

# NEWS & EVENTS

in District 4 with  
Commissioner Fosque



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October 2020



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

Being strategic creates opportunities for us to plan, prepare, assess, and even chart our course for navigating this current climate. As we frolic and romp through the autumn leaves of October, let's make sure we are being strategic while we are having fun with our families and neighbors, voting, or even going to the grocery store. That means taking the initiative to make a plan, mask up, be socially distant, and wash hands properly.

To recap this busy month, I celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Big Brothers Big Sisters Legacy dinner, and assisted our Community Services staff at the Senior Services Center by loading Georgia Grown produce boxes onto local nonprofits' trucks.

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

- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia DOT for West Pike Street Safety Improvements from State Route 316 to Hurricane Shoals Road
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement between Gwinnett County, Gwinnett County Water and Sewerage Authority, and the city of Lawrenceville to purchase the Lawrenceville Water Distribution System
- Accepted donations of technology and furnishings from the Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center for computer classes for seniors at the Bethesda Park Senior Center and George Pierce Park
- Approved a Resolution designating an Open Records Officer and alternating records officers



Remember, the COVID-19 pandemic isn't over, even though things are starting to reopen. Let's take wise, strategic steps to shop smart, take advantage of digital learning, make sensible economic decisions, and help others as we prepare for the upcoming holiday season!

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



### Make a plan to vote in the November 3 election

Advance voting began October 12, but if you haven't voted yet, now is the time to decide how you will vote in the November 3 General and Special Election. If you plan to vote advance in person, you can vote now through 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](#).

Voters may request an absentee/advance by mail ballot for the November 3 election now through Friday,

October 30. Voters may apply for their absentee ballot online at [BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov](https://www.gwinnettsos.ga.gov/BallotRequest), or by using the forms at [GwinnettElections.com](https://www.gwinnettsos.ga.gov/GwinnettElections.com). Mail-in ballots must be delivered by hand or by mail to the Voter Registration and Elections Office or dropped into one of the [secure ballot drop boxes](#) located across the County, including at all Gwinnett County Public Library branches.

If you plan to vote on Election Day, remember that you must vote at your assigned polling location. The Voter Registrations and Elections Office is NOT a polling location on November 3.

To check the status of your voter registration, see a sample ballot, and find your Election Day polling location, visit the Secretary of State's My Voter Page at [MVP.SOS.GA.gov](https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov).

### **Haz un plan de votación para las elecciones del 3 de Noviembre**

La votación adelantada comenzó el 12 de Octubre, pero si aún no ha votado, ahora es el momento de decidir cómo votará en las Elecciones Generales y Especiales del 3 de Noviembre. Si planea votar por adelantado en persona, puede votar desde ahora hasta el 30 de Octubre en la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones Beauty P. Baldwin y en ocho ubicaciones satélites adicionales, incluido el Gwinnett County Fairgrounds. Encuentre los lugares y horarios de votación anticipada [aquí](#) en el sitio web de Elecciones.

Los votantes pueden solicitar una boleta de voto ausente/adelantado por correo para las elecciones del 3 de Noviembre desde ahora hasta el Viernes 30 de Octubre. Los votantes pueden solicitar una boleta por correo en línea en [BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov](https://www.BallotRequest.SOS.GA.gov), usar los formularios en [GwinnettElections.com](https://www.GwinnettElections.com), enviar un correo electrónico a [Absentee@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Absentee@GwinnettCounty.com) o llamar al 678.226.7210. Las boletas electorales por correo deben entregarse en mano o por correo a la Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones o pueden depositarse en uno de los buzones seguros para boletas ubicados en todo el condado, incluidas todas las sucursales de la Biblioteca Pública del Condado de Gwinnett.

Si planea votar en el Día de las Elecciones, el 3 de Noviembre, recuerde que debe votar en su lugar de votación asignado. La Oficina de Inscripción de Votantes y Elecciones NO es un lugar de votación el 3 de Noviembre.

Para verificar el estado de su inscripción de votante, ver una boleta de muestra o encontrar su lugar de votación asignado en el Día de las Elecciones, visite My Voter Page de la Secretaría de Estado en [mvp.sos.ga.gov](https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov).

### **#ListenToGwinnettMoms to slow the spread of COVID-19**

Mom's the word here in Gwinnett County as we officially launched our new public health education campaign, #ListenToGwinnettMoms, on October 5. Designed to inspire the local community to continue doing its part to slow the spread of COVID-19, the #ListenToGwinnettMoms campaign features real moms from across Gwinnett highlighting the simple ways we can all help keep each other safe through the "momisms" we are all familiar with. Using timeless advice from moms, like hand washing, keeping your distance, and maintaining healthy habits, the campaign reminds us how we can do our part in protecting our community.



