



Water Issues in Georgia:
A survey of public attitudes in Georgia

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Southern Region
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WATER ISSUES IN GEORGIA

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT?

How important are each of the following water issues to you? (Circle **one** answer per question)

Issue	Not important	Somewhat important	No opinion	Important	Very important
1. Clean rivers and lakes	N	S	O	I	V
2. Clean marine water	N	S	O	I	V
3. Clean bays and estuaries	N	S	O	I	V
4. Clean water for shellfishing	N	S	O	I	V
5. Clean beaches	N	S	O	I	V
6. Clean drinking water	N	S	O	I	V
7. Clean groundwater	N	S	O	I	V
8. Water for commerce/ industry/power generation	N	S	O	I	V
9. Water for household landscapes	N	S	O	I	V
10. Water for agriculture	N	S	O	I	V
11. Water for aquatic habitat	N	S	O	I	V
12. Water for recreation	N	S	O	I	V
13. Water for municipal use	N	S	O	I	V
14. Interstate transfer/sale of water rights	N	S	O	I	V
15. Within state transfer/sale of water rights	N	S	O	I	V
16. Hypoxia (Gulf dead zone)	N	S	O	I	V

How important are the following actions in protecting our water resources? (Circle **one** answer per question)

Issue	Not important	Somewhat important	No opinion	Important	Very important
17. Treating stormwater runoff	N	S	O	I	V
18. Improving wastewater treatment	N	S	O	I	V
19. Residential water conservation	N	S	O	I	V
20. Building new water storage structures (dams, reservoirs)	N	S	O	I	V
21. Improving home and garden practices	N	S	O	I	V
22. Preserving & restoring buffer zones & wetlands	N	S	O	I	V
23. Improving agricultural practices	N	S	O	I	V
24. Preserving agricultural land & open space	N	S	O	I	V
25. Better management of recreational activities (boating, fishing, ATVs)	N	S	O	I	V
26. Better management of shoreline access to prevent erosion	N	S	O	I	V
27. Improving water quality monitoring to detect pollution	N	S	O	I	V
28. Making water quality and quantity data available to public	N	S	O	I	V
29. Educating municipal officials	N	S	O	I	V

DRINKING WATER ISSUES

30. Where do you primarily get your drinking water? (Circle **one** answer)
- a. Private supply (private well, river, pond, lake)
 - b. Public supply – municipal
 - c. Public supply – rural water district
 - d. Purchase bottled water
 - e. I don't know
31. Please **check all** of the boxes that apply to your home drinking water system.
- I have a water treatment system (softener, etc.)
 - I have a water filter
 - I purchase 5 gallon containers of drinking water
 - I often use bottled water for drinking purposes
 - I never buy bottled water
 - I am satisfied with my drinking water (piped in house)
 - I am not satisfied with my current drinking water (piped in house)
 - My drinking water is separate from my water supply system
32. Do you feel that your home tap drinking water is safe to drink?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
33. Do you have your home drinking water tested?
- a. Yes
 - b. No

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING WATER RESOURCES

34. In your opinion, what is the quality of groundwater (sources of well water) in your area?
- a. Good or excellent
 - b. Good, and improving
 - c. Good, but deteriorating
 - d. Fair
 - e. Poor, but improving
 - f. Poor
 - g. No opinion / don't know

35. In your opinion, what is the quality of surface waters (rivers, streams, lakes, channels, and wetlands) where you live?
- Good or excellent
 - Good, and improving
 - Good, but deteriorating
 - Fair
 - Poor, but improving
 - Poor
 - No opinion / don't know
36. Do you regard water **quantity** (having enough water) as a problem in the area where you live? (Circle **one** answer)
- Definitely not
 - Probably not
 - I don't know
 - Probably
 - Definitely yes

37. Do you know of or suspect that any of the following pollutants affect either surface or groundwater quality in your area?

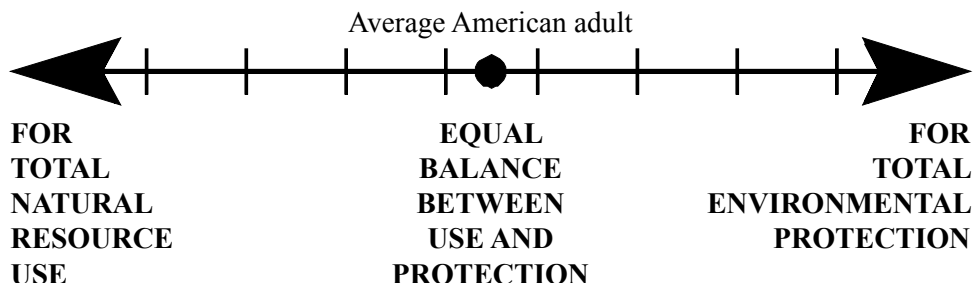
Pollutant	Know it is NOT a problem	Suspect it is NOT a problem	Don't know	Suspect it IS a problem	Know it IS a problem
a. Pathogens (bacteria, viruses, germs)	1	2	3	4	5
b. Fertilizer/Nitrates	1	2	3	4	5
c. Fertilizer/Phosphates	1	2	3	4	5
d. Heavy metals (lead, arsenic, mercury)	1	2	3	4	5
e. Minerals (iron, manganese, calcium)	1	2	3	4	5
f. Pesticides	1	2	3	4	5
g. Salinity (water too salty)	1	2	3	4	5
h. Pharmaceuticals (antibiotics, personal care products)	1	2	3	4	5
i. Petroleum products	1	2	3	4	5
j. Algae	1	2	3	4	5
k. Product and waste water from mining	1	2	3	4	5
l. Septic systems	1	2	3	4	5

