

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

DECEMBER  
2022

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## Proposed Gwinnett 2023 budget totals \$2.26 billion

Commission Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson's proposed budget for 2023 totals \$2.26 billion. The proposed budget consists of a \$1.8 billion operating budget, which funds everyday expenses such as employee salaries, benefits, equipment, and repairs, and a \$488 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.

New initiatives to be funded by the operating budget include enhanced staffing for the County's Emergency Management division, a new language learning program for employees, new Environmental Sustainability Officer and Equity Officer positions, and staff to support the new seventh State Court judge added by House Bill 1570 earlier this year. The capital budget will pay for new roads, parks, and libraries.

The proposed 2023 budget resolution is available at [GwinnettCounty.com](http://GwinnettCounty.com). Residents can also share comments on the County's website through December 31. Commissioners will consider the budget January 3.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Recycle your live Christmas tree after the holidays

Want to be sustainable this holiday season? Between December 26 and January 25, drop off your live Christmas tree at designated fire stations as part of the annual Bring One for the Chipper event! On January 28, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful will chip the trees into mulch for use at County parks. The designated Gwinnett fire stations will accept trees 24/7. For a list of all drop-off sites or to register as a volunteer for the chipping event at Bethesda Park, please visit [GwinnettCB.org/Events](http://GwinnettCB.org/Events).

### Assessors' Office will conduct onsite property field visits

Gwinnett Board of Assessors appraisal staff conduct routine field visits to maintain accurate appraisal data as part of the County's annual review process. Representatives from Gwinnett County, LMC, or Tyler Technologies verify existing or new construction, measure exteriors, and take photographs.

Although no contact or involvement is needed, appraisers will carry identification and announce their presence at the property before beginning a review. If no one is available, information will be left to advise residents of the visit.

For questions or concerns, call 770.822.7200 or email [Taxpayer.Services@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Taxpayer.Services@GwinnettCounty.com).

### Talk about road construction in an open forum

Join Gwinnett Transportation on Saturday, January 28 from noon to 4:00pm for Construction Conversations, a free open forum about construction projects in Gwinnett.

Residents are invited to the Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center to learn about the research, design, development, and maintenance of our County roads. Lunch and lemonade will be provided, but space is limited. To register, visit [GwinnettCounty.com/DOTForum](http://GwinnettCounty.com/DOTForum).

The Pinckneyville Community Recreation Center is located at 4650 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Berkeley Lake.



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Winterize pipes in and around your home

While cooler weather may be a refreshing change from intense summer heat, freezing temperatures can cause damage to your plumbing, leading to leaks, wasted water, and high water bills. Prepare your pipes for frigid temperatures with these helpful tips:

- Insulate pipes in attics, basements, and crawl spaces
- Use an insulated spigot cover on outdoor faucets
- Open the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to let warm air in
- If you travel, leave your heat set to at least 55 degrees

These simple steps will help prevent costly repair bills and conserve our water resources. To learn more about water conservation, visit [DWRConserve.com](http://DWRConserve.com).

### Help protect our water resources

Join us on Thursday, January 12 to learn about septic system care and maintenance at OneStop Norcross. From 6:00pm to 7:30pm, residents will learn how the system works, how to protect it, and how proper maintenance protects our water resources.

The following week, residents can get tips on the best methods for detention pond care and maintenance on Thursday, January 19 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Conference Room A. To register for either workshop, please email [DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com) or call 678.376.7193 with your name, address, and phone number.

### TAX COMMISSIONER

#### Are you 65 as of January 1?

If you are 65 or older as of January 1 and your taxable income is less than \$105,280, you may qualify for the Senior School Tax Exemption. Apply online through Saturday, April 1 at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply](https://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Apply). Seniors must provide proof of their prior year's income to be considered for the exemption. For assistance, call 770.822.8800 or email [Tax@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Tax@GwinnettCounty.com).

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Deck your holiday tree with these safety tips

For many, the first step in preparing for the holidays is decorating the home; however, not everyone thinks of potential fire hazards. Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems. The following safety tips will help make the holiday season a safe and enjoyable time for the whole family:

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched
- Ensure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source
- When lighting the tree, use lights that are listed by qualified testing laboratories
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree

A burning tree will rapidly fill a home with superheated air and toxic gases produced by the flames and smoke. Remember to take special safety precautions when keeping a live tree in your home. To find more safety tips for the holiday season, visit [GwinnettSafety411.com](https://GwinnettSafety411.com).



### SPLOST

#### Residents vote to renew SPLOST

On November 8, Gwinnett voters approved the renewal of the one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The six-year program – which will begin when the current program expires in April 2023 – is expected to raise \$1.35 billion for capital projects.

SPLOST helps the County keep up with the needs of our growing population and allows the County to pay for major projects with a funding source other than property tax revenue. This includes new projects and improvements to existing assets. Plans for the 2023 SPLOST program revenue include \$736.3 million for transportation, including roads, streets, and bridges; \$133.9 million for public safety projects, including a new police headquarters; and \$108 million for recreational facilities and equipment. Visit [GwinnettSPLOST.com](https://GwinnettSPLOST.com) to learn how your pennies are working in Gwinnett.

### RESOURCES

#### New tool helps 911 locate callers

Gwinnett County recently launched a new geolocation tool, What3Words, to help locate E-911 callers in locations where there are no roads or specific addresses. The free What3Words app gives each 3-meter square in the world a unique three-word address. If someone is lost – especially in a park, around Lake Lanier, or in any other undeveloped natural area in the county – they can use the unique three words from the application to give dispatchers their exact location. For more information, visit [GwinnettPolice.com](https://GwinnettPolice.com).

### SERVING GWINNETT

#### First responders get enhanced cardiac arrest training

Every second counts when it comes to saving someone's life during a cardiac event. That's why Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services is aiming to increase first responders' proficiency to help save the life of a heart attack victim. The department will transition to a resuscitative training that requires recertification every 90 days. The training includes CPR simulation stations, skills training, and an online component. The training also records and tracks metrics to provide focused feedback that will enhance responders' skills.

#### Find resources to help overcome hardships

Gwinnett's OneStop 4 Help community navigators can help you find valuable resources to overcome hunger, health issues, housing insecurity, or other challenges. For more information or to complete an online assistance request form, visit [GwinnettOneStop.com](https://GwinnettOneStop.com).

#### County offices closed for New Year's and MLK Day

All Gwinnett County Government offices, apart from operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday and will resume regular hours on Tuesday, January 3. Offices will also be closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and will resume regular hours on Tuesday, January 17.

Trash and recycling will be collected as normal throughout each holiday. For more information, please visit [GCSolidWaste.com](https://GCSolidWaste.com). A Magistrate Court judge will also be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center during the holidays.

### GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

ESCANEE PARA LEER EN ESPAÑOL  
한국어 버전은 QR 코드를 스캔해 주세요



Gwinnett County Connection questions/comments:  
[Info@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Info@GwinnettCounty.com) | 770.822.7180  
Water bill questions: 678.376.6700