

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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March 2020



Hello!

Please know that we are monitoring developments in the spread of the coronavirus outbreak and how it may affect our residents, employees, and our delivery of important County services. Please don't panic, stay home if you're sick, practice good, frequent handwashing, and be sure to cough and sneeze into a tissue or fabric to block the spread of germs.

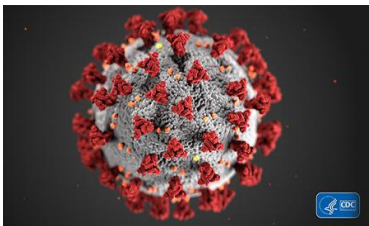
March is a busy month for transit. We've reviewed the high level plan from the Transit Review Committee (TRC), and the Board of Commissioners will be comparing the original Connect Gwinnett plan vs. the TRC plan vs. the Gwinnett Easy Mobility (GEM) plan that I have developed with community input. We will likely pick aspects from each plan to create a visionary masterplan for transit. We hope to put a 1% sales tax on the ballot in November so that we can implement the plan as soon as possible rather than wait decades.

There are two attributes I am looking for in any plan I will approve:

1. It must be scalable so that we can start implementation this year rather than waiting for a referendum and so that we can look at real usage data (instead of projections) to grow into the plan and invest funds and energy only where the data dictates.
2. It must be regionally focused since Gwinnett is uniquely positioned to provide transportation across the entire county and to our regional partners.

My goal is to have only good transit that provides a satisfying experience that meets our Gwinnett Standard.

## Happening Around Gwinnett



### Coronavirus update

Gwinnett County is following the most up-to-date guidance from the Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale County Health Departments, the state Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

An internal task force has been working to evaluate existing policies and prepare additional plans for business continuity to allow us to continue to provide essential services to the community. Visit the [Gwinnett County Public Schools webpage](#) for information about school closures. Keep checking the [County's website](#) for updates as we address this developing situation.

### Judicial emergency declared, affecting jury service and non-essential court matters

Chief Judge George F. Hutchinson III of the Superior Court of Gwinnett County [signed an order](#) declaring a judicial emergency for a period of 14 days beginning Friday, March 13. According to the order, no jurors or grand jurors shall report and no jury trials, except those trials now in progress and at the discretion of the presiding judge, for a period of 14 days. Further, no civil or non-essential matters will be heard by the courts during this time.

Essential functions, such as arrest and search warrants, first appearance hearings, family violence and stalking temporary protective order applications and hearings, will continue to take place.

## County suspends senior center operations, senior recreation programming

All Gwinnett County senior center operations and senior recreation programming have been suspended.

Seniors who receive their meals through our senior congregate programming have been added to the County's home-delivered meals program to ensure that their essential needs are being met at home. Meals will continue to be delivered directly to the homes of seniors who already participate in our home delivered meal program, and in-home services will continue for those clients who receive homemaking and respite services.

**Recreational programming for residents ages 50 and older has been suspended until further notice** to limit exposure between at-risk individuals. All operations and programs at Prime Timers Pointe at George Pierce Park and Bethesda Park Senior Center have also been suspended.

## What's New in District 2

### Elections: Presidential Preference Primary postponed until May 19

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has moved the **March 24 Presidential Preference Primary to coincide with the state and local primary on May 19, 2020.**



Early voting at all Gwinnett County advance in person voting sites will be suspended starting Sunday, March 15, 2020.

Every vote already cast, whether by mail or in person, will be counted in May for the Presidential Preference Primary along with votes cast in the state and local primary.



### Be on the lookout for your invitation to take the 2020 Census

Invitations to participate in the 2020 Census will arrive by mail in mid-March. Most areas will receive an invitation to respond online (or by phone), while the other households will receive a paper questionnaire along with an invitation to respond online. Some households will receive the invite in both English and Spanish, and some will receive English only.

Regardless of which invitation you receive, all households that have not yet responded will receive a paper questionnaire by mid-April.

As our invites arrive, remember — the Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, bank account or credit card numbers, money, or donations. The Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party. [Learn more](#) from the U.S. Census Bureau about avoiding fraud and scams.

### Report issues in your area

Did you know that Gwinnett County has a [Citizen Self-Service portal](#) on our website where you can submit service requests? Let us know if there's a pothole on a County road, a traffic sign is down, or if a swing is broken in your local park. Your reports help us maintain County property and provide the best service and facilities to our residents.



If you are out in the community and notice something, feel free to call my office to report: 770.822.7002.

### District 2 upcoming office hours

Please join me during my next open office hour on **April 7 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm at Peachy Corners Café**, located at **6365 Spalding Drive in Peachtree Corners**. Please note that this date is tentative pending guidance on the coronavirus response.

## Special Events and Happenings

**Events and activities are currently being assessed on a case-by-case basis due to the coronavirus response.**

Current CDC recommendations are to cancel large gatherings (greater than 250 people) or move to smaller groupings. However, smaller events will be canceled at the County's discretion.

If a Gwinnett County Community Services event you have registered for is canceled you will receive an email or phone call notifying you of the cancellation. Any registration fee will be refunded.

Visit [GwinnettCounty.com](https://www.gwinnettcountry.com) or follow the [County's social media channels](#) to learn about event cancellations.

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Gwinnett County

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