

Georgia earns a D- for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Low bar to forfeit: Prosecutors must prove by preponderance of the evidence that property is connected to a crime.
- Poor protections for the innocent: Third-party owners must prove their own innocence to recover seized property. And innocent owner claims are barred in cases involving a jointly owned vehicle.
- Large profit incentive: Up to 100% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement.

Recent Reforms

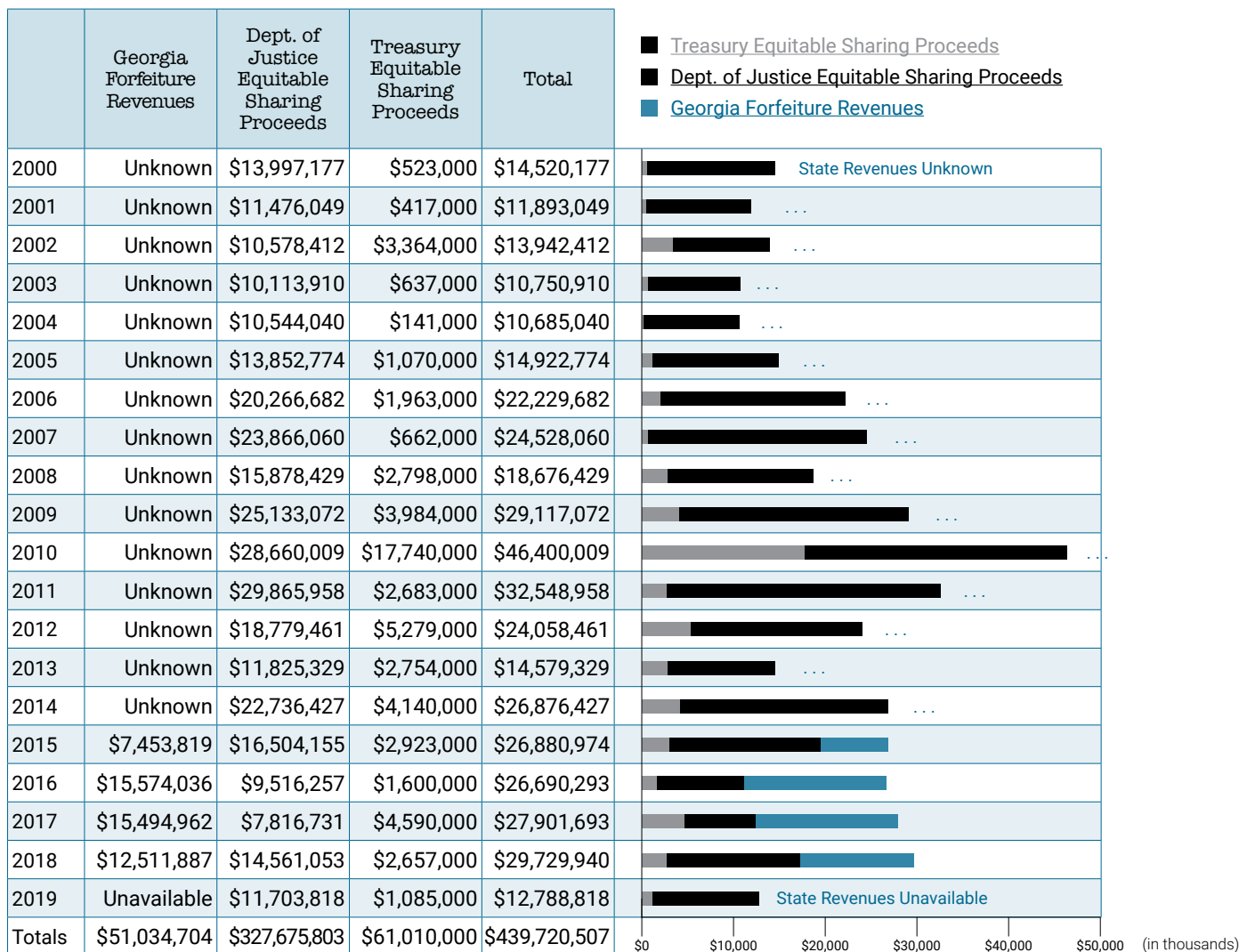
- None

State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

Between 2015 and 2018, Georgia law enforcement agencies forfeited more than \$51 million under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$388 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$439 million in forfeiture revenue. Georgia ranks 43rd for its participation in the Department of Justice’s equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$439 million
in state and federal
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

Georgia's Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	C	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	A
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	A	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	A
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	F	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	C

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards.

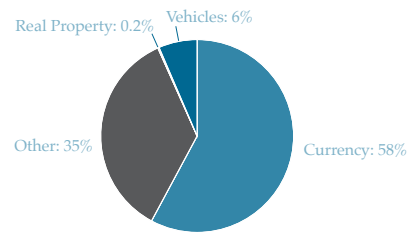
Forfeitures Under Georgia Law: Key Facts

Median Value



From 2015 to 2018, half of Georgia's currency forfeitures were worth less than \$540.

Property Types



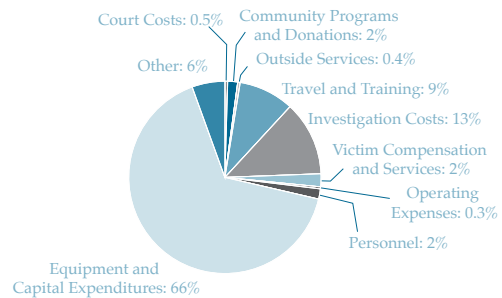
From 2015 to 2018, 58% of Georgia's forfeitures were of currency.

Civil vs. Criminal

UNKNOWN

Georgia does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

Expenditures



From 2015 to 2018, Georgia law enforcement spent \$37 million from forfeiture funds—two-thirds on equipment and capital expenditures.

Data Notes

Property-level data were obtained via public records requests to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia. Figures represent total value of forfeited property and are in calendar years. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state or cover the same 12-month period as the federal data.