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is the act of working with local institutions and fellow residents to promote meaningful actions, movements, and relationships within a community or population. This can take many forms, from voter registration rates to talking politics with friends or family, from trusting local businesses to participating in community groups. Some measures of civic engagement are political, some are social, and some are individual, but each reflects something important about a community's civic health.

Social Connectedness

Social connectedness is defined as a series of interactions between friends, families, and neighbors, such as eating dinner with friends or family and trusting your neighbors.

Community Involvement

Community involvement refers to the ways people interact with fellow residents beyond their friends, family, and immediate neighbors. These actions include group membership, charitable giving, volunteer rate, and attending public meetings.

Political Action or Political Participation

Political action and participation refer to the ways people influence local government and public institutions, including voting in state and local elections, contacting public officials, discussing politics, and buying or boycotting goods to reflect political opinions.

Confidence in Institutions

Confidence in institutions refers to the degree to which residents believe that various local institutions, including public schools, media and corporations will do what is right.

Generational Definitions

Long Civic Generation (Born before 1930)

The Long Civic Generation is the last raised before World War II. This report does not include this generation in its discussion of trends in Georgia, as the sample size for this population was too small to produce reliable data.

Silent Generation (1931-1945)

The Silent Generation refers to people born in the middle of the Great Depression and preceding World War II.

Baby Boomers (1946-1964)

The Baby Boomer generation was born in the years after World War II, when the U.S. experienced a large increase in birth rates.

Generation X (1965-1980)

This generation follows the Baby Boomers and is sometimes referred to as the “baby bust,” as it was the beginning of a decline in U.S. birth rates.

Millennials or Echo Boomers (1981-2004)

This designation refers to those born in the 1980s and 1990s, when there was a brief spike in birth rates attributed to the maturation of the Baby Boomer generation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS: SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Social connectedness refers to how often and some of the ways in which Georgians relate to their friends, family, and neighbors. For many of these indicators – eating dinner with family, seeing or hearing from friends or family, and giving and receiving favors – Georgia is about average nationally. In trusting others and talking with neighbors, however, Georgians are below average. Yet, different demographic groups behave differently. For example, Millennials lag behind older generations across all indicators of social connectedness. Moreover, Georgians with higher income and educational attainment report much higher rates of trusting neighbors.

KEY TAKEAWAYS: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement refers to the ways people interact within their broader community – beyond the circle of friends, family, and immediate neighbors. Overall, Georgia fares less well than other states for most of these indicators, with comparatively low rates of charitable giving. Younger generations are less likely to be active in their communities than older generations. Those with higher educational attainment exhibited increased community involvement across most indicators as compared to those with lower levels of educational attainment.

KEY TAKEAWAYS: POLITICAL ACTION

Political action refers to voter participation, contacting public officials, and expressing political opinions in a variety of ways. While close to half (43.6%) of Georgians voted in the 2010 national election, only 34.5% indicated that they vote in local elections “all of the time.” Georgia is ranked 29th in frequency of participation in local elections, for voting all or most of the time, and 38th in election turnout in 2010. Residents age 48 and older and those with higher educational attainment show increased rates of voter registration and voter turnout. Those with higher educational attainment also have higher rates of contacting public officials, including elected representatives and others who act within the public realm (e.g., agency heads and commissioners). Millennials have much lower rates of voter registration and voter turnout and are considerably less likely to discuss politics than older generations.

17th

Georgia's national rank
in discussing politics
with friends or family



Photo credit: GeorgiaForward

KEY TAKEAWAYS: CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS

When it comes to confidence in media, public schools, and corporations, Georgians exhibit lower levels of confidence than do residents of most other states. Within Georgia, those at the highest income levels have the highest confidence in corporations. Moreover, employed residents are much more likely to have confidence in corporations than those who are unemployed and not in the labor force. Conversely, those who are unemployed and not in the labor force are more likely to have confidence in media than their peers who are participating in the labor force. Among those who reported having some or a great deal of confidence in public schools, Millennials led other generations, with confidence in public schools generally decreasing with age. Confidence in public schools increases the further one lives from an urban area.

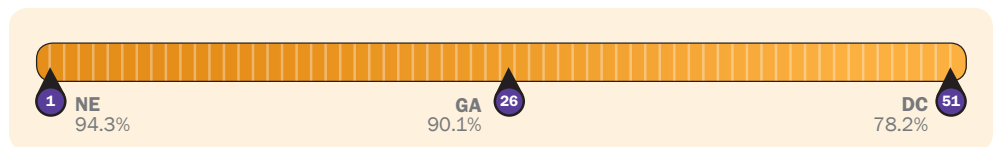
SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Social connectedness refers to how often people interact with friends, family, and neighbors. While the relationships and networks formed are voluntary, often community, personal, and professional opportunities arise and grow from these connections. Close interactions among family and friends can promote health and well-being.⁹ They may also form a foundation upon which individuals can increase their fields of connection and influence beyond their immediate circles to broader groups and communities.¹⁰

When people are highly connected, according to these measures, they are usually better able to collectively solve local challenges through social capital and connectivity.¹¹ This connectedness is one of several components of community cohesion and is essential to strengthening relationships, building trust, and promoting collaboration. In addition to building communities that work together to tackle challenges, the social connectedness measures of civic engagement correlate positively with employment rates and economic resilience.¹² Together, these components provide benefits to both individuals and society.

Interactions with Family or Friends

EATING DINNER WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS



Georgians value eating dinner together with family. More than nine out of 10 Georgians said they frequently ate dinner with family in 2011. There are some differences in how frequently Georgians had dinner with family based on demographics such as educational attainment, geographic location, generation, and income.

Individuals who reported eating together the most frequently reside in rural communities (93%), attended some college (95.4%), or earned at least \$50,000 per year (92.9%-93.2%). The Silent Generation, born between 1931 and 1945, and Generation X, born between 1965 and 1980, ate together more frequently with the family than other generations, such as the Millennials, born in 1981 or after, or the Baby Boomers, born between 1946-1964. Following the general trend, white Georgians (90.4%) and non-white Georgians (89.2%) exhibited similar rates of eating dinner frequently with family.



90.1%

of Georgians frequently eat dinner with family or friends.

Eating Dinner with Family or Friends

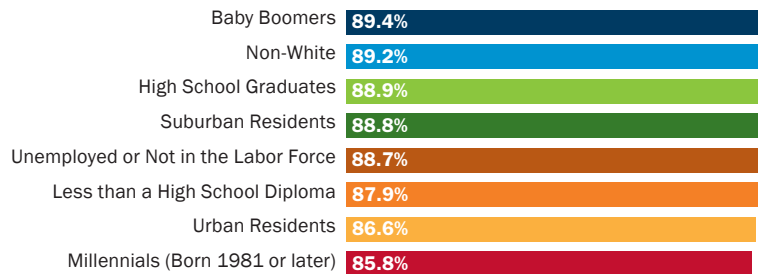
2011 (ranking in parentheses)

90.1% (26th)

89.5%

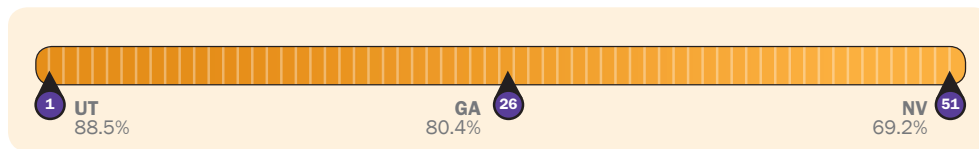
Georgia U.S.

Citizen groups below state average:



This report does not examine differences in levels of engagement among specific minority groups because sample sizes were often too small to be statistically reliable. It does explore differences among white (non-Hispanic) residents and non-white (including Hispanic) residents.

SEEING OR HEARING FROM FRIENDS OR FAMILY



Communicating with friends or family is also important to Georgians. More than four out of five Georgians—80.4%—report seeing or hearing from friends or family at least a few times a week. This places Georgia 26th in the nation. Individuals who most frequently communicated with friends or family are those who earned higher incomes, typically \$75,000 or higher, had some college education, or were over the age of 32. Millennials, those outside of urban areas, and those with less than a high school diploma trail the state average for this indicator. Yet, broadly, most demographic groups exhibited negligible differences and tended to be right around the state average. For example, less than one percentage point separates white and non-white Georgians in how much they see or hear from friends or family at least a few times a week, and less than four percentage points separate all generational groupings.

80.4%

of Georgians see or hear from family or friends frequently.



Photo credit: Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Seeing or Hearing from Friends or Family

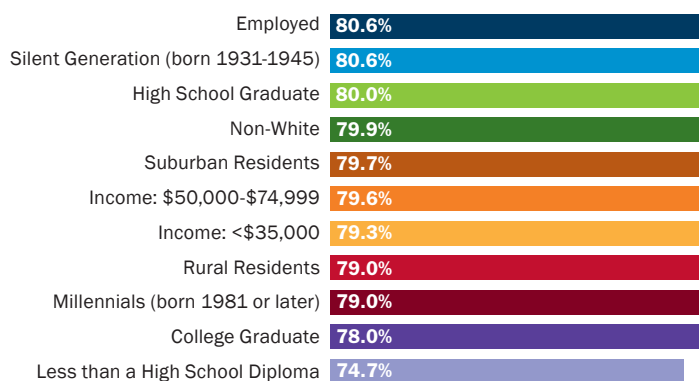
2011 (ranking in parentheses)

80.4% (26th)

79.0%

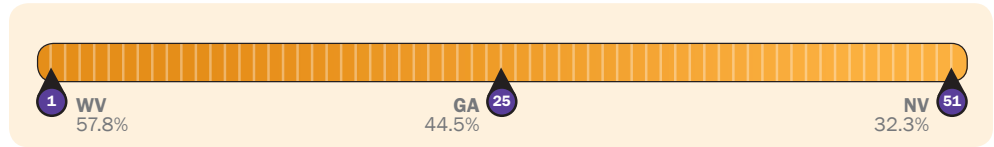
Georgia U.S.

Citizen groups below state average:



Talking with Neighbors

TALKING WITH NEIGHBORS



While Georgians talk with friends or family frequently, they do not talk as frequently with neighbors. Fewer than half of Georgians (44.5%) talk frequently with their neighbors compared to 80.4% who frequently see or hear from friends or family. A closer look at demographic data shows the following interesting patterns:

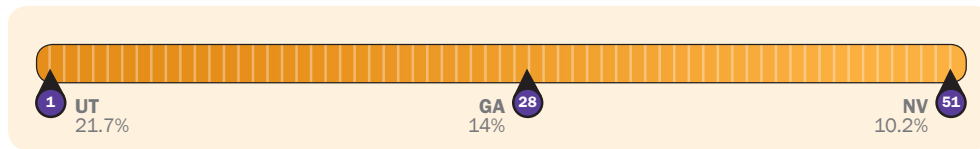
- Nearly half (49.9%) of Georgians living in rural areas frequently talk with neighbors. Those living in the suburbs (43%) and cities (41.5%) fall below the state average. Though rural residents may not enjoy the same close physical proximity to their neighbors that those in suburban and urban settings do, communication between neighbors may be important to communities with limited economic, recreational, and institutional resources. Building strong social connections with neighbors may act as a substitute for these resources when creating a sense of community and local identity. Rural Georgians also trust their neighbors more than their suburban and urban counterparts, which may be related to how often rural residents talk to their neighbors.
- 47.2% of Georgians who are unemployed or are not in the labor force talk with their neighbors frequently, almost 3% higher than the state average.
- High school graduates (45.3%) and those with some college (48.5%) are above the state average in frequency of talking to neighbors. Those with college degrees (44%) and those with no high school diploma (44%) do so at a lesser rate. Although rates of participation for most indicators of civic health increase as educational attainment increases, this does not hold true for talking with neighbors. It is not clear why those with high educational attainment talk with their neighbors less frequently than do those with lower levels of educational attainment. While those without a high school diploma may be less plugged into social institutions, college graduates may be more transient than other groups as a result of increased employment opportunities. This mobility geographically and socioeconomically may impede the formation of close social ties with neighbors. Moreover, this trend may also be due to the fact that those with higher education may be more connected to other types of community organizations or social networks.
- Across generations, only Millennials (39.8%) are below the state average. More than half of the Silent Generation talks frequently with their neighbors, followed by 45.7% of Generation X and 45.2% of Baby Boomers.



44.5%

of Georgians talk with their neighbors on a frequent basis.

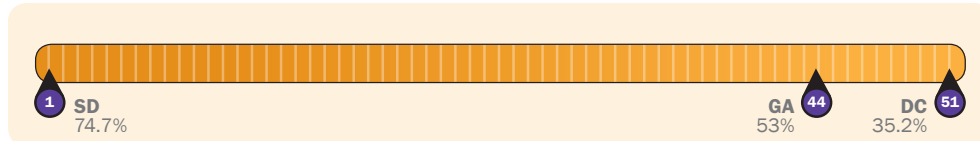
EXCHANGING FAVORS WITH NEIGHBORS



Much like the rest of the United States, most Georgians do not exchange favors with their neighbors. In 2011, only 14% of Georgians exchanged favors with neighbors, and when looking at a pooled average from 2009-2011, only 13% did.¹³

- Rural Georgians (16.9%) and urban dwellers (15.5%) are more likely than the state average (13%) to exchange favors with neighbors.
- Georgians who are unemployed or not in the labor force (15.2%) are more likely than Georgians who are employed (11.5%) to exchange favors with neighbors.
- Those in the lowest income bracket (less than \$35,000 per year) are more likely to exchange favors (15.2%) than the state average. The middle income bracket lags the state average.
- White and non-white Georgians exchange favors at similar rates, at 13.1% and 12.8%, respectively.
- Across generations, only Millennials (10.5%) exchange favors for neighbors at a rate below the state average.

TRUST OF NEIGHBORS



Although Georgians are average in comparison with people in other states on some measures of social connectedness, Georgia is among the bottom 10 states when it comes to the percentage of people who trust all or most of their neighbors. Only 53% of Georgians trust all or most of their neighbors. A closer look at the data reveals a number of disparities among demographic groups and helps us better understand why the level of trust is low in Georgia.

- Georgia currently has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation (8.5%).¹⁴ Those participating in the labor force report higher-than-average trust of neighbors, at 54.6%. Unemployed Georgians or those not in the labor force, however, are at 50.6%, below the state average.¹⁵
- Trust is strongly correlated to income level, which may be related to neighborhood safety and prevalence of crime. Only those earning \$75,000 or more (70.1%) reported trusting their neighbors all or most of the time at a rate higher than the state average of 53%. Those earning less than \$35,000 had the lowest rate of trusting their neighbors all or most of the time (46%), while those earning between \$35,000 and \$75,000 per year were near the state average.
- Rural Georgians trust their neighbors more than do their suburban and urban counterparts. At 75.2%, rural Georgians are well above the state average and are almost 1.5 times as likely to trust their neighbors as are residents of suburban communities. Additionally, 61.5% of white Georgians trust their neighbors all or most of the time compared with 36.9% of non-white Georgians. This is one of the few instances in this report in which there is a large discrepancy between whites and non-whites.

53%

of Georgians trust all or most of the people in their neighborhood.

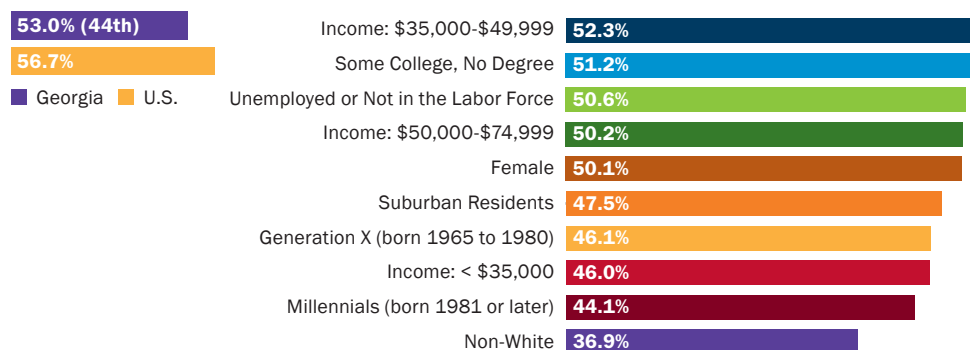


- Age matters. The older Georgians are, the more likely they are to trust their neighbors. The two older generations, those born before 1964, are well above the state average in trusting most or all of their neighbors compared with younger generations. Millennials lag all generations at 44.1%. Generation X is not far behind at 46.1%. Comparatively, 63.2% of the Silent Generation and 61.5% of Baby Boomers trust their neighbors.

Trust People in Neighborhood (all or most)

2011 (ranking in parentheses)

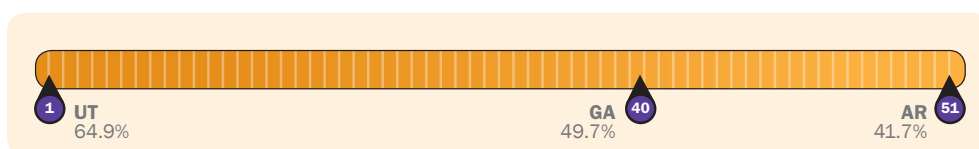
Citizen groups below state average:



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement refers to the ways in which people interact with residents in the community beyond their friends, family, and immediate neighbors. These actions include, for example, group membership, charitable giving, volunteer rate, and attending public meetings. Many of these indicators relate to and are facilitated by nonprofit organizations. Research shows that a higher number of nonprofits in a community is correlated with better economic resilience during economic downturns.¹⁶ When compared with other states, Georgians are about average on many social connectedness behaviors. Georgians are significantly below average for most community involvement indicators. There is significant variation across different segments of the population.

CHARITABLE GIVING



Georgia ranks 40th in the nation in charitable giving, although many groups – those with higher incomes, those residing in suburbs, and older residents – donate at a higher rate than the state average (49.7%).

Two of the biggest indicators of charitable giving are educational attainment and age. Georgians with less than a high school education are significantly less likely to donate to charity than those with higher educational attainment. In fact, 72.4% of those graduating from college report donating to charity, while those without a high school diploma only have a 30.8% donation rate, significantly below the state average of 49.7%.

Charitable giving also varies by age. Older generations are more likely to make charitable donations. Generation X (55.7%), Baby Boomers (57.9%), and the Silent Generation (58.9%) were close to twice as likely as to donate as Millennials (28.4%). It should be noted, however, that the discrepancy in giving along lines of educational attainment and age is likely closely tied to income and financial flexibility.

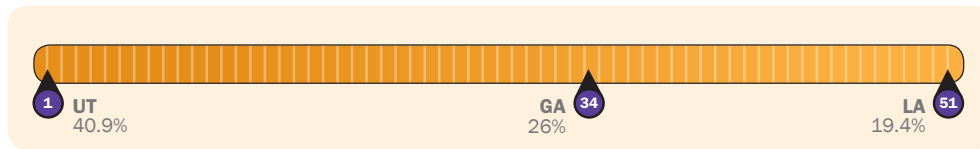


Photo credit: Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia

40th

Georgia's national rank in charitable giving

VOLUNTEERISM



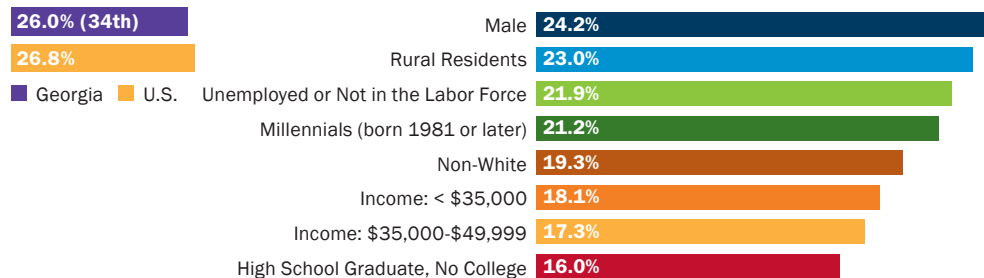
Georgia ranks 34th in volunteering, which is less than one percentage point from the national average: 26% versus 26.8%. Some groups are much more likely to volunteer than others. Those with incomes above \$75,000 per year have a 40.6% volunteer rate, while those making less than \$50,000 per year are well below the state average of 26%.

As with charitable donations, Millennials were less likely to volunteer than were their older counterparts and were the only age group below the state average. While trailing in charitable donations is understandable for a young population with fewer financial resources, engaging Millennials in meaningful volunteer opportunities could be a way to cultivate their community involvement.

Volunteerism is one of the few areas in which the data showed a large gap between white and non-white Georgians. The state average for volunteering is 26%, but non-white Georgians have a volunteer rate of 19.3%, while white residents exhibited a volunteer rate of 29.5%. This difference presents an opportunity to explore why this discrepancy exists and how best to increase volunteerism rates among both white and non-white Georgians and to close the volunteer gap.

Volunteering

2011 (ranking in parentheses)



GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Using pooled data from 2009-2011, Georgia ranked 30th in the nation in rates of group membership (36.2% for Georgia compared with a national average of 35.5%). Rates of group membership increase with higher levels of educational attainment, income, and age (with the exception of the Silent Generation). For example, those with an annual income of \$50,000 or more are above the state average of 36.2% for group membership, while those with an income of \$49,999 or less are below the state average.¹⁷ Group membership is important because it is associated with greater professional and economic connections and may be important in professional development and job searching.¹⁸

Furthermore, urban dwellers (44.4%) are significantly more likely to belong to any group than are those in suburban or rural communities. However, rural residents (34.2%) are the only group that falls below the state average. These differences may be the result of the increased opportunities for public engagement in urban areas, both because of proximity to groups and meetings as well as the higher number of groups, clubs, and other organizations in and around city centers. Indeed, while rates of participation in religious organizations did not differ widely among rural, suburban and urban residents, membership rates in school, neighborhood, and community organizations did. In order to increase group membership among suburban and rural residents, organizations may have to actively reach out to these groups or expand into new areas. Increased opportunities to participate in group activities may be an important step in improving community engagement

26%

of Georgians volunteer.
Georgia ranks 34th nationally.

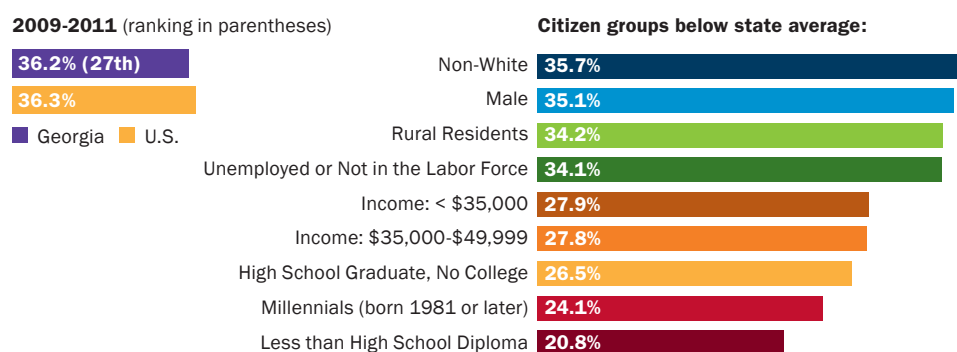


in the non-urban settings. Organizations may also be able to build on the strong social ties that exist at the rural level – residents of rural communities reported trusting more of their neighbors and talking to their neighbors more frequently than their suburban and urban peers.

The largest variation in group membership occurs among different levels of educational attainment. Those with less than a high school diploma (20.8%) exhibited the lowest rate of group membership, and those with at least a college degree (59.1%) exhibited the highest rate of group membership. Given the connection between increased education and income, group association may be as much about access and resources as it is about desire to belong to a group and interact with one's community. As with rural and suburban dwellers, expanding access and opportunities to groups with lower levels of education and income is an important step in strengthening the state's civic health.

ATTENDING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Group Association (pooled, 2009-2011)



An average of 8.3% of residents attended a public meeting in 2011, ranking Georgia 36th in the nation.¹⁹ Location and increasing educational attainment, income, and age were indicators of a higher likelihood of attending a public meeting. For example, urban dwellers are 1.5 times as likely as suburban and rural dwellers to attend public meetings, potentially because of their proximity to such meetings.

At 16.5%, college graduates were more than twice as likely to attend public meetings as those with less educational attainment. Generationally, Baby Boomers (10.2%), Generation X (9.4%), and the Silent Generation (9.4%) were all more than twice as likely to attend a public meeting as Millennials (4.1%).

As with group membership, attendance at public meetings may be as much about access and opportunity as it is about interest in meetings. While age often correlates to increased community connections due to length of time in a community, one's level of education should not be a barrier to attendance at public meetings and affiliation with groups. These are areas where Georgia foundations, nonprofits, and policymakers can reach out to groups that are not participating in civic life at a high level—Millennials and those with lower educational attainment and income.

POLITICAL ACTION

Political action refers to voter registration and turnout, contacting elected officials, and expressing political opinions. While close to half (43.6%) of Georgians voted in the 2010 national election, only 34.5% indicated that they vote in local elections "all of the time." Georgia is ranked 29th in frequency of participation in local elections, with residents saying they voted "all" or "most of the time," and 38th in election turnout in 2010. Moreover, Georgians rank higher than average – 17th

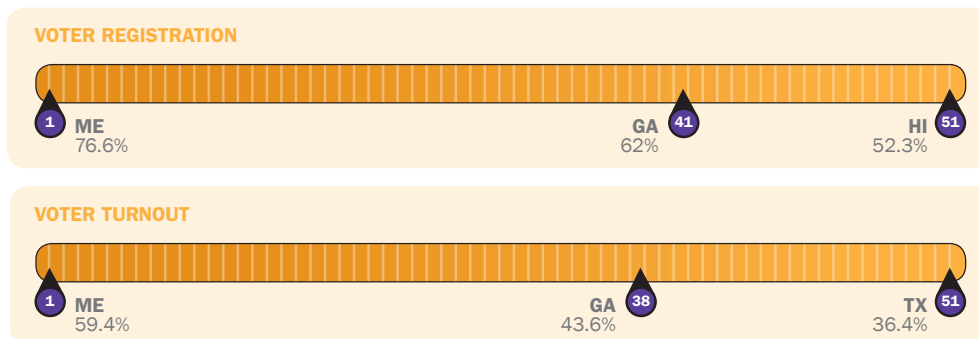


Photo credit: GeorgiaForward

Those with less than a high school diploma (20.8%) exhibited the lowest rate of group membership, and those with at least a college degree (59.1%) exhibited the highest rate.

nationally – in how often they discuss politics. For most indicators of political action, participation increases with age, income, and educational attainment, signaling an opportunity to increase outreach to boost participation among young Georgians and those with lower incomes and lower levels of educational attainment.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT



When asked whether they voted in the 2010 elections, which includes national and state-level races, 62% of Georgians reported being registered to vote, while 43.6% reported actually voting in 2010. This places Georgia 41st in the nation in voter registration and 38th in voting in 2010.

However, Georgians are ranked much higher—29th—in frequency of voting in local elections, with 59.3% reporting that they vote in local elections either sometimes or always. Within this indicator, various groups behave differently. Although rural, urban, and suburban Georgians are similar in regard to their likeliness to vote in local elections, rural and urban voters are much more likely to always vote than are suburban voters. Urban dwellers also led other voters in turnout in 2010.

Income level is also correlated with varying degrees of voter turnout. As income increases, the likelihood of voter registration and voting increases. This pattern also holds true for educational attainment: 75.4% of those with a college degree report voting always or sometimes in local elections, while only 38.1% of those with less than a high school diploma report voting always or sometimes in local elections. Similarly, older Georgians are much more likely to vote in local elections and to be registered to vote than are younger Georgian. Baby Boomers (70.3%) and the Silent Generation (80.8%) are at least twice as likely to vote as Millennials (35.8%).

Any time we examine the relationship between educational attainment and engagement, estimates are based only on adults ages 25 and older, assuming that younger people may still be completing their education. This is factored into the state averages in this graph, as well.

