



## TIP BRIEF

November 28, 2025

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# Georgia Operates World's Highest Incarceration Rate While Criminalizing Poverty Through Systematic Wealth Extraction

Georgia operates the world's highest rate of correctional control at 881 per 100,000 residents—nearly 2.5 times the national average—while systematically extracting wealth from poor families through cash bail, fines, and fees practices operating at 20 times national averages. The state cycles 236,000 different people through jails annually, with 26 localities weaponizing their criminal justice systems to generate revenue from predominantly Black and poor communities.

## QUOTABLES

*Georgia has created a state legal framework that has allowed localities to weaponize their criminal legal systems through abusive fines and fees practices that forcibly extract wealth from Georgians experiencing poverty*

*The median bail bond of \$10,000 represents eight months of income for the typical detained defendant, whose median annual pre-incarceration income of \$15,109 falls at just 48% of the median for non-incarcerated people*

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Georgia Department of Corrections Commissioner, local judges setting unconstitutional bail amounts, district attorneys in 26 high-extraction localities, and Georgia Budget and Policy Institute-identified jurisdictions operating government-sanctioned loan sharking operations

## RELATED ASSETS

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- [Georgia Budget & Policy Institute Report on Fines and Fees](#)
- [DOJ Investigation of Georgia Prisons](#)
- [Brookings Institution Study on Incarceration by Income](#)

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### **Georgia Prisoners' Speak**

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