

# main streets

# GWINNETT



# state of the county

TWO-THOUSAND SIXTEEN

## Local Economy, Finances, & Gwinnett's Excellent Credit History

- Gwinnett had 447,221 labor force participants in December 2015
- Unemployment was 4.6 percent, down from 5.4 percent (final) a year earlier and the lowest since spring 2008
- Maintained AAA credit ratings with Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investor Services, and Standard and Poor's since 1997; only 42 other counties hold this distinction
- Negotiated cost savings with vendors of \$1.2 million
- Received \$19 million in grants

2016 POPULATION



919,290

Woods and Poole estimate

## 2016 Budget

- \$1.5 billion total balanced budget adopted for 2016
- Operating budget (\$1.1 billion) includes \$7.2 million more for elections, unfreezes 25 police positions, restores animal shelter and parks maintenance staff, raises library funding, adds three Gwinnett Transit express routes, expands home-delivered meals for seniors on waiting lists, and provides pay-for-performance raise for eligible employees
- Staff additions: six positions for a DA special victims unit, 30 new police officers, nine new firefighter/paramedics, 12 new part-time sheriff deputies, three new Juvenile Court positions, and a new magistrate judge
- Capital budget (\$363 million) includes new Georgia State Patrol building design, courthouse expansion, new medical examiner/morgue building (broke ground February 2016), senior center renovations, and police and sheriff body cameras
- Budget holds line on property tax rates, funds services cut during recession, addresses concerns about workforce recruitment and retention, and invests in essential infrastructure and critical community needs
- Five residents helped prioritize needs and allocate resources

## Planning, Economic Development, & Revitalization

- Coordinated 22 economic development projects with Partnership Gwinnett
- Expanded Research and Development Corridor (SR 316) character area
- Automated online permitting, payment, affidavit submittal, and occupation tax certificates
- Conducted 68,776 building inspections
- Issued 155 development permits, 3,321 residential and 5,292 non-residential permits, 16,601 business licenses, and 675 alcoholic beverage licenses
- County approved agreement for construction of Infinite Energy Center headquarters hotel

## Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

- Current 3-year SPLOST projected to raise \$453 million before ending in 2017 and is shared between County (78.9 percent) and 16 cities (21.1 percent)
- County is using 70 percent for transportation (roads, bridges, intersections, sidewalks)
- Remaining 30 percent for public safety facilities and equipment, library relocations and renovation, parks and recreation facilities, and senior services facilities
- Since 1985, Gwinnett has saved more than \$1 billion in financing costs by funding infrastructure improvements with \$2.9 billion in pay-as-you-go SPLOST revenues: Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, civic center, greenspace, parks, recreation facilities, road improvements, police and fire stations, patrol cars, ambulances, fire trucks, and libraries
- Citizen committees help prioritize SPLOST projects and review progress/financial audits

Find out more at [www.gwinnettsplost.com](http://www.gwinnettsplost.com)



## Award-Winning Government

Gwinnett County regularly receives local, state, and national recognition for the excellent services provided to residents. The list that follows includes only a handful of awards won in 2015. A complete list can be found at [www.gwinnettcountry.com](http://www.gwinnettcountry.com).



- *Plan First Community* from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- *Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* and *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the Government Finance Officers Association
- *Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award* from the National Purchasing Institute (17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; only 47 U.S. counties received this award in 2015) and *Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement Award* from NIGP, The Institute for Public Procurement (held since 2000; only 131 governments have attained this certification)
- *Top 10 Court Websites Award* to the Clerk of Court from the National Association of Court Managers
- *Gold MarCom Award* for the Tax Commissioner's website from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals
- *Historic Preservation Award* for Chesser-Williams House from the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries and The Georgia Trust
- Received *Outstanding Greenspace Award* for Little Mulberry Park from the Georgia Urban Forest Council
- *Gwinnett Chamber Valor Awards* to Fire and Police
- *Citizen Engagement Award* from the Governing Institute
- *Outstanding Public Member Agency Award* and *Top Engineer* from the Intelligent Transportation System of Georgia
- *Natural Environmental Outstanding Civil Engineering Awards* for the Allenhurst Phase II Stream Restoration Project from the American Society of Civil Engineers

# STAY INFORMED BY STAYING CONNECTED

[gwinnettcountry.com](http://gwinnettcountry.com)

email newsletters

TVgwinnett

Gwinnett Police & Animal Shelter have gone social!

@GwinnettPd

Gwinnett Animal Shelter

## General Government

- Volunteers contributed 1,040,347 hours valued at \$23.4 million
- Posted 503 positions, received 56,473 applications, and processed 1,281 new hires including poll workers
- Opened Employee Wellness Center for employees, retirees, and dependents
- Purchased 970 vehicles, maintained 2,779 vehicles/heavy equipment, and dispensed six million gallons of fuel from 11 fuel sites
- Processed 963,032 pieces of outgoing mail and archived 62,238 boxes of records
- Completed 6,800 facility maintenance work orders and completed and/or initiated 40+ capital maintenance projects worth \$7 million
- Updated countywide phone and data systems resulting in lower maintenance costs
- Supported 6,600 computers and printers, 7,000 email boxes, 1,200 cell phones, 3,400 wireless devices, and a 110-location network
- Two recycling events collected 30 tons of paper, 23 tons of electronics, 12 tons of tires, 4,831 gallons of paint, 804 pairs of sneakers, 866 pounds of textiles, and 601 toner cartridges
- Expanded online appraisal information to help with tax appeals and completed 99 percent of tax appeals within calendar year
- Tax Commissioner achieved 98 percent collection rate for 2015 real and personal property taxes and installed property tax payment kiosks at branch offices

## Community Services

- Worked with 1,330 partners to provide services; volunteers gave 997,318 hours
- Gwinnett Extension made 1,424 educational presentations to youth and adult groups
- Environmental and Heritage Center provided 197,353 educational hours
- Buford, Centerville, and Norcross Health and Human Services Centers served 419,293 residents
- Parks and Recreation hosted 11,530 rentals with 721,170 participants; offered 7,150 classes, programs, camps, and events with 82,965 enrolled; welcomed 471,480 aquatics facilities visitors and 14,625 adult athletics participants, including the Atlanta Cricket League
- Parks and Recreation maintained 175 multi-purpose sports fields, 68 playgrounds, and 128 miles of trails on 9,646 acres
- Acquired 223-acre Simpsonwood Park property and began long-term planning
- Renovations: Bethesda Park football field; Little Mulberry Park woodland trail; Lucky Shoals Park and Pinckneyville Park playgrounds
- Under construction: J.B. Williams Park; Level Creek Park; McDaniel Farm Park expansion; Best Friend Park gym; and South Gwinnett Park renovations
- Coming soon (design or construction): Lilburn Branch Library/City Hall; Centerville Senior Services Center; Rock Springs Park soccer; George Pierce Park gym; Peachtree Ridge Park football field conversion; renovations at Lawrenceville Senior Center, Buford Human Services Center, Ronald Reagan Park, and McDaniel Farm Park Phase II
- Gwinnett Public Library: 340,737 cardholders checked out 5.5 million items; 212,940 attended programs; and 2.5 million visited branches
- Lawrenceville Branch Library received Walton EMC grant for assistive technology for people with disabilities