43.6%

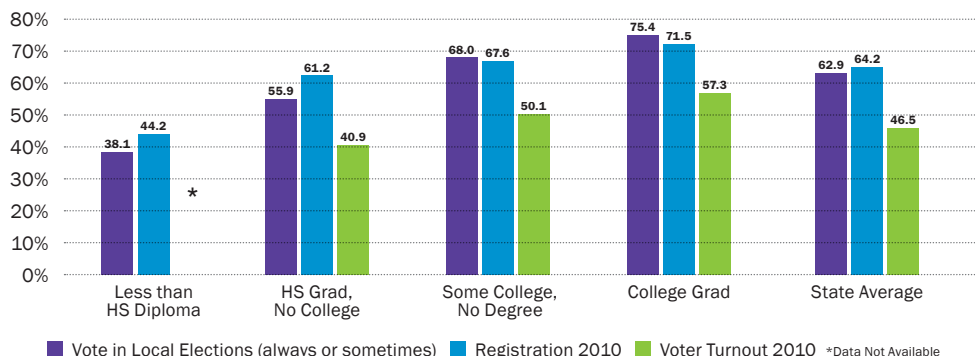
Georgia's voter turnout rate in 2010



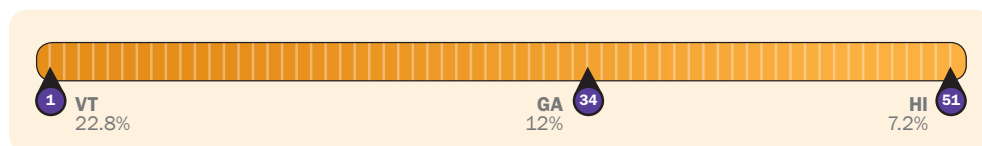
Georgia Voter Registration and Turnout by Income, 2010



Georgia Voter Registration and Turnout by Educational Attainment, 2010



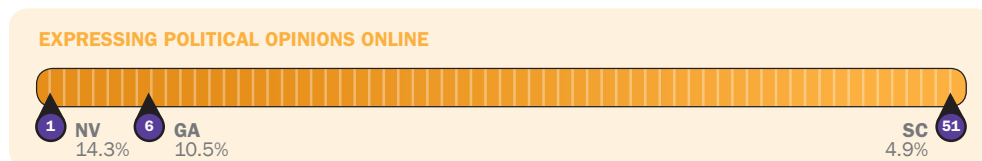
CONTACTING PUBLIC OFFICIALS



More than one in 10 Georgians report contacting an elected official in 2011, placing Georgia 34th in the nation. Though white and non-white residents tend to behave similarly across most indicators, there is a considerable difference between the two groups in both discussing politics and contacting public officials. White Georgians are twice as likely to contact an elected official as non-white Georgians (12.3% vs. 6.1%). Further, 34.8% of white residents report discussing politics frequently, compared with 27.6% of non-white residents. As with many indicators, the likelihood of contacting an elected official increases with both income and educational attainment. This is an important point to consider, as engaging with elected officials increases the likelihood that an individual's or a community's interests will be represented in the policymaking process. Public officials and policy-focused organizations could use civic data as a starting point for improving public outreach efforts.

EXPRESSING POLITICAL OPINIONS

Though it is below average on nearly all indicators, Georgia ranks 17th compared with other states in discussing politics. When asked if they discuss politics frequently, 32.5% of Georgia residents responded affirmatively. It is also noteworthy how frequently Georgians express political opinions on the Internet compared with people in other states.



In 2011, 10.5% of Georgians reported frequently expressing political opinions online, ranking Georgia 6th in the nation for this indicator. Interestingly, there is very little demographic variation in how frequently Georgians express opinions online. Millennials, despite growing up with more technology than the generations before them, are among the least likely to express opinions online – a finding that may underline the generation's overall political disengagement, rather than an aversion to using technology to express political opinions. Otherwise, the similar levels of engagement among different groups may indicate that the Internet is a more democratic forum for political discourse than the other indicators examined in this report. Accordingly, the Internet may be a useful medium through which to inform multiple populations about additional opportunities for civic engagement.



Photo credit: GeorgiaForward

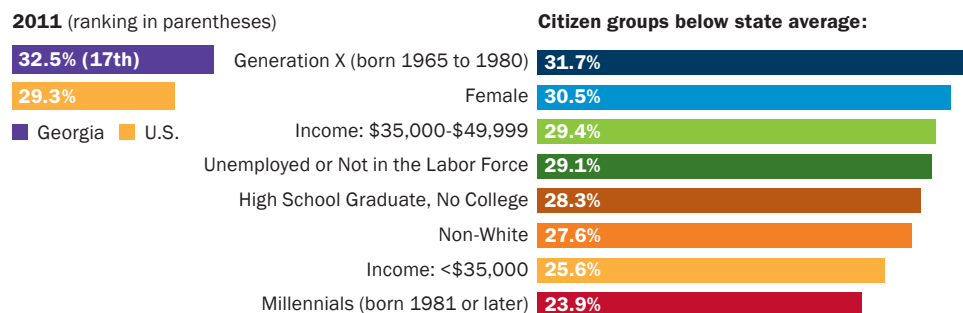
12%

of Georgians reported contacting a public official in 2011.

Frequent discussion of politics increases with age, educational attainment, and income. For instance, 43% of those making \$75,000 or more per year and 35.9% of those making \$50,000-\$74,999 report discussing politics frequently, both above the state average (32.5%). Those making \$35,000-\$49,999 and those making less than \$35,000, however, are below the state average, at 29.4% and 25.6%, respectively.

Following the general trend in this report, Millennials (23.9%) are the least likely to discuss politics while the Silent Generation (43.4%) is well above the state average. Baby Boomers are above the state average as well (36.3%), and Generation X (31.7%) is nearly level with the state average.

Discussing Politics (Frequently)



Millennials (29.3%) are the least likely to discuss politics while the Silent Generation (43.4%) is well above the state average.

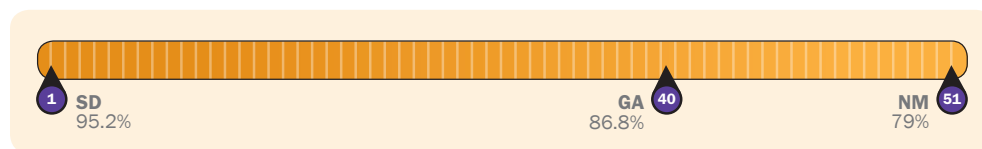


Photo credit: GeorgiaForward

CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS

Georgia ranks in the bottom third for most indicators regarding confidence in institutions. For instance, Georgia ranks 38th in number of residents who report having great or some confidence in corporations, 40th in great or some confidence in public schools, and 46th in great or some confidence in the media. Confidence in these institutions varies among levels of engagement, income, and geography.

CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

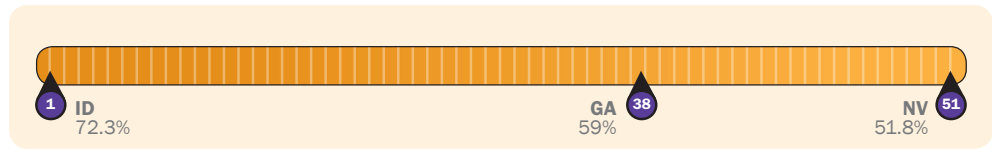


While Millennials score lowest among all generations for most indicators, this group is more likely to have either some or a great deal of confidence in public schools than are older generations. In 2011, 89.9% of Millennials reported having some or a great deal of confidence in public schools, while Generation X (85.7%) and the Silent Generation (84.5%) were below the state average of 86.8%.

Statewide, 27.4% of Georgians report having a great deal of confidence in public schools. More of those with a high school diploma (29.3%) report having a great deal of confidence in public schools compared with those with some college (24.9%), and those with a college degree or higher (28.9%).

