

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 2 with Commissioner Ben Ku

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November 2022



Hello!

First, I would like to thank District 2 for the overwhelming support in re-electing me. I am honored to be able to continue to serve Gwinnett County for the next 4 years. I will also be the last tie to the 2020 BOC and the most senior member of the Board of Commissioners. I am humbled to be that bridge.

And it's that time of the year! The holiday season gives us opportunities to spend much-needed time with family, friends, and loved ones. Remember to stay up to date on your flu and COVID-19 vaccines to keep everyone safe and healthy this holiday season.

Remember, if you'd like to chat with me on any topic, you can reach out to my office at Ben.Ku@GwinnettCounty.com to schedule a call or virtual meeting. I want to make sure my office is doing everything we can to address your concerns.

What's New in District 2

Apply to serve the County on a board or authority

Get involved! Each commissioner has dozens of appointments that they can make to a Gwinnett County board or authority to help advise us about special interest areas. Several positions will be available at the end of the year on the following boards:

- Community Outreach Board
- Animal Advisory Council
- Airport Authority
- Planning Commission
- Library Board
- Transit Advisory Board
- Water and Sewage Authority
- Historic and Restoration Preservation Board
- Merit Board
- **Recreation Authority**

If you are currently serving on one of these boards, I ask that you please re-apply, and anyone who is interested in serving should apply as well. I will re-evaluate each position for either re-appointment or replacement on a case by case basis. My open application process that I started in 2019 has been recognized by an award from the National Association of Counties and has led to some amazing appointees. For example, Nahum Nicholas, my Animal Advisory Council appointee worked to create our Community Cat Program which was also awarded and recognized by the National Association of Counties!

Read more about the boards and qualifications to serve on the County website, then apply using the form at GwinnettCounty.com/ApplyToServe.

Get ready for the December 6 runoff election

We have a run-off election for our United States Senator coming up on Tuesday, December 6. It is very important that you make a voting plan so you don't miss this very important opportunity to make your voice heard.

From Saturday, November 26 through Friday, December 2, registered voters may vote advance in-person, from 7:00am to 7:00pm at one of Gwinnett's [11 advance voting locations](#). Unlike Election Day, you may vote early at any advance voting location in the county, not at an assigned polling location. My recommendation is to go vote during early voting sometime other than the first or last day as there will be minimal wait time.



All voters who were registered by November 7 can cast their ballot regardless of whether or not they voted in the General Election. Learn more about the runoff election at [GwinnettElections.com](#).

Prepárate para el desempate de las elecciones del 6 de Diciembre

Tenemos una elección de desempate para nuestro Senador de los Estados Unidos el Martes 6 de Diciembre. Es muy importante que haga un plan de votación para que no pierda esta importante oportunidad de expresar su opinión.

Desde el Sábado 26 de Noviembre hasta el Viernes 2 de Diciembre, los votantes inscritos pueden votar por adelantado en persona, de 7:00am a 7:00pm en [uno de los once lugares de votación adelantada de Gwinnett](#). A diferencia del día de las elecciones, puede votar anticipadamente en cualquier lugar de votación adelantada del condado, no en un lugar de votación asignado. Mi recomendación es ir a votar durante la votación adelantada en algún momento que no sea el primer o el último día, ya que habrá un tiempo de espera mínimo.

Todos los votantes inscritos antes del 7 de Noviembre pueden emitir su voto independientemente de si votaron o no en las Elecciones Generales. Obtenga más información sobre la elección de desempate en [GwinnettElections.com](#).



Warming stations activate on cold nights

Beginning in November, Gwinnett County will open warming stations for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief when temperatures reach 35 degrees and below.

Residents who visit the sites will be able to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest. The warming stations will be available from 6:00pm until 7:00am. Find [locations and the latest activation status](#).

County partners with Goodr to help families in need

Gwinnett is joining forces with Goodr to host two pop-up grocery markets for families facing food security. On **Wednesday, November 23**, residents can stop by Vines Park in Loganville from 10:00am to noon or Lucky Shoals Park in Norcross from 3:00pm to 5:00pm to pick up fresh produce, meat, non-perishable foods, milk, and other beverages as part of a free drive-thru shopping experience.