485,940  
VOTERS  
REGISTERED



## Public Safety

- Animal save rate at shelter increased for third consecutive year
- Homicide solve rate of 79 percent beat national average of 64 percent
- Saved lives by equipping each police precinct with 11 defibrillators (AEDs) for treating sudden cardiac arrest and Narcan drugs to reverse heroin/opioid overdose
- Enhanced officer safety by providing rifle-rated plate carriers
- Saved millions by refurbishing existing police helicopters instead of buying new
- Established multi-jurisdictional team with city police agencies
- Delivered 982 crime prevention and safety education programs to 43,176 residents
- Emergency Management set up a new wireless emergency alert system
- Public Safety Notification and Response System now connects public schools to 911 Center
- Public safety radio system upgraded to digital
- 911 Center dispatched 732,566 police calls and 84,718 medical/fire calls
- Police responded to 549,600 incidents
- Fire and Emergency Services responded to 74,497 incidents (75 percent medical)
- Annual public safety and multicultural festivals drew total of 5,000 visitors
- Hired and trained 154 new firefighter/paramedics
- Investigated 258 fires
- Performed 14,634 fire and life safety inspections and gave 3,148 programs for 224,719 residents (1,800 trained in CPR/AED)
- Conducted 1,947 home surveys and installed 6,674 smoke alarms
- Handled 846 public relations requests, such as fire station tours, for 174,465 residents
- Trained 385 personnel in pre-hospital trauma life support
- Conducted active shooter training for 400 personnel from 12 different agencies
- Completed education building at Fire Training Academy and continued construction on Fire Stations 10 and 31 (both opening in 2016)
- Corrections inmates provided 184,042 hours of labor worth \$2.1 million to County departments, cities, and community improvement districts

OVERALL  
CRIME RATE

down  
by  
4.3%

## Courts & Justice

- Clerk of Court has scanned two million historical documents to date using state funds
- Electronic case management in use by Recorder's Court and coming to other courts soon
- Magistrate Court has new multilingual brochures and electronic signage to help litigants
- Testing electronic warrant system that will link Magistrate Court, Clerk of Court, Solicitor, District Attorney, and Sheriff's Office to eliminate redundant data entry
- Online wedding scheduling now offered by Magistrate and Probate Courts
- Probate Court processed 12,255 weapon carry licenses, cross-trained staff from two functions, and participated in town hall meetings and other community connection events
- Juvenile Court received \$713,854 in grants for treatment services for youth and families
- Solicitor's Office handled 104,233 citations in Recorder's Court and 8,278 cases in State Court and 12 volunteers presented 45 *Hands Are Not For Hitting* puppet shows in schools
- District Attorney had 85 percent success rate in court and is expanding special victims unit and technical investigation capabilities



## Transportation

- Began right-of-way acquisition for 45 projects and construction on nine projects in the 2014 SPLOST program
- Began construction on 17 projects in the 2009 SPLOST program
- Opened 17 projects to traffic, including Lilburn Main Street widening/realignment in partnership with the city of Lilburn and Lilburn CID
- Continued widening SR 20 from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Chattahoochee River
- Completed right-of-way acquisition for Walther Boulevard bridge over SR 316
- Completed 11 quick fix projects, rehabilitated seven bridges and 5.2 miles of unpaved roads, and resurfaced 135 miles of roads
- Activated four new traffic signals and nine traffic signal modifications
- Installed flashers on Old Loganville Road at Lake Carlton Road, Discovery High School, Baggett Elementary School, and Graves Elementary School; upgraded nine intersections to flashing yellow arrows for left turns
- Completed four Advanced Traffic Management System/Intelligent Transportation System projects, began designing four more; connected 31 new cameras, 17 miles of new fiber-optic cable, and 26 existing signals to the Traffic Control Center; and upgraded [www.GCsmartcommute.com](http://www.GCsmartcommute.com) with new traffic and construction data
- Began replacing 28 transit buses and restored local Saturday service and two express trips
- Re-marked Briscoe Field airport and enhanced general aviation facilities
- Gwinnett Transit had 1.5 million boardings
- Briscoe Field handled 74,314 takeoffs and landings

## Water Resources

- New nutrient recovery facility produces fertilizer from water reclamation byproducts; fertilizer sales generate \$250,000 a year
- Secured \$300,000 in research funding for a potable reuse pilot study to be operational in March 2016
- Treated 20 billion gallons of wastewater, sending 39 percent back to Lake Lanier
- New customer service policy/service enhancements reduced dropped calls by 33 percent
- Produced three water education videos for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and provided hands-on water conservation education to 8,000 children
- Predictive/preventive maintenance program reduced equipment failures by 14 percent
- Hired 15 interns from local universities and colleges; four co-op students now work for the department
- Began work on wastewater and sewer master plan to optimize the system of 3,000 miles of sewer lines and 240 pump stations

PRODUCED 25 BILLION  
GALLONS OF  
DRINKING  
WATER

