

NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with
Commissioner Fosque



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September 2020



Greetings V.I.C.s (Very Important Citizens):

September brings forth so many mixed emotions.

Sure, there are lots of birthdays and anniversaries to celebrate, but there are many other occasions during which we reflect on the ways our lives are shaped by change.

We must honor the sweat, toil, tenacity, and perseverance of all our workers, especially on Labor Day.

We must never forget the 2,977 people killed in the September 11 domestic terrorist attacks 19 years ago; we must reflect, like we do each year during our [9/11 Remembrance Ceremony](#), on the sacrifices public safety professionals and civilians made that day to keep each other safe.



We must also celebrate the people who brought us into the world on National Grandparents Day, which is the first Sunday after Labor Day.

In each instance, paths were diverted by change — change brought by activists and government to labor practices, change in our sense of security and normalcy caused by great tragedy, change within an individual family — and people pivoted for their families, communities, or even for themselves to carry out acts of kindness, with the goal of helping others.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused many people, businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, communities, and employers in Gwinnett County to pivot, not just once but multiple times over the last six months. Pivoting brings forth stability and changes simultaneously. It leads to undaunted, courageous, daring choices in our lives, particularly when we prepare for new opportunities. Pivoting will reflect the strength, effectiveness, and vigor of our county, especially as we enter the fourth quarter of the year. Yet, our County remains steadfast, committed, and dependable as we continue to serve the residents of Gwinnett County through economic development, children and family services, emergency and public services, senior and disabled services, voting and elections, and more.

Meanwhile, our Board of Commissioners as a whole recently took action on many important initiatives:

- Approved an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation identifying the right of way acquisition process for the SR 20 widening project from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Buford Highway, which will be funded by the 2017 SPLOST program
- Approved a contract for improvements to the Sagamore Hills and Hunter's Creek Pump Station
- Approved a contract with low responsive bidder, Integrated Building Services, Inc., to replace the roof of our Police Headquarters building
- Approved the purchase of shelf-stable meals for seniors which will be delivered to seniors in the home-delivered meals program in case of service disruptions due to inclement weather

I am also honored to announce that I have been named vice chair to the National Association of Counties' Transit/Rail subcommittee of the Transportation Steering Committee, its Large Urban Counties Caucus steering committee, and to the International Economic Development Task Force. I feel very fortunate to have been placed on some of the committees that will help Gwinnett the most. I have an opportunity to help shape policy in ways that ensure that Gwinnett's interests are looked after and to learn more about these vital issues from some of the best experts in the country.



As part of NACo's celebration of Infrastructure Week, I had the opportunity to record a video showing how Gwinnett Rebuilds Better with an explanation of the Crooked Creek Water Reclamation Facility improvement project.

Watch it [here](#).

Always remember, ***We Are Much Better.... Working Together***

Commissioner Marlene Fosque
District 4, covering Lawrenceville, Buford, Rest Haven, and parts of Sugar Hill and Braselton

Happening Around Gwinnett

Vote advance in person or advance/absentee by mail in the November 3 election

If you plan to vote advance in person in the November 3 Election, you can vote from October 12 to October 30 at the Beauty P. Baldwin Voter Registrations and Elections Office and eight additional satellite locations, including the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Find advance voting locations and hours [here on the Elections website](#).



For those who wish to vote by mail, the Georgia Secretary of State's Office has launched a new online portal for voters to request an absentee ballot. Voters can now visit BallotRequest.sos.ga.gov to request an absentee by mail ballot for the November 3 election. The new website asks voters to enter their first name, last name, and date of birth and to provide a Georgia driver's license or personal identification card issued by the state of Georgia, as well as their county of residence. The request is then sent to county election officials. When the ballots are available, voters will receive their ballot in the mail.

To stay up-to-date with elections in Gwinnett, visit GwinnettElections.com and follow @GwinnettGov on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Vota adelantado en persona or por votación adelantada/ausente por correo en la elección del 3 de Noviembre

Si planea votar por adelantado en persona en la elección del 3 de Noviembre, puede votar del 12 al 30 de Octubre en la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones Beauty P. Baldwin y en ocho ubicaciones satélites adicionales, incluyendo el Recinto Ferial del Condado de Gwinnett. Encuentre lugares y horarios de votación adelantada [aquí en el sitio web de Elecciones](#)

Para aquellos que deseen votar por correo, la Oficina del Secretario de Estado de Georgia ha lanzado un nuevo portal en línea para que los votantes soliciten una boleta de voto en ausente. Los votantes ahora pueden visitar BallotRequest.sos.ga.gov para solicitar una boleta de voto ausente por correo para la elección del 3 de Noviembre. El nuevo sitio web solicita a los votantes que ingresen su nombre, apellido y la fecha de nacimiento y proporcionar una licencia de conducir de Georgia o una tarjeta de identificación personal emitida por el estado de Georgia, así como su condado de residencia. Luego, la solicitud se envía a los funcionarios electorales del condado. Cuando las boletas estén disponibles, los votantes recibirán su boleta por correo.