To learn more about #ListenToGwinnettMoms and how you can get involved, visit [ListenToGwinnettMoms.com](https://www.ListenToGwinnettMoms.com). And if you are a Gwinnett mom or just have some motherly COVID-19 safety tips to share, join the conversation by using #ListenToGwinnettMoms and on Gwinnett County's [social channels](#) at [@GwinnettGov](https://www.GwinnettGov).



### **Learn about the transit referendum**

Transit funding is on the November 3 ballot for a one-percent transit sales tax to invest in 82 major transit and infrastructure projects.

The Gwinnett Transit Plan includes high capacity BRT service that operates in dedicated travel lanes, as well as arterial rapid transit (ART) that operates in a combination of dedicated and shared highway lanes. These premium services bypass traffic for faster, more reliable transportation and provide many of the advantages of

rail service with shorter construction times and lower cost. In addition, expanded local bus service will allow for shorter wait times and Sunday service, with commuter bus routes serving new park-and-ride lots. Expanded paratransit service will extend the transit system, serving most areas of Gwinnett. A rail line will connect Gwinnett's planned Multimodal Hub at Jimmy Carter Boulevard to MARTA's Doraville Station, creating a connection that avoids congestion on the roadways near that station.

Visit [GwinnettTransitPlan.com](https://www.GwinnettTransitPlan.com) to learn how the plan will deliver more options sooner, provide more connections to jobs, and maintain Gwinnett's local control of transit.

### **2020 property tax bills mailed, due December 1**

The 2020 property tax bills were mailed to property owners October 1 with payment due December 1.

In 2020, the Board of Commissioners levied a 0.30 millage rate on behalf of the Development Authority for Economic Development. The new millage is anticipated to generate \$10.3 million in property taxes in 2020. The levy will be used to support the Rowen knowledge community. The Development Authority of Gwinnett County also issued \$67.7 million in bonds to cover the purchase of 1,850 acres and the first two years of capital/infrastructure costs. The Rowen Foundation will repay Gwinnett County and the Development Authority for all costs with the proceeds from land sales.

Watch [this video](#) to learn more.

## What's New in District 4

### Listen to Better Together with Commissioner Fosque

Whether you're driving to the office or taking a walk around the block before logging in at home, you can now use your morning commute to get vibrantly connected to the last news in Gwinnett County.

This month, I launched a brand new podcast called **Better Together with Commissioner Fosque**. [On my first episode](#), you'll hear a little bit about Hispanic Heritage Month, which just wrapped up, and then you'll learn more about homelessness in Gwinnett and what's being done to address it. I hope you'll tune in!



### Gwinnett honors veterans virtually, County offices closed November 11

Gwinnett County Government will honor Gwinnett's veterans with a virtual Veterans Day ceremony on November 11. The video can be viewed on-demand on TVGwinnett.com, the County's Facebook and Twitter pages @GwinnettGov, and on [the County's Vimeo page](#).

That day, all Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of the county, will be closed in observance of Veterans Day. All offices will resume regular hours Thursday, November 12. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Trash and recycling collection in unincorporated Gwinnett is scheduled as normal.

### Donate items during Gwinnett Great Days of Service

This year, Gwinnett Great Days of Service is organizing collection drives of basic items in various venues across the county until October 22. COVID-19 has hit Gwinnett hard and impacted many communities that are struggling to meet basic needs such as food, cleaning supplies, and personal care items. Donated items will be collected by volunteers and shared with the front line service agencies throughout the county. To see the list of items needed and the collection sites, visit the [Great Days of Service webpage](#).



### Give blood to help others during the pandemic

The time to give blood is now! Bethesda Park Senior Center is hosting a two-day blood drive Wednesday, October 28 and Thursday, October 29 from noon to 5:00pm each day. To maintain social distancing standards, appointments are strongly encouraged. Use sponsor code GCPR to schedule an appointment online at [RedCrossBlood.org](#), download the ARC Blood Donor App, or call 1.800.733.2767. The Bethesda Park Senior Center is located at 225 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville.

## Special Events and Happenings

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

Visit [GwinnettCounty.com](#) or follow the County's social media channels to learn about future events.

## Did You Know?



If you're planning to vote advance in person in the November 3 Election, you can [check wait times](#) at each of the nine locations before you head out the door. This can help you plan the best time and location to cast your ballot.

Marlene Fosque, District 4 Commissioner  
Gwinnett County

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