This is an initiative to provide families with food to help bridge the holiday meal gaps. To attend, families must preregister; only one registration is allowed per household. Register for the [Vines Park](#) or [Lucky Shoals Park](#) pop-up grocery markets today. If you are unable to attend the November events, there will be two pop-ups on December 17. For more information, visit [GwinnettCommunityServices.com](#).

Happening Around Gwinnett



Proposed 2023 budget focuses on service, sustainability, and preparedness

Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson [presented her proposed budget](#) on November 15 to guide County government spending for the 2023 fiscal year. The [proposed budget](#) totals \$2.26 billion. It consists of a \$1.77 billion operating budget and a \$488 million capital improvements budget, which includes funds from the County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program. Voters last week opted to extend the County's one-

cent SPLOST program for another six years beginning in April. Read more about the [proposed 2023 budget](#).

We will accept public comments at a public hearing Monday, December 5 at 7:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center and [online through December 31](#) before adopting a final budget Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

County breaks ground on Hooper-Renwick Themed Library

It's official! On October 26, joined with partners from the city of Lawrenceville, the Hooper-Renwick Legacy Preservation Committee, and the Gwinnett County Public Library Board of Trustees to break ground on the first themed library in the Southeast.

The Hooper-Renwick Themed Library will preserve the historic building in downtown Lawrenceville that once served as Gwinnett's only public high school for African American students. The SPLOST-funded, 25,000-square-foot facility will include library amenities, community space, and exhibits, which will showcase stories, accomplishments, and memorabilia related to the school and highlight the Black experience in Gwinnett.



Voters approve renewal of SPLOST for another six years

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Voters overwhelmingly approved the renewal of the one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST, during the November 8 General Election. SPLOST collections are used to fund capital projects like roads, bridges, parks, fire stations, police precincts, libraries, and more.

Gwinnett voters have approved a series of SPLOST programs that since 1985 have raised more than \$3.9 billion, allowing the County to save more than \$1.9 billion in financing costs compared to issuing bonds. The new program is expected to raise \$1.35 billion over the next six years, 25 percent of which will go to cities. Learn more about the renewed SPLOST

program at GwinnettSPLOST.com.

Project RESET 2.0 wraps up after distributing more than \$80 million to renters in need

The portal for Gwinnett County's successful emergency rental and utility assistance program, Project RESET 2.0, is now closed as the County has reached its full commitment. To date, Gwinnett has processed more than \$80 million in financial assistance funded by the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program, ensuring that more than 17,000 people in Gwinnett County did not have to face an eviction or utility disconnection.



Gwinnett residents in need of assistance after the applicant portal closes are encouraged to seek assistance from [local agencies providing assistance](#) within our community. If you are experiencing an urgent need and would like to be connected to nearby services, please contact Gwinnett's OneStop 4 Help team via phone at 770.822.8850 or by completing an [Assistance Request Form](#).

Special Events and Happenings

Visit GwinnettCountyEvents.com or follow the County's social media channels to learn more about upcoming events.

Holiday Luncheon

Friday, December 2 from 11:30am to 1:30pm

Adults ages 50 and up are invited to gather for this festive annual event. Enjoy entertainment and a tasty catered meal. Fee: \$11. Please [register](#) by November 24. Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville.

Family Music Night

Monday, December 5 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Free! Make a joyful noise as we sing together, plus musical games and fun experiences for everyone. [Register](#). Lilburn Activity Building, 788 Hillcrest Road, Lilburn.

Family Snow Day

Friday, December 16 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Looking for a fun winter event for the whole family? Games, crafts, contests, a hot chocolate/popcorn bar, and our unique "snow" ball fight make this an annual must-do event! Wear your favorite holiday pajamas to be extra festive. Fee: \$6 per person. [Register](#). Pinckneyville Park, 4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross.

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