

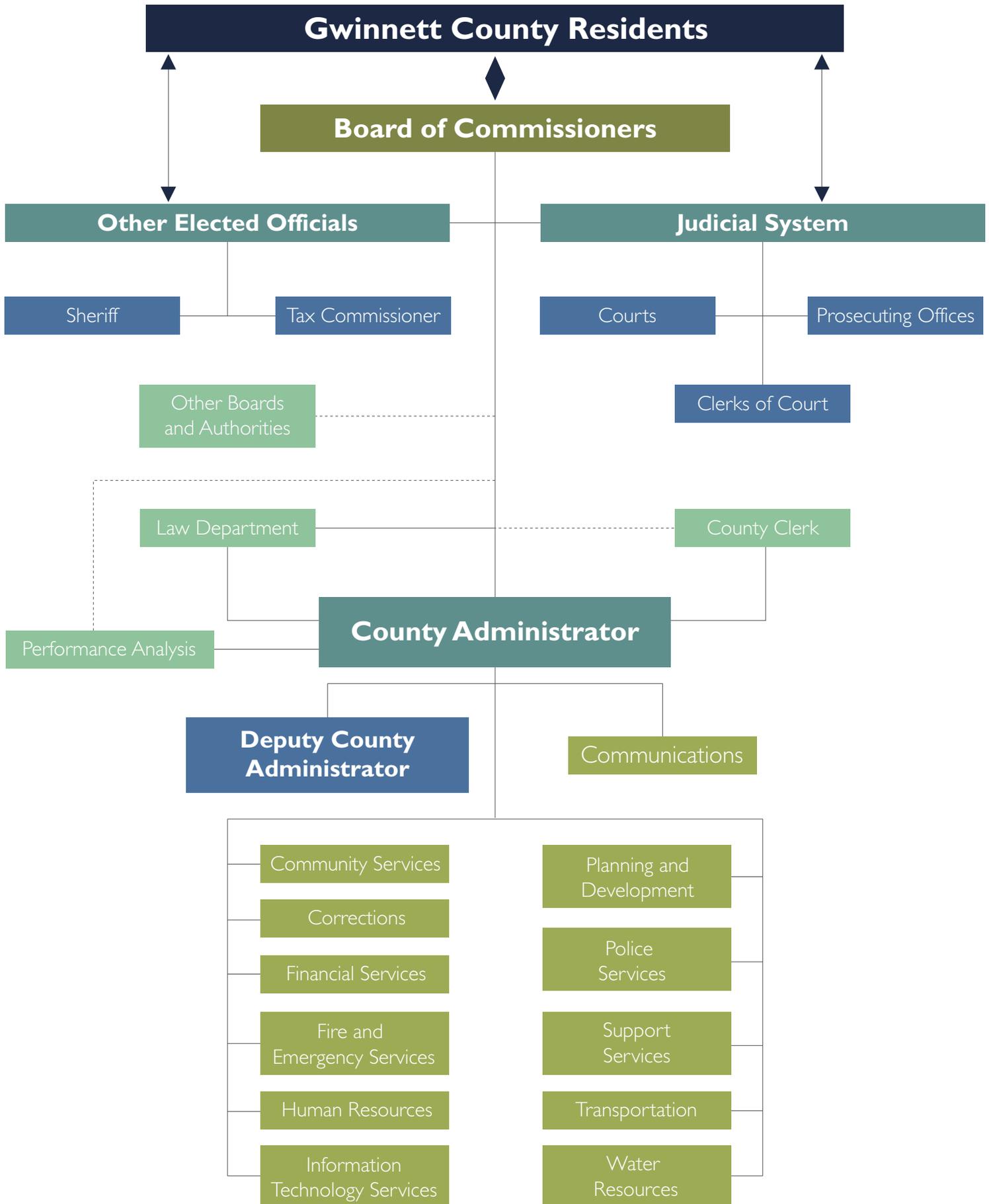


INTRODUCTION

This section contains a high-level organizational chart and general facts about Gwinnett County and its municipalities.



Gwinnett County Organizational Chart



County Administration & Department Directors

County Administrator

Glenn P. Stephens

Deputy County Administrator

Phil Hoskins

County Attorney

Bill Linkous

Community Services

Phil Hoskins, Director

Corrections

Darrell Johnson, Warden

Financial Services

Maria Woods, CFO/Director

Fire and Emergency Services

Chief Casey Snyder

Human Resources

Scott Fuller, Director

Information Technology Services

Abe Kani, Director/CIO

Planning and Development

Kathy Holland, Acting Director

Police Services

Chief Butch Ayers

Support Services

Angelia Parham, Director

Transportation

Alan Chapman, Director

Water Resources

Ron Seibenhener, Director

Elected Officials

Clerk of Court

Richard T. Alexander Jr.

District Attorney

Daniel J. Porter

Chief Magistrate Court Judge

Kristina H. Blum

Probate Court Judge

Christopher A. Ballar

Sheriff

R.L. "Butch" Conway

Solicitor

Rosanna Szabo

Tax Commissioner

Richard Steele

State Court Judges

Pamela D. South, Chief Judge

Joseph C. Iannazzone

Carla E. Brown

John F. Doran Jr.

Emily J. Brantley

Shawn F. Bratton

Howard E. Cook, Senior Judge

Robert W. Mock Sr., Senior Judge

Superior Court Judges

Melodie Snell Conner, Chief Judge

Debra K. Turner

R. Timothy Hamil

Ronnie K. Batchelor

Thomas N. Davis Jr.

