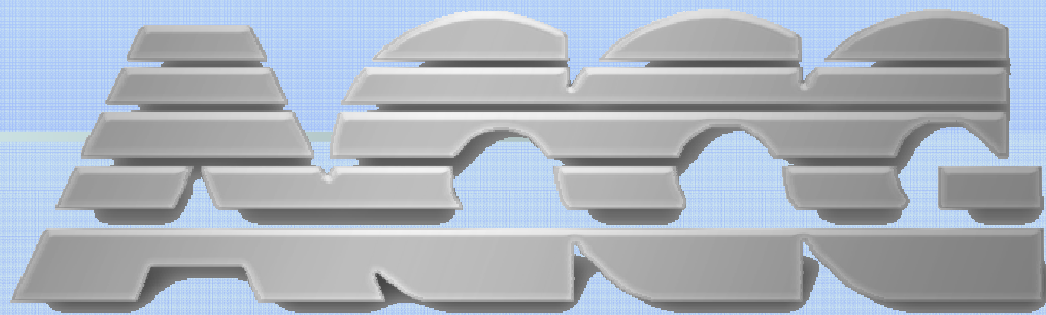


How County Taxes Work

**Tax Reform Council
September 29, 2010**

Clint Mueller
Legislative Director

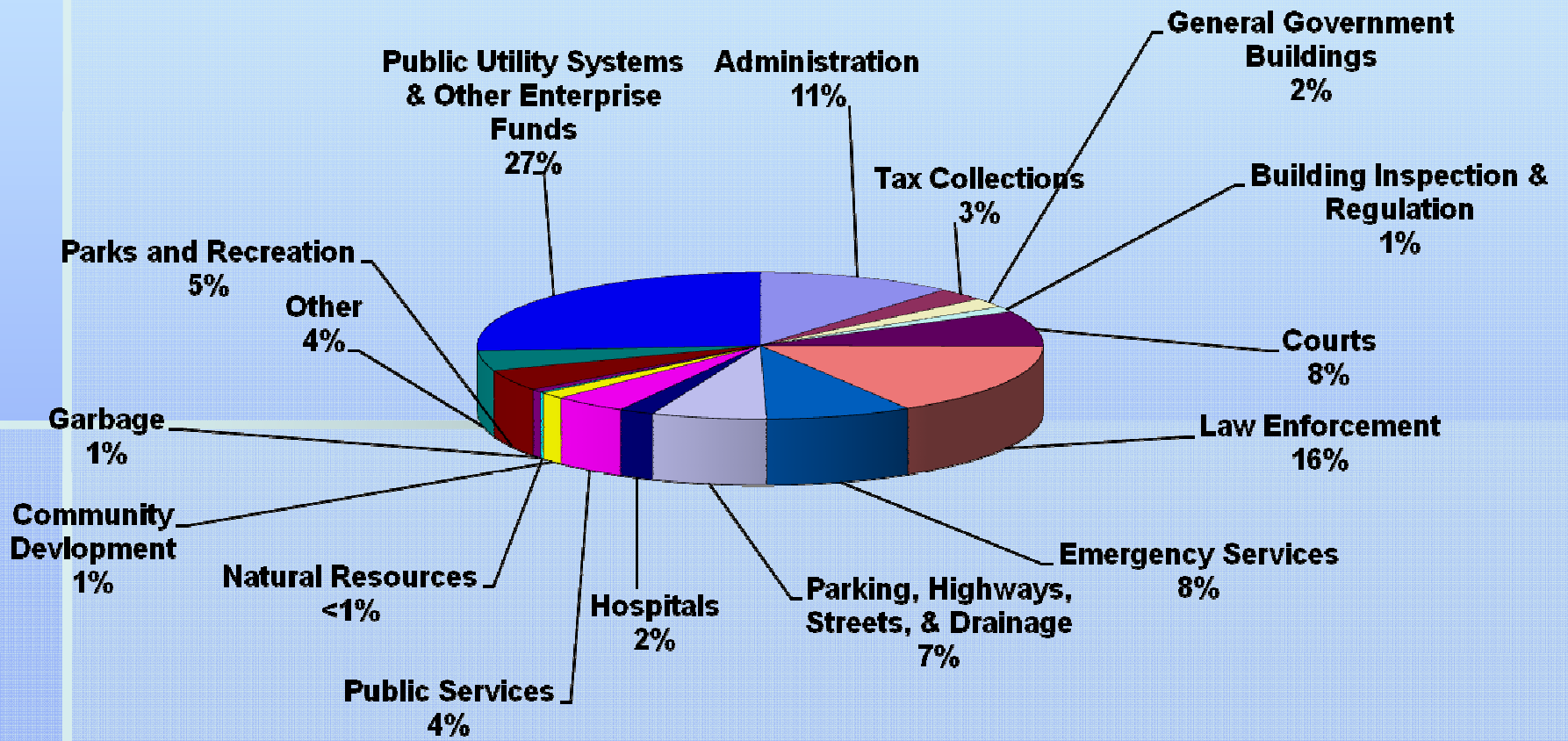
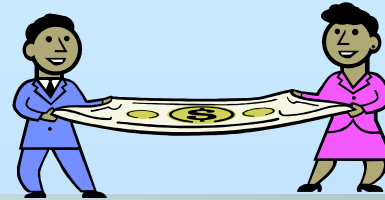


Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Georgia Counties

- 159 Counties
- Political Subdivisions of the State
- Powers derived from and limited by:
Georgia Constitution, federal and state statutes, local legislation, county ordinances, and resolutions

Everybody wants a piece of the pie....

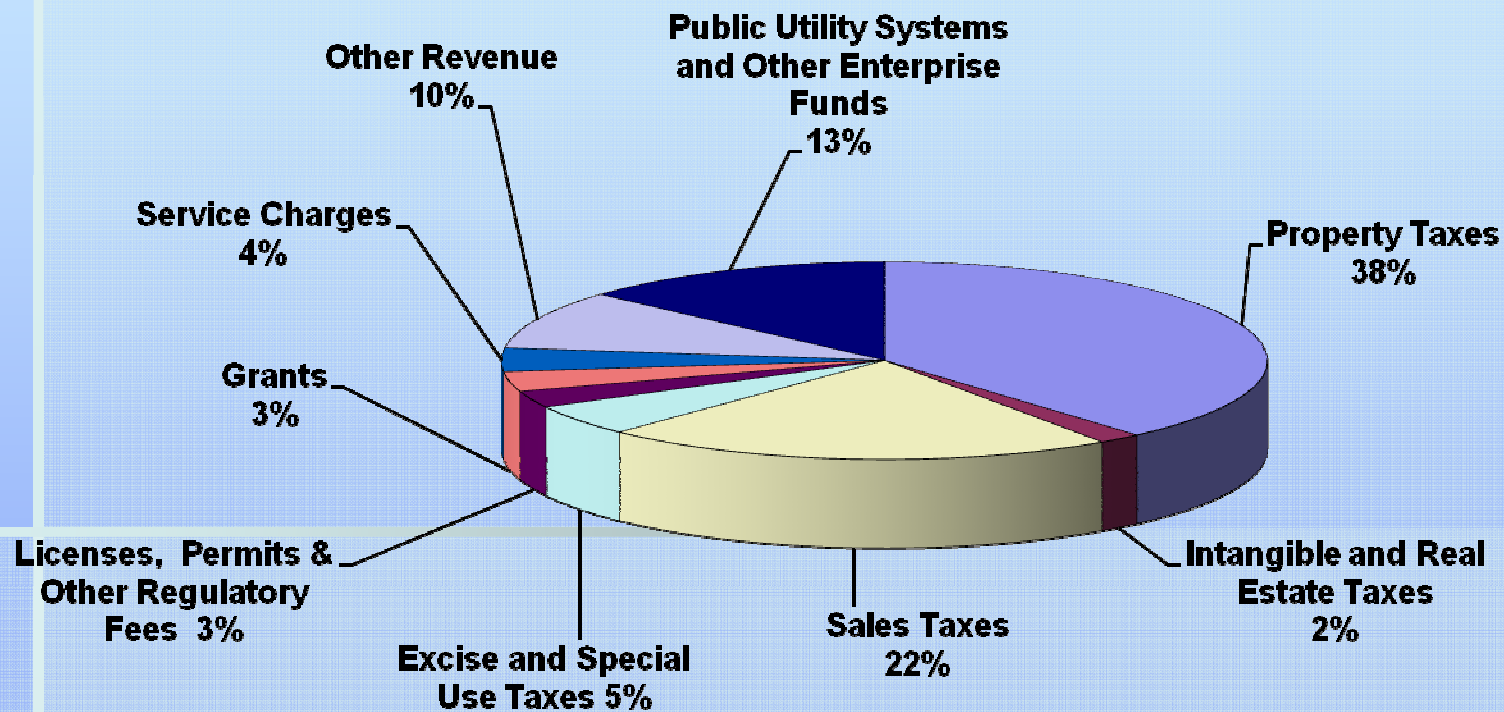


County Government Revenues

Revenue sources for counties can be grouped into a few main categories:

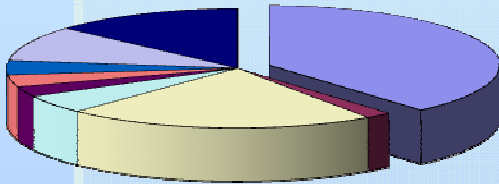
- Property Tax
- Sales Tax
- Intangible & Real Estate Tax
- Excise and Special Use Tax
- Licenses, Permits, & Other Regulatory Fees
- Grants
- Service Charges
- Public Utility and other Enterprise Fees
- Other Revenue

Georgia County Government Revenue Sources on Average



Property Tax

38% of Total Revenue



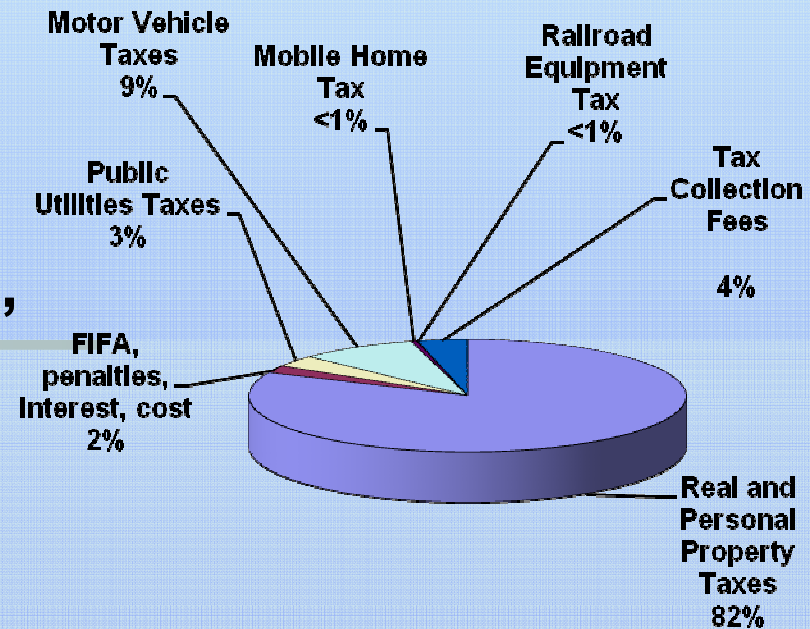
Includes:

Real Property:

Permanent fixtures, land, buildings, & improvements

Personal Property:

Property moved with ease



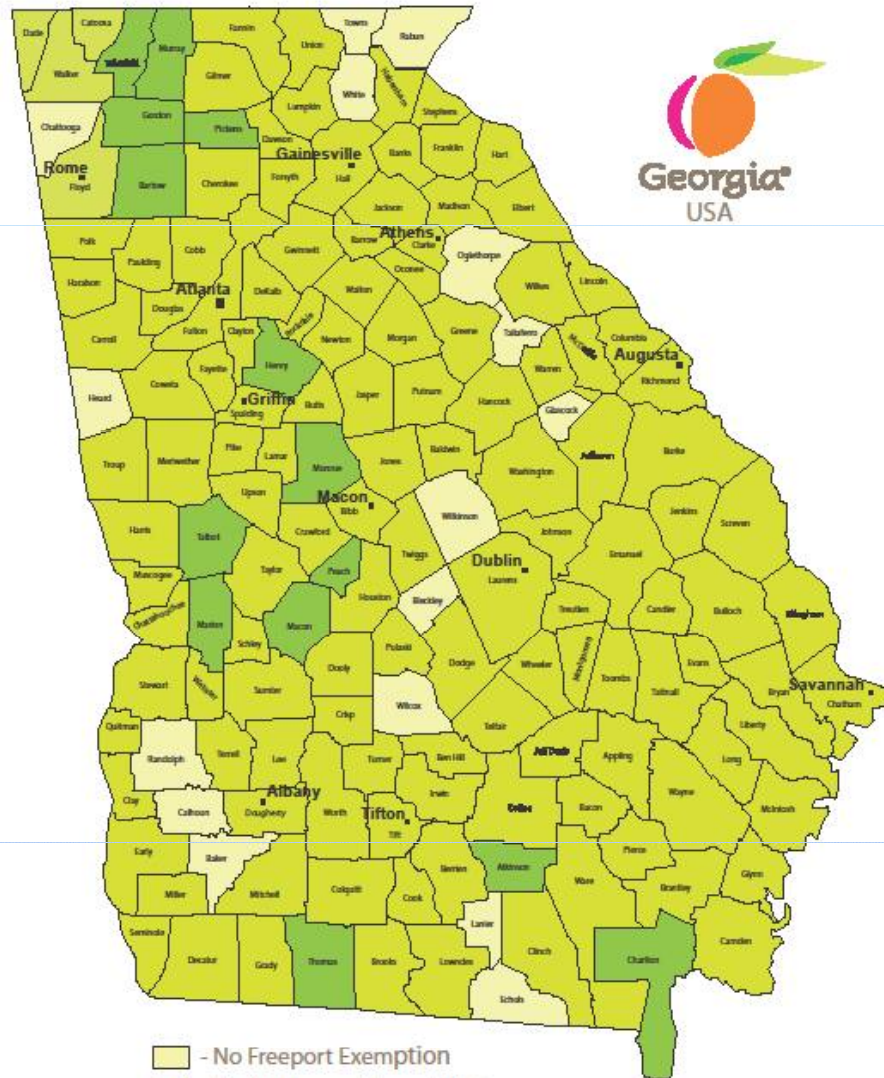
Valuation and Appeals

- Calculating the tax bill
- DOR Appraisal Manual
- Sales Ratio Study
- Recent changes to the appeals process

Business Incentives

- Agriculture, CUVA, Forestland
- Freeport (Business Inventory)
- Bonds-for-Title
- CIDs
- TADs

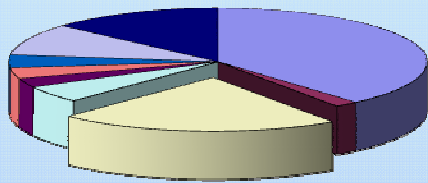
Georgia Department of Economic Development Freeport Exemptions Map



Information Provided by the
Georgia Department of Revenue.
Please contact your county Tax Assessor for
further information.

Sales Tax

22% of Total Revenue



- **Local Option Sales and Use Tax (LOST)**
147 counties and 8 counties with a rollback to school systems
(Towns County has a LOST & ELOST)
(Muscogee County has two LOSTs)
- **Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)**
151 counties
- **Homestead Option Sales and Use Tax (HOST)**
Only Rockdale and DeKalb

Providing Infrastructure Necessary for Growth

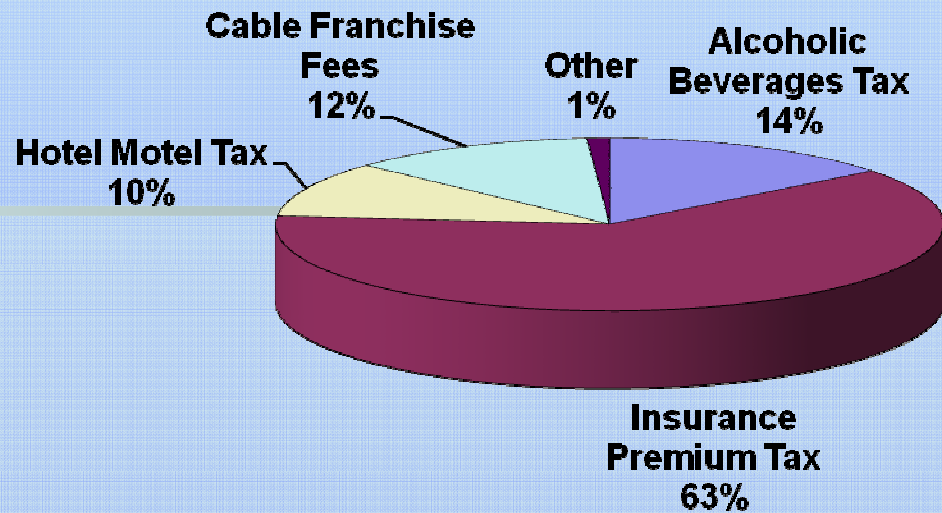
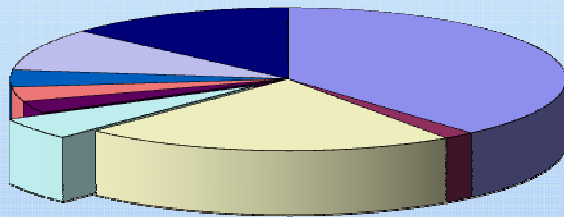
- SPLOST
- Regional Transportation Sales Tax

Partnering with the State to Improve the Sales Tax System

- Expanding the base
- Flexibility to select among local options
- Sharing local data (HB 1093)
- “Point of Sale”
- Unidentifiable sales tax
- National Streamlined
- Motor vehicle tax reform (HB 480)

Excise and Special Use Tax

5% of Total Revenue



Utility Taxes

- Franchise Fee vs. Right of Way Occupancy Fee
- Telecommunications Excise Tax

Taxpayer Transparency

- Fees that have become taxes
- Disclosing the “Tax Shift”
- Disclosing full cost of new capital