Para mantenerse al día con las elecciones en Gwinnett, visite GwinnettElections.com y siga a @GwinnettGov en [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), e [Instagram](#).

Don't miss your chance to make sure #EveryOneCounts!

The self-response deadline for the 2020 Census is Wednesday, September 30, which means there are only a couple of weeks left to ensure that Gwinnett gets a complete and accurate count of our population. Remember, census data determines our representation



in government, federal funding, and future planning for community resources like schools, hospitals, and roads. Be sure to visit [My2020Census.gov](https://www.census.gov/my2020census.gov) to fill out the survey! It's simple and takes less than 10 minutes, and you can rest assured that your data will be kept safe and private. Visit [2020Census.gov](https://www.census.gov/2020census.gov) to learn more about why you should and how to participate.

Hispanic Heritage Month goes virtual

Follow our celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @GwinnettGov! We'll be posting virtual displays, throwbacks to previous years' celebrations, and more. You can also save the date for Thursday, October 8 for the Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: A Community Reflection virtual event, which will feature remarks, performances, a proclamation reading, and more.



Cast your vote in the transit referendum this November

In July, Gwinnett commissioners called for a referendum on a 1-percent sales tax to fund 82 transit projects on the November 3, 2020, ballot. A new transit local sales tax will fund projects from the Gwinnett Transit Plan, which was developed by the Board of Commissioners with input from the Gwinnett County Transit Review Committee.

If passed, Gwinnett County will be responsible for designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the system, with the exception of the heavy rail extension proposed to Jimmy Carter Boulevard, which MARTA must operate as stipulated by state law. [Read more](#) about the transit plan. Additional materials on the Gwinnett Transit Plan and the referendum will be available in the coming weeks.

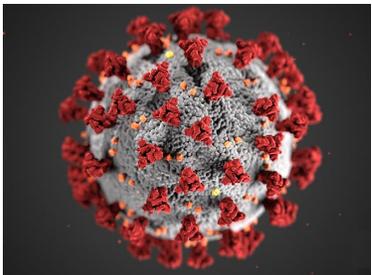
What's New in District 4

County agrees to purchase Lawrenceville Water Distribution System

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and Gwinnett Water and Sewerage Authority recently [approved the purchase](#) of the Lawrenceville Water Distribution System. Under the agreement, Gwinnett County will take ownership of the city of Lawrenceville's water distribution system on December 1, 2020.



Lawrenceville customers can expect to see a welcome packet with more information from the Department of Water Resources in the coming weeks. Once customers receive their first Gwinnett County water bill, they can visit [Gwinnetth2o.com](https://www.gwinnetth2o.com) to set up their account and pay their bill. They may also contact Customer Care at 678.376.6800, or visit the office in person at 684 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville. More information about the transition can be found at gcga.us/onegwinnettwater.

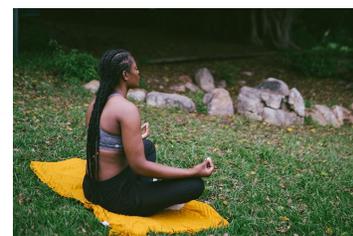


Know when to get tested for COVID-19

The Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Department recommends that individuals get tested for COVID-19 if they've been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for more than 15 minutes, masked or unmasked. You should get tested when you start to feel ill or 10 days after exposure if you don't have symptoms. You can answer the questions in [this flow chart](#) to determine if you should get tested.

Relax with Yoga in the Park

September is National Yoga Month, and all month long, Live Healthy Gwinnett is offering free [Yoga in the Park](#) to residents of all ages and skill levels. Enjoy nature and celebrate the health benefits of yoga and meditation with certified instructors. Sessions are available throughout the month at several [Gwinnett park locations](#), including the Isaac Adair House in Lawrenceville. Attendees should bring a mat, towel, and water bottle. To comply with COVID-19 guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, participants must bring their own yoga equipment and should stay at least 6 feet away from others for the duration of the class.



Events and activities are suspended due to the County's COVID-19 response.

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

Did You Know?



Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services hosts an annual 9/11 Remembrance Day ceremony in order to honor the heroic first responders and civilians who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Like many events this year, the ceremony was adapted to a virtual event to keep everyone safe while remembering the events of that day. [Watch the full video](#) to hear remarks from several of Gwinnett's public safety leaders, Commissioner Ku, Chairman Nash, and me and watch the Honor Guard lay a ceremonial wreath.

Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County

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