Moreover, confidence in public schools increases the further Georgians live from urban centers. Specifically, 79.7% of urban residents have a great deal of or some confidence in public schools compared with 84.1% of suburban residents and 93.1% of rural residents. This discrepancy, however, does not necessarily reflect that rural communities have better public schools, but may instead reflect a combination of confidence in public schools based on close relationships with one's school, performance of a school, and personal attachment to the school, among other reasons. Non-white Georgians are also more likely to have either some or a great deal of confidence in public schools (91.6%) than white Georgians (84.3%).

CONFIDENCE IN CORPORATIONS



Georgia ranks 38th nationally in confidence in corporations; 59% of Georgians report that they have some or a great deal of confidence in corporations. Certain residents, however, have more confidence in corporations than others. Specifically, white Georgians have more confidence in corporations (61.5%) than non-white Georgians (54.3%), as do those with incomes above \$75,000 (69.6%) and those who hold a college degree or higher (70.4%). Furthermore, those who are unemployed or are not in the labor force are considerably less likely to have confidence in corporations (54.8%) than are those who are employed (61.8%).

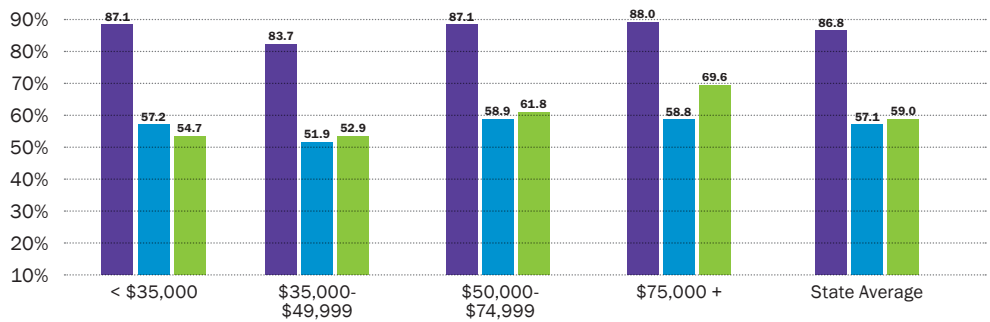


Photo credit: Georgia Family Connection Partnership

67.7%

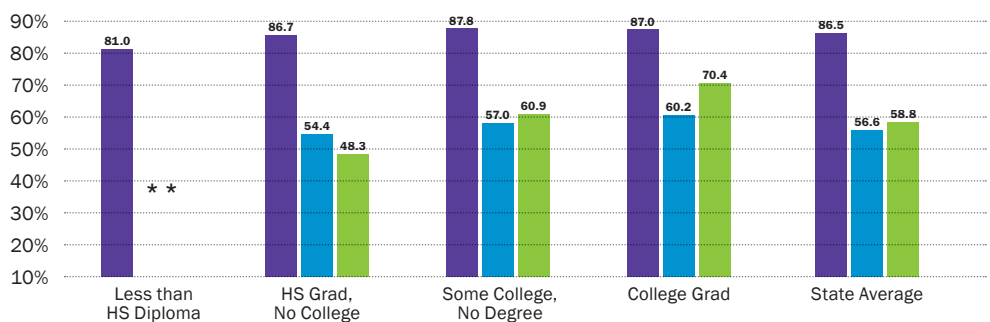
of rural Georgians reported having some or a great deal of confidence in corporations.

Georgia Confidence in Institutions by Income (A Great Deal/Some), 2011



■ Confidence in Public Schools ■ Confidence in Media ■ Confidence in Corporations

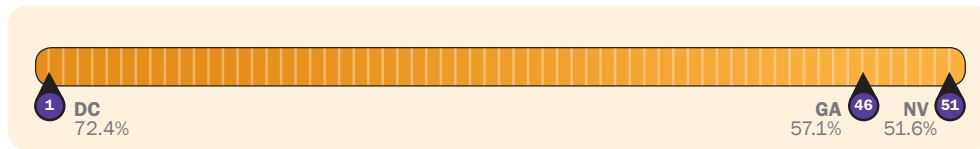
Georgia Confidence in Institutions by Educational Attainment (A Great Deal/Some), 2011



■ Confidence in Public Schools ■ Confidence in Media ■ Confidence in Corporations *Data Not Available

Any time we examine the relationship between educational attainment and engagement, estimates are based only on adults ages 25 and older, assuming that younger people may still be completing their education. This is factored into the state averages in this graph, as well.

CONFIDENCE IN THE MEDIA



Georgia ranks 46th in the nation in having a great deal or some confidence in the media (57.1%). In a reversal of Georgians' confidence in corporations, non-white, unemployed Georgians, and those not in the labor force are likely to have more confidence in the media than are white Georgians or those who are employed. In 2011, 61.9% of unemployed Georgians and those not in the labor force reported having a great deal or some confidence in the media, compared with 54% of employed Georgians. Similarly, 62.9% of non-white Georgians reported having some or a great deal of confidence in the media compared with 54.2% of white Georgians.

Beyond these groupings, confidence in media is similar across many demographics. There is, however, a slight increase in confidence as educational attainment increases. Specifically, 60.2% of Georgians with a college degree report having either some or a great deal of confidence in media, compared with 54.4% of residents with only a high school diploma. Among all generations, Millennials (62%) report having the most confidence in the media, while Generation X (54.3%) and the Silent Generation (54.8%) exhibit levels of confidence in the media near the state average (57.1%).

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS TO CONSIDER

This report does not examine differences in levels of civic engagement among specific minority groups because the sample sizes of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey for these groups were too small to be statistically reliable. However, it does explore differences among white (non-Hispanic) residents and non-white (including Hispanics) residents. Although white and non-white Georgians exhibited similar levels of civic engagement across most indicators, there were a few differences. Thus, it is appropriate to briefly discuss Georgia's demographic changes and what they mean for the state's civic health.

Two decades of demographic changes have taught us much about Georgia. Both the 2000 and 2010 Censuses have shown that Georgia's population has been growing very rapidly: moving from the 11th largest state in 1990 to the 8th largest in 2010. This growth has largely been seen in the state's non-white populations, which grew at an average rate of 39.7% compared with white population growth of 5.6%. Georgia is predicted to be a "Minority-Majority" state around 2025.²⁰

According to this report, Georgia's non-white populations are less civically engaged than the white population in a few key areas: rates of volunteerism, trust in neighbors, contacting elected officials, and confidence in corporations. If this trend continues, it will have major implications for the future of Georgia's civic health. For example, Georgia's Hispanic population is growing very rapidly. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of Hispanics in Georgia nearly doubled, increasing by 96%. Understanding this population will be key to understanding our state's civic health in the future. If Hispanics and other populations of color are not volunteering or contacting their elected officials at rates similar to white residents, community strength and policymaking will likely be skewed. Taking actions to close gaps in knowledge of civics and opportunities for civic engagement will be vital to the future of Georgia.

Georgia is predicted to be a "Majority-Minority" state around 2025.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Georgia's civic health is an important reflection of the strength of our communities and the thoroughness of our democratic process. While there are strengths in Georgia's civic health, this report clearly sets out that we have work to do to improve civic engagement. Specifically, there are gaps in levels of civic engagement between those with higher income and educational attainment and those with less; between older residents and younger residents; and, on a few measures, between white and non-white residents and among rural, suburban, and urban residents.

The authors of this report believe that a strong civic infrastructure and vibrant civic health are important for Georgia and within reach. To strengthen Georgia's civic health, however, the nonprofit, foundation, corporate, and government sectors must commit to identifying and supporting programs that improve civic health. Our hope is that the data in this report provide the information and serve as the catalyst necessary to begin that process. Although this report does not recommend or call for specific programs, initiatives, or legislation, here are a few examples of what we all can do to improve Georgia's civic health.

What individuals can do:

- Get to know and talk to your neighbors. Host a neighborhood gathering.
- Volunteer for a community project or issue that you are passionate about.
- Attend a public meeting, whether it is hosted by a government entity or a community group.
- Call, email, write a letter, or visit one or more of your elected representatives. This can be at the local, state, or national level.
- Take part in community and regional events.
- Take a young person to a public meeting, community event, or to meet with a public official.
- Vote.

What community-based organizations, nonprofits, and foundations can do:

- Include a strategic focus on engaging young people in civic engagement activities.
- Organize forums that bring together diverse groups of residents to discuss a shared problem. Host such an event with a wide range of other community organizations.
- Include civic participation in your programming.
- Work with local education institutions to create opportunities for civic engagement and careers in the civic sector.
- Ensure that your organization is reaching out to and welcoming of all kinds of people and meaningfully engage your members in ways that keep them engaged.
- Leverage the strength of senior citizen civic engagement into opportunities for them to share their experiences with younger residents.

- Partner with other agencies to identify joint civic engagement activities that can be offered in your community.
- Foundations: Fund projects that seek to close gaps in civic participation, especially projects aimed at younger residents and residents with lower income and educational attainment.
- Foundations: Add civic engagement practices to your funding criteria to build stronger, more engaged communities with projects that you fund.

What public officials and government agencies can do:

- Partner with diverse community groups to hold public conversations on public problems. Commit to listening and responding to what all participants have to say.
- Provide opportunities for all types of residents to participate in public policymaking. This could take the form of gathering residents to help redesign processes and format for public meetings.
- Use social media to target and engage all residents, especially those who are younger.
- Commit to engaging your peers about your community's civic health and explore ways to improve it.
- Help underrepresented groups (eg., Hispanics, Asian Americans, and African Americans), young residents, and those with lower income and educational attainment gain the experience they need to sit on boards and commissions.
- Conduct orientations for groups about avenues for engaging in the public policy process.
- Encourage greater voter participation in all communities.
- Reduce barriers to civic participation, including transportation and language obstacles.

What the media can do:

- Identify and highlight individuals and organizations that are strengthening communities and improving some aspect of civic health.
- Cover civic programs.
- Identify and highlight young people who are making a difference in their community.
- Partner with community organizations, foundations, institutions, and the media to promote greater civic health.

What the private sector can do:

- Create in-house incentives and programs to promote employee civic engagement. Partner with local nonprofits to provide opportunities for employees to volunteer, especially those who are younger and have lower incomes.
- Use your corporate giving to support programs that boost civic engagement.
- Partner with local organizations, the media, and foundations to boost voter participation, volunteerism, and community engagement.

What higher education can do:

- Pursue, attract, and retain students from minority and low-income backgrounds.
- Emphasize coursework on civics, history of American democracy, and the U.S. Constitution.
- Provide opportunities and/or academic credit for internships and volunteerism in the civic sector.
- Provide on-campus or local opportunities for students to engage in public policy problem solving.
- Offer continuing education courses in civics, leadership, organizing, and public engagement.
- Offer professional development that shows instructors how to incorporate civics education into existing courses.

What public schools can do:

- Provide civics education for parents, grandparents, and guardians, especially those from lower income and immigrant communities.
- Teach civics through service-learning and public engagement projects. Take students to see civics in action at a city council meeting or a public hearing.
- Provide training for all teachers in civics and encourage them to weave it into their courses regardless of subject matter.
- Provide ample opportunity and encouragement to high school students to register to vote when of age and to participate in community service projects.
- Partner with nonprofit organizations that offer opportunities for students to learn about and participate in civic life.



Photo credit: GeorgiaForward

CONCLUSION

Georgia has much room to improve its civic health. Georgians discuss politics at an above-average rate but trail national norms in every other civic indicator of civic health. From voting to talking with one's neighbors, from belonging to organizations to having confidence in major institutions, Georgians are not engaging at levels seen in most other states.

Further, while data showed some variations in civic engagement across regions and demographic groups, they also revealed consistent demographic patterns across most indicators. In almost all areas, Millennials lag behind older generations in civic engagement, from basic friend and family connections to voting to participating in groups and in their communities. While social and professional networks develop more frequently with age and experience, more must be done to actively engage Millennials fully in the civic life of our communities. Opportunities to boost Millennial participation include emphasizing civic education in K-12 schools and higher education; actively engaging young people in civic participation activities across sectors; encouraging multi-generational efforts to mentor younger residents; and, creating inclusive opportunities to encourage Millennials to vote, volunteer and intern with elected officials or organizations that work in public policy and civics. This generation represents the future of our state, and we must work to ensure they are actively involved in shaping the civic health of our communities.

Another consistent pattern is the gap in civic engagement between those at opposite ends of the educational attainment spectrum. Specifically, those with lower educational attainment are consistently less engaged than their more educated peers. This lack of engagement is of concern because it reflects that this part of the population is not fully participating in the democratic process and, thus, not having their voices fully heard. This lack of engagement also may have unintended consequences for this group, as greater community engagement often yields a higher quality and quantity of connections that could improve employment opportunities.

Despite these challenges, we have the opportunity and capability to improve the state's civic health. Georgia is a state with a rich history of civic engagement and a strong foundation upon which to build. Data reveal strong local connections, a willingness to express opinions, and the existence of several groups with higher-than-average levels of civic engagement. By focusing on what we do well, we can build on our strengths and expand access and resources to those who are less involved in civic life. Indeed, this report, while not intended to offer prescriptions, will hopefully launch a conversation among government, business, and civil society on how best to boost civic health in Georgia.



TECHNICAL NOTES

Unless otherwise noted, the findings presented in this report are based on CIRCLE's analysis of the Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Any and all errors are our own. Volunteering estimates are from CPS September Volunteering Supplement, 2002-2011. Voting and registration data come from the CPS November Voting/Registration Supplement, 1972-2010, and all other civic engagement indicators, such as discussion of political information and connection to neighbors, come from the 2011 CPS Civic Engagement Supplement.

Using a probability selected sample of about 60,000 occupied households, the CPS collects monthly data on employment and demographic characteristics of the nation. The Georgia CPS sample size used in this report is 1,569 residents from across the state. This sample is then weighted to representative population demographics for the state. Estimates for the volunteering indicators (e.g., volunteering, working with neighbors, making donations) are based on U.S. residents ages 16 and older. Estimates for civic engagement and social connection indicators (e.g., exchanging favors with neighbors, discussing politics) are based on U.S. residents ages 18 and older. Voting and registration statistics are based on U.S. citizens who are 18 and older (eligible voters).

Any time we examine the relationship between educational attainment and engagement, estimates are based only on adults ages 25 and older, the assumption being that younger people may still be completing their education.

Because we draw from multiple sources of data with varying sample sizes, we are not able to compute one margin of error for the state across all indicators. Any analysis that breaks down the sample into smaller groups (e.g., gender, education) will have smaller samples, and therefore the margin of error will increase. Data for some indicators are pooled from multiple years (2009-2011) for a more reliable estimate when sample sizes for certain cross-tabulations may have been small. Due to the small sample size, findings should be interpreted with caution and may not be generalized across the population. Furthermore, national rankings, while useful in benchmarking, may be small in range, with one to two percentage points separating the state ranked first from the state ranked last.

It is also important to emphasize that our margin of error estimates are approximate, as CPS sampling is highly complex, and accurate estimation of error rates involves many parameters that are not publicly available.



ENDNOTES

- ¹ "Enabling Environment for Civic Engagement," The World Bank, accessed February 26, 2013, <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALDEVELOPMENT/EXTPCENG/O,,contentMDK:20529031~menuPK:410312~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~SitePK:410306,00.html>.
- ² Simon Szreter and Michael Woolcock, "Health by Association? Social Capital, Social Theory and the Political Economy of Public Health," *International Journal of Epidemiology* (2003): 33:1–18.
- ³ National Conference on Citizenship. *Civic Health and Unemployment II: The Case Builds*, Washington DC. 2012, September.
- ⁴ Combination of those who answered "a great deal" or "some."
- ⁵ Combination of those who answered "a great deal" or "some."
- ⁶ Combination of those who answered "a great deal" or "some."
- ⁷ Combination of those who answered "all of the time" or "most of the time."
- ⁸ For most measures of civic health discussed in this report, the differences between non-Hispanic whites and non-whites were negligible. This report discusses racial/ethnic comparisons using "white" (meaning non-Hispanic whites) and "non-white" because the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey on which this report is based did not include sample sizes of Asian and Hispanic ethnic groups large enough to make statistically sound observations for those ethnic and racial groups alone.
- ⁹ Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy*, January 1995.
- ¹⁰ See, e.g., *Social Connectedness and Health*, Wilder Research, March 2012, [http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Publications/Studies/Social Connectedness and Health/Social Connectedness and Health.pdf](http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Publications/Studies/Social%20Connectedness%20and%20Health/Social%20Connectedness%20and%20Health.pdf); and *Social Connectedness and Civic Health*, Kentucky Civic Health Index, 2011, <http://ncoc.net/Social-Connectedness-and-Civic-Health-KY>.
- ¹¹ *Social Connectedness and Health*, Wilder Research, [http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Publications/Studies/Social Connectedness and Health/Social Connectedness and Health.pdf](http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Publications/Studies/Social%20Connectedness%20and%20Health/Social%20Connectedness%20and%20Health.pdf); and *Social Connectedness and Civic Health*, Kentucky Civic Health Index, <http://ncoc.net/Social-Connectedness-and-Civic-Health-KY>.
- ¹² *Civic Health and Unemployment: Can Civic Engagement Strengthen the Economy?*, National Conference on Citizenship, September 2011.
- ¹³ Indicates U.S. Census Current Population Survey pooled data (2009-2011).
- ¹⁴ US Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonally adjusted rate as of September 2012.
- ¹⁵ These values fall within the margin of error. The margin of error for subgroup categories may be relatively broad as a result of small sample size.
- ¹⁶ *Civic Health and Unemployment: The Case Builds*. National Conference on Citizenship, September 2012.
- ¹⁷ Indicates U.S. Census Current Population Survey pooled data (2009-2011).
- ¹⁸ *Civic Health and Unemployment: Can Civic Engagement Strengthen the Economy?*, National Conference on Citizenship, September 2011.
- ¹⁹ Indicates pooled data (2009-2011) for ease of comparison with demographic crosstabs. The single-year percentage is 8.2% and the ranking is based on that percentage.
- ²⁰ Frank Bass, "Nonwhite U.S. Births Become the Majority for the First Time," *Bloomberg News*, May 17, 2012, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-05-17/non-white-u-s-births-become-the-majority-for-first-time.html>.

CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

State and Local Partnerships

NCoC began America's Civic Health Index in 2006 to measure the level of civic engagement and health of our democracy. In 2009, NCoC was incorporated into the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and directed to expand this civic health assessment in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Census Bureau.

NCoC now works with partners in more than 30 communities nationwide to use civic data to lead and inspire a public dialogue about the future of citizenship in America and to drive sustainable civic strategies.

STATES

Alabama

University of Alabama
David Mathews Center
Auburn University

Arizona

Center for the Future of Arizona

California

California Forward
Center for Civic Education
Center for Individual and
Institutional Renewal
Davenport Institute

Connecticut

Everyday Democracy
Secretary of the State of Connecticut

Florida

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
Bob Graham Center for Public Service
Lou Frey Institute of Politics
and Government
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Georgia

GeorgiaForward
Carl Vinson Institute of Government,
The University of Georgia
Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Illinois

Citizen Advocacy Center
McCormick Foundation

Indiana

Center on Congress at Indiana University
Hoosier State Press
Association Foundation
Indiana Bar Foundation
Indiana Supreme Court
Indiana University Northwest

Kentucky

Commonwealth of Kentucky,
Secretary of State's Office
Institute for Citizenship
& Social Responsibility,
Western Kentucky University
Kentucky Advocates for Civic Education
McConnell Center, University of Louisville

Maryland

Mannakee Circle Group
Center for Civic Education
Common Cause-Maryland
Maryland Civic Literacy Commission

Massachusetts

Harvard Institute of Politics

Michigan

Michigan Nonprofit Association
Michigan Campus Compact

Minnesota

Center for Democracy and Citizenship

Missouri

Missouri State University

New Hampshire

Carsey Institute

New York

Siena College Research Institute
New York State Commission on National
and Community Service

North Carolina

North Carolina Civic
Education Consortium
Center for Civic Education
NC Center for Voter Education
Democracy NC
NC Campus Compact
Western Carolina University Department of
Public Policy

Ohio

Miami University Hamilton Center for
Civic Engagement

Oklahoma

University of Central Oklahoma
Oklahoma Campus Compact

Pennsylvania

Center for Democratic Deliberation
National Constitution Center

Texas

University of Texas at San Antonio

Virginia

Center for the Constitution at James
Madison's Montpelier
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

CITIES

Chicago

McCormick Foundation

Miami

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
Miami Foundation

Seattle

Seattle City Club
Boeing Company
Seattle Foundation

Twin Cities

Center for Democracy and Citizenship
Citizens League
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Millennials Civic Health Index

Mobilize.org
Harvard Institute of Politics
CIRCLE

Justin Bibb

Special Assistant for Education and Economic Development for the County Executive, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Harry Boyte

Director, Center for Democracy and Citizenship

John Bridgeland

CEO, Civic Enterprises
Chairman, Board of Advisors, National Conference on Citizenship
Former Assistant to the President of the United States & Director, Domestic Policy Council & USA Freedom Corps

Nelda Brown

Executive Director, National Service-Learning Partnership at the Academy for Educational Development

Kristen Cambell

Chief Program Officer,
National Conference on Citizenship

Jeff Coates

Strategic Initiatives Associate, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Doug Dobson

Executive Director,
Florida Joint Center for Citizenship

David Eisner

Former President and CEO,
National Constitution Center

Paula Ellis

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives,
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Maya Enista Smith

Former CEO, Mobilize.org

William Galston

Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution
Former Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States for Domestic Policy

Stephen Goldsmith

Former Deputy Mayor of New York City
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