Warren P. Davis

Karen E. Beyers

Kathryn M. Schrader

George F. Hutchinson III

Randolph G. Rich

K. Dawson Jackson, Senior Judge

Fred A. Bishop Jr., Senior Judge

Judicially Appointed Officials

Juvenile Court Judges

Robert V. Rodatus, Presiding Judge

Stephen E. Franzén

Robert Waller

Recorder's Court Judges

Michael Greene, Chief Judge

Rodney S. Harris

Patricia Muise

Clerk of Recorder's Court

Jeff C. West

Court Administrator

Philip M. Boudewyns

Government Finance Officers Association Statement

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Gwinnett County, Georgia for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.



This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.



History

Gwinnett County was created on December 15, 1818, and named for Button Gwinnett, one of the three Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. The county was formed from the combination of land that was ceded to the state of Georgia by the Cherokee and Creek Indians and a portion of Jackson County. Gwinnett was the 50th county to be organized in the state. The county currently covers 437 square miles and includes approximately 280,000 acres of land. This makes Gwinnett the 50th largest county in the state in landmass.

The home of Elisha Winn, near what is now Dacula, was the first Gwinnett County courthouse. Winn was chosen to select the site for the first county seat and new courthouse. He paid \$200 for a 250-acre lot in the center of the county. Early courthouse business was held in a log cabin until a more permanent structure was built in 1824. The city of Lawrenceville was incorporated and designated the county seat in 1821, when Gwinnett consisted of a cluster of agrarian communities. By 1850, Lawrenceville was a thriving metropolis with a census count of 11,257. In an 1871 fire, the courthouse was burned down, destroying most of the early records and deeds. A new courthouse, built on the square in Lawrenceville, was deemed inadequate after only 12 years, and was replaced by the building now known as the Historic Courthouse for \$23,000 in 1885. It served as the center of Gwinnett government operations until 1988.

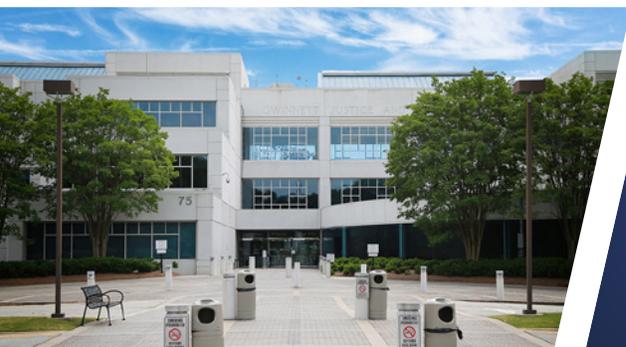
A railroad line, the Danville and Piedmont Air Line (now Norfolk Southern), was built through the county in 1871. The railroad induced the founding of new cities: Norcross, Duluth, Suwanee, and Buford. A spur line was run from Suwanee to Lawrenceville in 1881, and another main line, the Georgia, Carolina, and Northern Railroad (now CSX), was built in 1891 through Lilburn, Lawrenceville, and Dacula.

The County's first major industry came in 1868 when the RH Allen Tannery was established possibly at the Elisha Winn house that Robert Allen appears to have been renting before setting up in Buford. Brother Bona soon followed with the Bona Allen Tannery which later purchased the RH Allen Co. after Robert's death. Both tanneries made leather goods, harnesses, whips, shoes, and became famous for handmade saddles. During the Depression of the 1930s when a number of farms began to decline, the tannery employed 2,400 workers. The 1930 Census recorded a County population of 29,087.

Gwinnett County moved into the modern era in 1950 when the U.S. Congress authorized the construction of Buford Dam to provide hydro-electric power, flood control, water supply, navigation, and recreational facilities.

The County constructed its major water and sewer main lines in the 1970s, which proved to be an essential step in preparing for the next decade. For three consecutive years, 1986 through 1988, Gwinnett ranked as the fastest growing county in the U.S. among counties with a population greater than 100,000. During that period, voters approved the 1986 bond issue, and the 1985 and 1988 one-percent special purpose local option sales tax programs, mechanisms which provided funds for significant capital investments. The late 1980s witnessed a dramatic increase in the County's road construction program, the development of a countywide Parks and Recreation program, construction of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, renovation of the historic courthouse, construction of new public libraries, and other capital improvements.

Growth slowed during the recessions of 1990 and 2007, but the influx of new residents and businesses continued. The County's population in 2015 stood at 898,450, up more than 26 percent from 2005 (Sources: Woods & Poole and U.S. Census Bureau).



Population

According to estimates by Woods & Poole, the County's population was estimated at approximately 898,450 in 2015, and its population is expected to reach more than one million by the year 2020.

Public Safety

Gwinnett County's Department of Police Services is a nationally-accredited agency with an authorized strength of 784 sworn officers, supported by 319 non-sworn employees providing law enforcement services to the county. The department has attained accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. since 1993. Approximately 5 percent of more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide enjoy this prestigious recognition. In 2013, the Gwinnett County Police Department became one of the few police agencies nationwide to receive the *Accreditation with Excellence Award*, the highest level of accreditation. The department's goals in 2016 are to continue to meet the needs of the increasing population and its changing demographics, and to ensure fiscal responsibility while providing the latest technology, facilities, training, and equipment.

Gwinnett County's Department of Fire and Emergency Services covers the largest fire district in the state of Georgia and responded to 74,497 calls for assistance in 2015. The department has 898 personnel and operates 30 strategically located fire stations including 30 engine companies, 10 ladder trucks, and 25 advanced life-support medical units. Specialty teams are trained to respond to situations involving hazardous materials, technical, and/or swift-water rescue. Gwinnett County's Department of Fire and Emergency Services provides an integrated fire suppression and emergency medical response to all emergencies.



The Department of Corrections operates the Comprehensive Correctional Complex, an 800-bed prison facility that contains 512 beds for state and county inmates classified as minimum or medium security. This complex also contains 288 work release beds for non-violent criminal offenders sentenced to part-time incarceration and parents who habitually fail to pay court-ordered child support. The correctional complex is the only government-owned prison in Georgia that is nationally accredited.

Transportation

Gwinnett County's infrastructure includes more than 2,500 miles of roads, with more than 700 signalized intersections. The 2016 Capital Budget and 2017 – 2021 Transportation Capital Improvement Program totals approximately \$258.2 million.

In 2013, the County began construction on the widening of SR 20 from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Burnette Trail, the last remaining two-lane section of SR 20 in Gwinnett County. The County purchased right of way and easements using state and federal dollars and is also managing the state-funded construction. The project includes widening from two lanes to four lanes with a depressed median. The project is expected to open to traffic in 2016.

In 2015, the County increased the roadside mowing frequency on 350 shoulder miles from four to six times per year and increased the landscape mowing of 101 miles of major roads from six to twelve times per year. The County re-implemented roadway sweeping of approximately 100 intersections, 50 miles of center turn lanes, and 500 miles of curb/bike lanes on a quarterly basis.

The fourth busiest airport in the state, Briscoe Field, is located on approximately 500 acres in Lawrenceville. The airport is capable of handling all light, general aviation, and most corporate jet aircraft. Two fixed-base operators and three flight schools provide service and instruction at the airport.

In 2016, the airport will work on an extension of the northern taxiway resulting in two full length parallel taxiways on both sides of the runway which limits the need for aircraft to cross the runway, and decreases the chances of a runway incursion.

Gwinnett County Transit operates seven express bus routes during morning and afternoon peak travel times and five local bus routes all day Monday through Friday. The express routes allow transit customers to park their cars at County Park and Ride lots and take transit to destinations in downtown and midtown Atlanta. The local routes are complemented by door-to-door *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) paratransit service for ADA-eligible customers unable to use the local bus. In 2015, Saturday local service was restored to all five local bus routes along with two express bus trips from Indian Trail Park and Ride lot. In 2016, three new express routes will be created. The transit system is operated using 60 express coaches, 28 local buses, and 10 paratransit vehicles. In 2015, the transit system transported approximately 1.6 million riders on express and local buses.



Education

Gwinnett County Public Schools is the largest school system in Georgia, and it continues to grow. In the 2015 – 2016 school year, the district is serving more than 175,800 students. The district's enrollment grew by more than 2,800 students compared to the previous year. With approximately 22,000 employees, GCPS is the largest employer in Gwinnett County and one of the largest in the state of Georgia.



GCPS is made up of 136 schools, including 79 elementary schools, 28 middle schools, 21 high schools, and eight other educational facilities/schools – Gwinnett Online Campus; GIVE Center East and GIVE Center West, alternative programs for middle and high school students; Maxwell High School of Technology; New Life Academy of Excellence; North Metro Academy of Performing Arts; and two schools for special education. In the GCPS's fiscal year 2016, the average annual cost to educate one student is \$8,215. Gwinnett County operates more than 1,900 school buses that transport more than 129,000 students twice daily and travel more than 23.5 million miles annually.

The vision of GCPS is to become a “system of world-class schools.” The school system is pursuing this vision through the following initiatives: the Gwinnett Teacher Effectiveness System, the Academic Knowledge and Skills Curriculum, the eCLASS online portal, and the Quality-Plus Leader Academy leadership development program.

The academic achievements of GCPS are numerous. Gwinnett's average SAT score for 2015 was 1497, which is 7 points higher than the national average and 47 points higher than the state average. GCPS also topped both state and national ACT averages with an average score of 22.1 out of a possible 36. Noteworthy is the fact that more Gwinnett students are taking college-level Advanced Placement classes. Nineteen Gwinnett high schools received recognition as AP Honor Schools. More than 11,000 graduated in 2015 and nearly 84 percent plan to attend college.

GCPS is a three-time finalist of The Broad Prize for Urban Education in years 2009, 2010, and 2014 and a two-time winner in 2010 and 2014. Also, GCPS has been designated as one of the nation's top urban school districts. On November 3, 2015, voters expressed their recognition of the importance of Gwinnett schools as a national leader when approximately 75 percent of voters voted yes to the 2015 E-SPLIST renewal. The continuation of the one-percent tax already being collected on sales will last another five-year period beginning July 1, 2017. The one-percent tax will help fund construction of new schools, renovations to existing schools, and provide technology improvements.

In fiscal year 2016, the total budget adopted by the Board of Education is approximately \$1.86 billion. GCPS is one of only two large school systems in the nation with a triple-A bond rating. For more information on Gwinnett County Public Schools, go to www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us.