38. In your opinion, what is the quality of ocean waters off the coast of the Southern states?
- Good or excellent
 - Good, and improving
 - Good, but deteriorating
 - Fair
 - Poor, but improving
 - Poor
 - No opinion / don't know
39. In your opinion, which of the following are most responsible for the existing pollution problems in rivers and lakes in your state? (Check up to **3** answers)
- Forestry (wood harvesting)
 - Agriculture – crops
 - Agriculture – animals
 - Erosion from roads and/or construction, repair
 - Industry
 - Military bases
 - Septic systems
 - Runoff from home landscapes
 - Stormwater runoff
 - Landfills
 - Wastewater treatment plants
 - New suburban development
 - Oil wells and mining
40. Do you know what a watershed is? (Check **one** box)
- Yes
 - No
41. How well do you feel each one of these groups is fulfilling their responsibility for protecting water resources in your community? (Circle **one** answer per group)

Group	Very well	Moderately well	Don't know	Somewhat poorly	Very poorly
a. Federal government	1	2	3	4	5
b. State government	1	2	3	4	5
c. Your county, city, or town	1	2	3	4	5
d. Individual citizens	1	2	3	4	5

42. The likelihood of your area suffering from a prolonged drought is:
- Increasing
 - Decreasing
 - Staying the same
 - No opinion
43. The likelihood of your area having enough water resources to meet all of its needs 10 years from now is:
- High (likely enough water)
 - Medium
 - Low (likely not enough water)
 - No opinion
44. Have you or someone in your household done any of the following as part of an individual or community effort to conserve water or preserve water quality? (Check **all** that apply)
- Changed the way your yard is landscaped
 - Changed how often you water your yard
 - Changed your use of pesticides, fertilizers, or other chemicals
 - Pumped your septic system (if you have one)
 - Adopted new technologies (low flow faucets, etc.)
45. Have you received water resources information from the following sources? (Check **one** box per source)
- | | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Cable television | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Network television | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Public television | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Local newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Major newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Extension | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Universities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Environmental agencies | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Environmental groups | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Magazines | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l. Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| m. Friends and family | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

46. Please place an X on the line below to indicate how you see yourself on environmental issues:



47. Have you participated in any of the following activities? (Circle **all** that apply)

- a. Master Gardener program
- b. Volunteer water quality monitoring
- c. Lake, river, bay, wetland, or watershed protection groups
- d. County, municipal, township or tribal commission meetings

48. Would you like to learn more about any of the following water quality issue areas? (Check **all** that interest you)

- Watershed management
- Watershed restoration
- Forest management and water issues
- Irrigation management
- Animal waste management
- Nutrient and pesticide management
- Private well protection
- Septic system management
- Protecting public drinking water supplies
- Water policy and economics
- Community actions concerning water issues
- Fish and wildlife water needs
- Home and garden landscaping
- Restoring fish and aquatic habitat
- Landscape buffers
- Shoreline clean-up

49. If you had the following kinds of learning opportunities to learn more about water issues, which would you be most likely to take advantage of? (Check up to **3** items)
- Read printed fact sheets, bulletins, or brochures
 - Visit a web site
 - Attend a short course or workshop
 - Look at a demonstration or display
 - Read a newspaper article or series
 - Watch TV coverage
 - Watch a video of information
 - Take part in a onetime volunteer activity (for example, water monitoring, streamside restoration, or education)
 - Take a course for certification or credit
 - Get trained for a regular volunteer position (for example, as a watershed steward or a water quality monitor)
 - Learn how to conduct a home, farm, or workplace water practices assessment
 - Attend a fair or festival
50. Have you ever changed your mind about an environmental issue as a result of: (Check **all** that apply)
- News coverage (TV, newspapers, Internet, etc.)
 - Conversations with other people
 - Attending public meetings or participating in volunteer activities
 - Classes or presentations
 - Speech by an elected official
 - Firsthand observation (field trips, etc.)
 - Financial considerations
51. Do you think that the amount of rainfall in your area will change as a result of global warming?
- a. Yes, a significant increase in rainfall
 - b. Yes, a slight increase in rainfall
 - c. No, no change in rainfall
 - d. Yes, a slight decrease in rainfall
 - e. Yes, a significant decrease in rainfall
 - f. I don't know

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING AS THEY PERTAIN TO YOU

52. Where do you live?
- a. Inside city limits
 - b. Outside city limits, not engaged in farming
 - c. Outside city limits, currently engaged in farming
53. The population of the city/town in which you live is:
- a. More than 100,000 people
 - b. 25,000 to 100,000 people
 - c. 7,000 to 25,000 people
 - d. 3,500 to 7,000 people
 - e. Less than 3,500 people
54. What is your zip code?
- ZIP CODE _____
55. How long have you lived in Georgia?
- a. All my life
 - b. More than 10 years, but not all my life
 - c. 5 to 9 years
 - d. Less than 5 years
56. What is your gender?
- a. Male
 - b. Female
57. What is your age?
- _____ years old
58. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- a. Less than high school or some high school
 - b. High school graduate
 - c. Some college or vocational training
 - d. College graduate
 - e. Advanced college or other professional degree

59. Where do you normally get your news? (Check **all** that apply)

- Local newspapers
- Major newspapers
- Radio
- Internet
- Local television
- National television
- Cable television
- Public television
- Magazines or newsletters

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP