



State of the County

Local Economy, Finances, and Gwinnett's Excellent Credit History

- Population: 855,459 (*Moody's Analytics, 2013 estimate*)
- Gwinnett had 438,662 employed residents in November 2013 and unemployment fell to 6.3 percent, down from 7.2 percent in November 2012 and lowest since fall 2008 (*Georgia Department of Labor, preliminary, not seasonally adjusted*)
- AAA credit ratings with Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investor Services, and Standard and Poor's since 1997; only 40 counties out of 3,000 in the U.S. hold this distinction
- County pension plan ranks in the top 1 percent of all public plans under \$1 billion in assets for the past five years or since inception (*gross of fees and top 6 percent on a net basis*)
- First large county and second overall to receive Georgia Department of Revenue approval of the 2013 tax digest

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

- 2014 SPLOST approved by voters November 5, 2013
- Current SPLOST ends March 31, 2014; new program begins April 1, 2014
- Three-year program will raise an estimated \$498 million
- Shared between Gwinnett County and 16 cities:
 - County: 78.9 percent
 - Cities: 21.1 percent
- County will spend 70 percent (approximately \$275 million) to fund transportation projects – roads, bridges, intersections, sidewalks
- Remaining 30 percent will fund other purposes – facilities/equipment for public safety, recreation, library relocations and renovation, and senior services facilities

your pennies
at work



SPLOST

2014 Adopted Budget

- \$1.5 billion balanced budget preserves core services and focuses on priorities set by commissioners; operating budget totals \$1.027 billion and capital budget totals \$485.6 million
- Addresses increased health care costs, employee retention and competitiveness issues, legislative/external impacts, and the 2014 SPLOST program
- Holds the line on property tax rates, continues 90-day job vacancy policy, expands community outreach efforts, and adds staff for two more medical units
- Anticipates a slight improvement in the tax digest
- Four citizen reviewers assisted Chairman Nash and staff with allocating resources to meet Board of Commissioners' priorities



Planning, Economic Development, and Revitalization

- Single-family residential building permits doubled in 2013 over 2012, highest since 2007
- Commissioners established the Greater Gwinnett Place Opportunity Zone and reset five existing Tax Allocation Districts
- Initiated project to recalibrate the 2030 Unified Plan with post-recession outcomes
- Unified Development Ordinance will modernize/streamline plan review/permitting process and create new mixed-use zoning districts to facilitate revitalization/redevelopment
- Led creation of new non-profit entity within Partnership Gwinnett to promote transparency in economic development efforts

Water Resources

- Replaced more than 11 miles of water mains
- Reduced water main breaks by more than 40 percent through better pressure management
- New leak detection equipment found 100 unreported leaks, saving 150 million gallons of water and \$782,000 annually
- Installed standby generators at 229 raw sewage pump stations
- Inspected 20,100 valves over past two years and 8,172 manholes in 2013
- 70 percent of work hours now dedicated to proactive, preventive repairs

Community Services

- Cooperative Extension Service presented 1,083 youth, family, and environmental programs
- Elections conducted two elections, processed more than 74,000 voter transactions, and maintained voter registration list of 478,464 registered voters
- Gwinnett libraries own more than a million books, magazines, e-books, and media items and provide access to 250 online databases at 15 branches
- Library staff answered more than 81,000 questions to the AskGCPL phone and email service and 4,880 library volunteers donated 37,000 hours
- Health and Human Services served an estimated 434,552 residents at centers in Norcross, Buford, and Centerville
- Senior Services provided 132,211 congregate and home-delivered meals; new kitchen opens in 2014
- Environmental and Heritage Center secured more than \$600,000 in grants, sponsorships, and exhibits
- Harbins and Rabbit Hill Parks added youth baseball and softball facilities in 2013
- Major projects underway at Bethesda Park softball complex, Dacula Park concessions/restroom building, Environmental and Heritage Center festival field and expanded parking, Harbins Community Park pavilion/playground area, Ivy Creek Greenway phase I, section 3, Lions Club Park renovation, and Little Mulberry Park phase 3 pavilion, playground, trail extension, and disc golf course
- Community Services worked with 973 community partners to provide services and volunteers donated more than 965,930 hours of service



Transportation

- Opened a Diverging Diamond Interchange on Pleasant Hill Road at I-85 with a second DDI under construction on Jimmy Carter Boulevard at I-85
- Working with Georgia DOT to widen State Route 20 from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to the Chattahoochee River; GDOT concurrently working on bridge replacement/widening
- New bridges built on Killian Hill Road at Yellow River and Cruse Road at Sweetwater Creek
- Widened Pleasant Hill Road from Buford Highway to Howell Ferry Road
- Added 17.7 miles of fiber optic cable, 28 cameras, and 35 traffic signals to the Traffic Control Center
- Expanded the Intelligent Transportation Systems network, Advanced Traveler Information System, GC Smart Commute website, and department's coordination with public safety partners
- Retimed 102 traffic signals in nine corridors and installed or rebuilt 21 traffic signal installations
- Completed 13 Quick-Fix projects, rehabilitated six bridges, and resurfaced 135 miles of roadway
- Citizens Project Selection Committee began to prioritize projects in 10 categories for the 2014 SPLOST program
- Gwinnett Transit had 1,845,540 boardings in 2013, improved local routes with direct service to Doraville MARTA, and installed automated dispatch/vehicle location system
- Rebuilt Briscoe Field taxiway and replaced incandescent lighting with energy-saving LED fixtures



Public Safety

- Hired/trained 50 police officers and 25 firefighter/EMTs
- 911 Center dispatched 838,516 police calls and 66,831 medical/fire calls
- Police solved 86 percent of homicide cases (*national average: 64 percent*)
- Built new Fire Maintenance Repair Center, began Fire Academy improvements
- Nearly 9,000 attended annual Public Safety Festival at Coolray Field Home of the Gwinnett Braves
- ITS completed records management and radio systems upgrades
- Animal Shelter built community partnerships, held three major adoption events, and reduced euthanasia rate by 23 percent (down 41 percent from 2011)
- Police received national "gold standard of excellence" CALEA reaccreditation
- Fire staff performed 13,448 fire and life-safety inspections and delivered 1,179 education programs, which included life-saving CPR/AED training for 60,066 residents
- 683 fire volunteers contributed 4,523 hours and 298 police volunteers gave 18,798 hours
- Georgia State Patrol opened a new post with officers funded by Georgia DOT

General Government

- New service-delivery agreements are now in effect with cities
- A new morgue/medical examiner facility will be funded by the 2014 SPLOST
- Gwinnett maintained 11 fuel sites, providing six million gallons of fuel to 6,200 vehicles
- Building Maintenance serviced 221 facilities with more than 2.3 million square feet
- Mail Services processed 1.2 million pieces of first class mail and delivered more than 55,000 pieces of express mail
- Fleet sold \$1.2 million in surplus inventory in 2013, including \$1.1 million in vehicle sales
- County achieved 98 percent availability for its fleet of 2,979 vehicles
- Human Resources posted 324 positions, received 51,066 applications, and processed 134 new hires
- Purchasing staff negotiated savings of \$2.3 million
- Corrections provided 197,994 hours of offender labor worth \$2 million to County departments, cities, and community improvement districts
- Volunteers contributed 1,022,989 hours valued at more than \$22 million

Volunteers can find out about opportunities and sign up online at www.volunteergwinnett.net



Green Government

- Atlanta Regional Commission Silver Level Certified Green Community
- Three departments reduced fuel use by 19 percent over last two years
- Solid waste haulers collected 189,142 tons of residential waste, 6.6 tons of yard waste, and 29,742 tons of recyclables (recycling rate: 13.6 percent)
- Annual recycling events collected 22 tons of electronics, 12.5 tons of paper, 12 tons of tires, 1,150 gallons of paint, 1,000 pounds of batteries, and 631 pairs of sneakers
- Rebates helped homeowners replace 4,400 inefficient toilets, saving 31 million gallons per year and 100 tons of porcelain were recycled as road base



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Award-Winning Government

- 2013 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties for Volunteer Gwinnett, Code of Ethics training, SeniorBSafe, and Waterfowl Management Plan
- 2013 Awards of Excellence from the National Association of County Information Officers for Volunteer Gwinnett and Code of Ethics training
- Clean Air Campaign 2013 PACE Awards – UPS Exemplary Diesel Idle Reduction Program and Local Government Champion
- 2013 Environmental/Conservation Award and Park and Recreation Program Award from National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials and Agency of the Year from Georgia Recreation and Park Association, District 7
- Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service staff received numerous state and national awards for excellence
- Governor's Public Safety Act of Heroism Awards to four SWAT team members and to four firefighters
- Gwinnett Fire named Outstanding Agency of the Year by SafeKids of Georgia
- Education Excellence Award from the Solid Waste Association of North America
- 2013 Outstanding Public Member Agency Award for leadership in promoting Intelligent Transportation Systems goals
- Natural Environment Project of the Year 2012 – 2013 to Water Resources' Stormwater Management from the Georgia Section of American Society of Civil Engineers
- Distinguished Budget Award and Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association
- Read about more awards at www.gwinnettcountry.com