Gwinnett is also home to several colleges and universities, such as Georgia Gwinnett College, Gwinnett Technical College, the University of Georgia Gwinnett campus, DeVry University Duluth Center, Shorter University – Gwinnett campus, and the Georgia campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In May 2008, the University of Georgia moved its Gwinnett programs from the campus it shared with Georgia Gwinnett College to its new location near Sugarloaf Parkway and I-85, and changed its curriculum to graduate programs and continuing education only. The University of Georgia's Gwinnett Campus offers 19 graduate credit programs, professional development opportunities, and a small business development center. UGA-Gwinnett is a full service campus conveniently located and thoughtfully designed to help working professionals meet the demands of busy schedules.

Georgia Gwinnett College opened its doors as a four-year college in fall 2006. In fall 2015, enrollment reached nearly 12,000 students at the college. Almost 70 percent of GGC students are from Gwinnett, and nearly 100 nations are represented by the student body. GGC ranked fifth in *U.S. News & World Report* magazine's Southern Public Regional Colleges in 2014. In 2015, *U.S. News & World Report* reported the college as the most diverse public or private college in the southern region. In the 2016 edition of Best Colleges, GGC ranked 73rd among regional colleges and 11th among top public regional colleges in the south. It tied for 40th among “best colleges” for veterans. GGC is the ninth-largest and fastest-growing institution in the state and recently added a 15th bachelor's degree.

Gwinnett Technical College opened in 1984 as Gwinnett Area Technical School. The school has significantly expanded its course offerings and made two name changes since then. In 1989, Gwinnett Technical College became one of the first technical schools to earn accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Today, more than 50 programs and nearly 150 associate degrees are offered. Gwinnett Technical College serves more than 18,000 students annually, making it one of Georgia's largest technical colleges. Additional growth is expected with the opening of a new campus in Alpharetta-North Fulton in January 2016.

The Gwinnett County Public Library system, established in 1935, has grown to 15 full-service branches and has the largest circulation in the state with approximately 5.5 million items borrowed and nearly 5.1 million visits to the website and mobile site in fiscal year 2015. The library system received Gwinnett Magazine's *Best of Gwinnett* 2014 award for the Best Place to Take the Kids. In its fiscal year 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan, the Gwinnett County Public Library system identified the following goals: 1) awareness – increase community awareness of the library and its services; 2) outreach and engagement – develop new resources, services, and strategies for meeting the diverse needs of Gwinnett County residents; and 3) community needs – develop the library's staff and resources to ensure that the library continues to provide relevant service to all residents of Gwinnett County.

Business Environment

During the past decade, Gwinnett County has been a top job creator in metro Atlanta and is home to Fortune 500 and 1,000 companies. In 2015, the County issued 16,601 occupation tax certificates (business licenses). The County's infrastructure, skilled workforce and business environment is a draw for many companies. Gwinnett County also offers easy access to major interstate highways and international airports. In August 2013, *CNN Money Magazine* recognized Gwinnett County on its Where the Jobs Are list, ranking the County ninth on a national list of the top 25 counties where prospects for employment are promising. The report recognized the County for its role as a global leader, home to companies from Japan, China, and Germany, to name a few. The listing points to the recent expansions of Mitsubishi Electric US Cooling & Heating and Primerica, Inc. as two firms that are growing in the community. Mitsubishi Electric celebrated the opening of its division headquarters in April 2013, while Primerica opened the doors of its global headquarters in May 2013. The Korean-based manufacturer Dasan Machineries announced in May 2014 that it will move to Gwinnett County over the next three years and open its first U.S. headquarters in Duluth. In 2015, the South Korean brake company DuraMax announced that it will expand its North American headquarters in Gwinnett. These selections send a strong message to other global companies about the benefits the county offers, in particular strong manufacturing networks. According to the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce's senior vice president for economic development and Partnership Gwinnett, the county is home to 25 percent of Chinese companies and 40 percent of Italian companies in Georgia.

Gwinnett County caters to domestic and international businesses of all sizes and works to promote the industries of advanced communications, information technology, manufacturing/supply chain management, healthcare and life sciences, and corporate headquarters/professional services. Gwinnett's assets in these related sectors are strong, and efforts are made to ensure companies continue to be satisfied with their Gwinnett location, expand their presence in the county, and grow additional local economic opportunities. Over the next four years, Kaiser Permanente plans to establish a \$51 million customer service center in Gwinnett County, adding more than 600 jobs. The facility is expected to open in the fall at Breckenridge Boulevard near Duluth. Companies like Kaiser Permanente are counting on our county's economic vitality and strength of community to grow and expand their businesses.

Gwinnett County is also growing its commitment to the research and technology industry. Most notable is the expansion of the research and development corridor area along Highway 316 to the Barrow County line. In addition, the County has approved a mixed-use office and retail development on Highway 316 near Dacula and Sugarloaf Crossing. In February 2015, plans were circulated for Comcast to relocate its regional headquarters to Peachtree Corners. The facility includes a "high-tech" demonstration lab and a Comcast University space for training and education. In late 2015, Suniva, a solar cell manufacturer, announced plans for an expansion of its operations that will create 500 new jobs. Economic achievements such as these highlight our skilled workforce and help identify Gwinnett County as a hub for research, development, and technology in the southeast.

Gwinnett's hospitality and international sophistication, along with affordable real estate and a well-educated labor pool, continues to attract a comprehensive array of diverse companies. Gwinnett County is home to more than 500 international companies. Of those, 129 have a headquarters or regional headquarters in the county. In addition to Gwinnett County's success in attracting businesses to the area, the County has also thrived as a major retail center for nearly 30 years. It became home to Gwinnett Place Mall in 1984, the Mall of Georgia in 1999, Sugarloaf Mills (formerly Discover Mills) in 2001, The Forum on Peachtree Parkway in 2002, and The Shoppes at Webb Gin (formerly The Avenue Webb Gin) in 2006. Gwinnett's charming towns also offer a vast array of antique stores, boutiques, gift shops, art galleries, consignment stores, and specialty retail establishments.

Tourism is a growing industry in Gwinnett. Occupancy at the more than 100 hotels located in the county is at an all-time high. And, more hotels are on the horizon. In 2016, an Embassy Suites and a Courtyard by Marriott are scheduled to open in locations convenient to the Infinite Energy Center. Construction on a 300 room, full-service Marriott hotel located on the Infinite Energy Center campus is expected to begin in the fall of 2016. According to Georgia Deputy Economic Development Commissioner Kevin Langston, Gwinnett's impact on tourism for the state puts the county among the top 10 in metro Atlanta and along the coastline. Explore Gwinnett, the county's official travel office, is focused on keeping tourism spending above \$1 billion. Per Langston, Gwinnett has 11,300 jobs that are generated directly and indirectly by the tourism and hospitality industries. Concerts and sporting events are a natural draw for visitors. Also, Langston points out that Gwinnett County has great attractions, hotels, restaurants, shopping, and accessibility.

The county is likely to see additional tourism growth as a result of the emerging film industry. On April 14, 2015, Gwinnett Chamber Economic Development and the Georgia Department of Economic Development joined with Eagle Rock Studios Atlanta to announce the grand opening of the largest television production studio under one roof in the United States. Located at Best Friend Road in Norcross, Eagle Rock Studios Atlanta should have a direct economic impact on tourism in Gwinnett through trade at local restaurants, hotels, and surrounding businesses. Production companies find Gwinnett County's easy access to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport a plus. The area's versatility is also a major draw. Gwinnett County is home to commuter communities in both outer rural areas and inner upscale city suburbs. The county's landscape is lined with historic downtowns and rustic settings intertwined with new commercial and industrial development. Gwinnett County is where both the new and the old meet for success.





Recreation and Arts

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation offers award-winning parks and leisure activities year-round to the young and young-at-heart residents of Gwinnett County. Residents can choose to stroll on a trail, play a sport, learn to swim, take a fitness or pottery class, go on a horseback or bike ride, or explore the county's rich history. There is something for everyone here. GCPR offers facility rentals and partners with 29 volunteer youth athletic associations to offer sports such as baseball/softball, basketball, cheerleading, football, soccer, roller hockey, and lacrosse. Parks and Recreation also partners with healthcare providers to promote community health and wellness programs, including the Park Rx program and Live Healthy Gwinnett. In 2015, the division offered 7,150 classes, summer camps, and special events.

Currently GCPR operates 47 parks and facilities that include 175 sports fields, 51 tennis courts, 41 outdoor basketball courts, five year-round and seven seasonal aquatic facilities, seven dog park areas, seven cultural/historic sites, 128 miles of trails, seven skate complexes, 68 playgrounds, picnic areas, pavilions, fishing lakes, and more. The County's dedication to restoring Gwinnett's historical buildings and areas can be seen while visiting one of the historic preservation projects such as McDaniel Farm Park, Isaac Adair House, Freeman's Mill Park, and the Yellow River Post Office site. Gwinnett County acquired the 223-acre Simpsonwood Park property and initiated the public process to develop a long-term park master plan.

Gwinnett County continues to place a high priority on greenspace, as well as active and passive park land. As of 2015, Gwinnett parkland totaled 9,646 acres for both passive and active parks. In 2015, the County was one of seven local governments to be recognized by the Atlanta Regional Commission for leadership in implementing policies and practices that contribute to efficient and sustainable use of resources with an upgrade to a Gold level Certified Green Community. The Green Communities Program showcases local governments that reduce environmental footprints while transforming areas.

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (EHC) is a unique partnership between the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Foundation, the University of Georgia, and the Gwinnett County Public School system. The 66,000 square-foot educational center is a multi-use history, culture, heritage, and environment facility. As of fall 2014, center patrons can access the Ivy Creek Greenway by foot or bike and experience a seven-mile trail between the EHC and George Pierce Park. The center was Gwinnett County's first LEED-certified green building and has one of the nation's largest sloped vegetated roofs. The center staff also coordinates heritage programming at other County historic sites.

In 2015, the EHC was recognized by the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries and the Georgia Trust for historic preservation of the Chesser-Williams House. The EHC was also named a finalist in the 2015 Georgia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education Awards. These awards recognize schools, programs, and companies for outstanding efforts and achievements in supporting and promoting science, technology, engineering, and math. In addition, the Environmental and Heritage Center was named one of a select group of companies in the region to receive recognition as one of "Atlanta's Best and Brightest Companies to Work For" by the National Association for Business Resources.

ArtWorks! Gwinnett is a nonprofit organization designed to cultivate arts opportunities in Gwinnett that enhance cultural and economic capital and enrich the county's residents and the business community. The organization is an independent branch of the Partnership Gwinnett community and economic development initiative and supports the County's 2030 Unified Plan.



Gwinnett County offers a wide range of theatre opportunities. Located in Lawrenceville, the Aurora Theatre is recognized for its award-winning dramas, musicals, and comedies. Aurora received the Community Impact Award for Performing Arts Organization by *Artworks! Gwinnett* in 2014 and the IMPACT Regional Business Award from the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce in 2015. Downtown historic Norcross is home to the Lionheart Theatre Company. Volunteer operated and non-profit, Lionheart is a leading community dessert theatre in the metro area. Equipped with seating for 274 and located at the Buford Community Center, the Sylvia Beard Theatre offers an ideal venue for theatrical performances. Duluth is home to the New Dawn Theater, and Snellville houses the New London Theatre. Each of the facilities allows residents of Gwinnett to enjoy and support the arts within their own community.

The Infinite Energy Center (formerly the Gwinnett Center) consists of a convention center (Infinite Energy Forum), a performing arts center (Infinite Energy Theater), an arena (Infinite Energy Arena), and an arts center (The Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Center for the Arts). Beautiful landscaping and complimentary onsite parking make a visit to any of these facilities an enjoyable one. The complex is operated by the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau under an operating agreement with Gwinnett County.

The Infinite Energy Forum is anchored by a 50,000 square foot exhibit hall, which is an ideal venue for trade shows, conventions, consumer shows, and corporate meetings. With 28-foot ceilings and column-free exhibit space, up to 300 exhibitors can use the exhibit hall at one time. The forum also has 23 fully adaptable meeting rooms accommodating any size group from two to 2,000. The grand ballroom consists of 21,600 square feet of space, with banquet seating for up to 1,500.

The Infinite Energy Theater is a 708-seat performing arts theater with superior visibility and acoustics, and a high-tech sound system. The theater has fully-equipped production capabilities and is ideal to showcase stage productions, musical performances, corporate meetings, and civic events.

The Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Center for the Arts provides a setting with casual elegance or an artistic flair, with outdoor gardens, an art gallery, and a variety of beautiful spaces for receptions, weddings, or other special events. The AI Weeks Sculpture Garden offers 28,000 square feet of enclosed, private outdoor space with a lily pond, waterfalls, koi, and garden seating.

The Infinite Energy Arena seats up to 13,000 attendees for concerts, sporting events, religious conventions, corporate meetings, and family shows. The arena includes 36 corporate suites, two party suites, and club level seats. Since 2003, the arena has been the home of the Gwinnett Gladiators of the East Coast Hockey League. As of May 2015, the arena welcomed the National Lacrosse League team, the Georgia Swarm, with an introductory press conference. Their inaugural game was held on January 9, 2016. With corporate suites, high-end sound, and versatile lighting, the venue has a top reputation in the industry among promoters and planners. In 2009, a parking deck was added, providing an additional 950 covered spaces for patrons.

The Infinite Energy Arena has been nationally and internationally ranked as a top venue based on gross ticket sales and attendance. The facility is consistently listed as a Best of Gwinnett recipient, which is voted on by consumers and honors Gwinnett County companies. In addition, the Gwinnett Convention Center received an award in 2013 and 2014 as one of *ConventionSouth's* Readers' Choice winners, which is voted on by more than 6,500 meeting professionals and venue fans.

In 2009, the Atlanta Braves' Triple-A affiliate, the Gwinnett Braves, moved to Lawrenceville and began playing at Coolray Field. This state-of-the-art stadium seats more than 10,000 fans and plays host to 72 regular season home games and other events such as concerts, charity events, baseball clinics, and public safety exhibitions. The 2015 season marked the seventh season of play since the stadium opened. Coolray Field has provided the community with hundreds of new jobs, and the Braves have been active with donations and fundraising for local nonprofit organizations.

Every April Gwinnett County is home to the Champions Tour Tournament for golfers. The three-day tournament is televised in about 200 countries. This exposure helps raise the county's profile on an international level.



Healthcare

Gwinnett Health System is the parent company of Gwinnett Medical Center, Gwinnett Medical Group, and Sequent Health Physician Partners. GHS employs more than 5,000 associates and has more than 800 affiliated physicians serving more than 400,000 patients annually. In 2014, GMC was recognized by Georgia Trend as the top large hospital in the state. GMC is a nationally-recognized, not-for-profit healthcare network with acute-care hospitals in Lawrenceville and Duluth. Additional facilities include: the Gwinnett Women's Pavilion, the Gwinnett Extended Care Center, Glancy Rehabilitation Center; outpatient health centers and a surgical center; imaging centers, and outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy facilities.



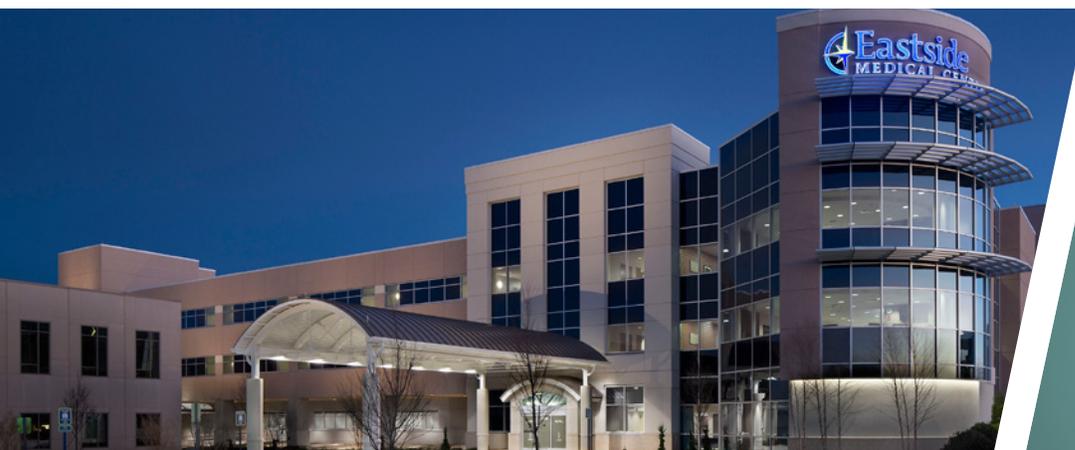
GMC-Lawrenceville, the system's flagship hospital, provides the county's only trauma center and is one of 16 Level II Trauma Centers in the state. This location is also home to the Strickland Heart Center, where patients requiring electrophysiology, cardiac catheterization, and open heart surgery receive treatment. Nearly 400 open heart procedures and more than 7,000 cardiac catheterization procedures are performed at the Strickland Heart Center yearly.

GMC-Duluth is best known for its Sports Medicine Program, Concussion Institute, Center for Weight Management, and Glancy Rehabilitation Center, which offers inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services. The Concussion Institute is the most advanced center of its kind in the southeast.

Additionally, GMC boasts a graduate medical education program offering family medicine and internal medicine residency programs. This program is designed to address the critical physician shortage in Georgia.

To further accessibility, GMC provides services at the Hamilton Mill location across from Duncan Creek public library in Hamilton Mill Station. This location includes primary care, cardiac and women's services, and walk-in care and imaging services. In 2016, GMC will open Urgent Care Centers in partnership with ChoiceOne in Sugar Hill and Hamilton Mill. To learn more about how GMC is transforming healthcare, visit gwinnettmedicalcenter.org.

Recognized nationally for patient safety with an 'A' grade by the Leapfrog Group's latest safety report, Eastside Medical Center has a team of 1,200 medical professionals and a medical staff of 500 physicians. Eastside's team serves thousands of patients each year – performing more than 5,000 surgeries, bringing approximately 1,000 babies into the world, and handling more than 59,000 emergency room visits in 2015. Serving the area since 1980, Eastside Medical Center is a 310-bed, multi-campus medical center offering comprehensive medical and surgical programs. Services at the main campus in Snellville include heart and vascular; neuroscience, cancer; orthopedics, spine, 24-hour adult and pediatric emergency, maternity, women's health, surgery, rehabilitation, and sleep medicine services. Eastside Medical Center – South Campus, is just 10 minutes away and provides behavioral health care and rehabilitation services. The Wound Center, an outpatient care center dedicated to the treatment of non-healing wounds, moved to a new location at 2295 Ronald Regan Parkway in 2015. A dedicated Breast Imaging Center is located at 1700 Tree Lane in Snellville, which now offers low dose Genius™ 3D MAMMOGRAPHY™ exams. Using advanced breast tomosynthesis technology, Genius™ exams are clinically proven to significantly increase the detection of breast cancers, while simultaneously decreasing the number of women asked to return for additional testing. Additionally, the Loganville Imaging Center offers an array of imaging services including MRI, CT, mammography, ultrasound, and more. In 2011, the hospital received the American Heart Association's Gold-Plus Stroke Performance Achievement Award for implementing high standards for stroke care. A new patient tower opened in 2013 that features advanced technology including a hybrid operating suite and 48 surgical beds. Eastside Medical Center also offers a spine center and a center for surgical weight loss.





In July 2014, a new health care provider focused on transitional care and short-term recovery opened in Suwanee. The facility, named Salude, offers 64 private rooms and bathrooms. In addition, offerings at Salude include a 2,800 plus square foot therapy space, 24/7 in room dining, grab-and-go café, and walking paths.

The goal of Salude is to provide an option to short-term and transitional recovery care that focuses on patient comfort and experience. State-of-the-art rehabilitation and medication delivery systems are key to perfecting the recovery process. Patients are likely to recover there for two weeks with the maximum stay at 20 days.

High-quality healthcare is a focus of Gwinnett County. Having Salude's first transitional care model located in our county is an asset to our citizens' patient care and recovery.

Northeast Georgia Physicians Group has opened urgent care facilities in Dacula, Buford, Hamilton Mill, and Auburn. These health care providers are all a part of Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS). Expansion into Gwinnett County offers a large potential patient base. Services include a standalone physicians group as well as access to specialists, ancillary services, and complete hospital services.

Gwinnett County Health and Human Services supports the needs of residents through coordination with private and public organizations. It participates in the planning of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services, provides services to Gwinnett's senior citizens, develops and manages one-stop service centers, and manages County funding for nonprofit and other governmental organizations. Numerous health centers throughout Gwinnett County offer medical care to residents who meet income and eligibility requirements.

Government

Governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, Gwinnett's local government is comprised of a chairman elected at-large and four commissioners elected by district for four-year terms. The Board of Commissioners appoints the County Administrator. To implement the Board's directives, the County Administrator uses a management team consisting of members of his immediate staff and 12 department directors. The 12 departments that make up the executive side of the county government are Police Services, Fire and Emergency Services, Corrections, Support Services, Financial Services, Community Services, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, Law, Planning and Development, Water Resources, and Transportation. Each department is run by a director who is charged with managing departmental operations in a manner which stresses efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and customer service.

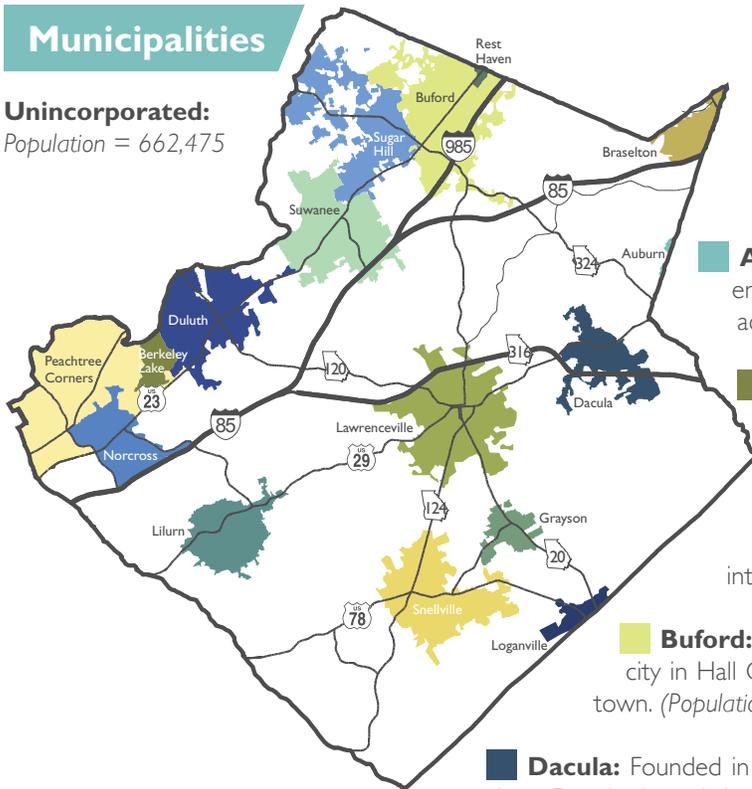
In addition to the internal departments that comprise the executive side of County government, certain services are provided to citizens through constitutional officers and independent elected officials. These external offices are created by the Georgia Constitution or through state law and are listed on page 2 under "[Elected Officials](#)."

While most administrative County government operations and courts are located in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, some departments are located in the Annex Building, One Justice Square, and the Recorder's/Juvenile Court facility. As relocations and additions occur, the existing facilities undergo reconfigurations to better meet residents' needs.



Municipalities

Unincorporated:
Population = 662,475



Spanning **437 SQUARE MILES**,
Gwinnett County has **16 MUNICIPALITIES**
within its boundaries. In 2015, an estimated
898,450 PEOPLE called Gwinnett home.

Auburn: Located on U.S. Highway 29 between Lawrenceville and Athens, Auburn became a part of Gwinnett County in 1988, annexing 2,500 acres. (Population = 223*)

Berkeley Lake: Established in 1956, Berkeley Lake is located near the Chattahoochee River and is mostly residential with wooded lots and rolling hills. (Population = 1,983)

Braselton: Settled in 1876, part of this municipality is located within Gwinnett where property was annexed in 1989. It also extends into Barrow, Hall, and Jackson Counties. (Population = 3,529*)

Buford: Buford is Gwinnett's northern most city, with a small portion of the city in Hall County. It was founded in 1872 and originally developed as a railroad town. (Population = 12,367*)

Dacula: Founded in 1891, a branch of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad was constructed from Dacula through Lawrenceville to Duluth. Elisha Winn is one of Gwinnett's early leaders, and his home served as a temporary first courthouse. (Population = 4,971)

Duluth: In the early 1800s, this town was part of Cherokee Indian territory. In 1821, it developed as the town of Howell Crossing, and in 1873 the town name was changed to Duluth following completion of the railroad. (Population = 28,838)

Grayson: Founded in 1880, Grayson is another city given birth by the railroad. The city was previously known as Berkely. (Population = 2,780)

Lawrenceville: Lawrenceville is the largest city in Gwinnett. Incorporated in 1821, it is the second oldest city in metro Atlanta and is the county seat. (Population = 30,212)

Lilburn: In 1892, a railroad stop known as the town of McDaniel developed. Renamed Lilburn in the early 1900s, this city is named after Lilburn Trigg Myers who was the general superintendent for the Seaboard Airline Railway. (Population = 12,543)

Loganville: This town also started as a branch of the railroad in 1898 and is another city that Gwinnett shares with an adjoining county. (Population = 2,663*)

Norcross: The second oldest city in Gwinnett, Norcross was founded as a resort town for wealthy Atlantans. Chartered in 1870, Norcross has an area of 112 acres listed in the U.S. Register of Historic Places. (Population = 16,349)

Peachtree Corners: Peachtree Corners is the newest city in Gwinnett County. The Georgia General Assembly passed legislation on March 16, 2011, to hold a referendum for voters to consider the incorporation of the City of Peachtree Corners. The referendum passed on November 8, 2011. (Population = 40,531)

Rest Haven: Incorporated in 1940, Rest Haven is one mile and a half wide. (Population = 34*)

Snellville: In 1885, Snellville was founded by Thomas Snell and James Sawyer. It is located on U.S. Highway 78 in the southeastern corner of the County. (Population = 19,439)

Sugar Hill: This town's name is said to have come from an incident in the 1800s when a freight wagon traveling down a steep hill spilled its load of sugar. The city was chartered in 1939. (Population = 20,821)

Suwanee: Beginning as an Indian village and later developed as a railroad stop, Suwanee was officially founded in 1837 with the establishment of the post office. (Population = 18,164)

*Population within Gwinnett County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's July 1, 2014 population estimates