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

County Administrator
Glenn P. Stephens

County Attorney
M. Van Stephens, Acting County Attorney

Community Services
Phil Hoskins, Director

Corrections
Darrell Johnson, Warden

Financial Services
Maria Woods, Director

Fire and Emergency Services
Chief Casey Snyder

Human Resources
Scott Fuller, Acting 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

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

Information Technology Services
Vacant

Planning and Development
Bryan Lackey, Director

Police Services
Chief Charles M. Walters

Support Services
Angela Parham, Director

Transportation
Kim Conroy, Director

Water Resources
Ron Seibenhener, Director

State Court Judges
Pamela D. South, Chief Judge
Joseph C. Iannazzone
Carla E. Brown
Randolph G. Rich
John F. Doran Jr.
Emily J. Brantley
Howard E. Cook, Senior Judge
Robert W. Mock Sr., Senior Judge

Superior Court Judges
Melodie Snell-Conner, Chief Judge
Michael C. Clark
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
K. Dawson Jackson, Senior Judge
Fred A. Bishop Jr., Senior Judge

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, 2013. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Gwinnett County has received this prestigious award for 25 years.

In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, 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

The Georgia Legislature created Gwinnett County on December 15, 1818, out of 437 square miles of frontier land that was originally ceded to the state by the Creek and Cherokee Indians. Gwinnett County was named after Button Gwinnett, one of Georgia’s three signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1819, the home of Elisha Winn, one of Gwinnett’s early leaders instrumental in the creation of the County and in whose parlor the early planning took place, became the first county courthouse. The first elections were held in the parlor, and superior court proceedings were conducted in his barn, while the first jail stood nearby. Winn selected Lawrenceville as the site for the county seat and donated the land for the first permanent courthouse, which was completed in 1824 for $4,000. It was destroyed by fire in 1871, and a second courthouse was constructed in 1872, but was torn down in 1884 when it was deemed inadequate. It was finally replaced in 1885 with the building now known as the Historic Courthouse and was used as the County’s courthouse until 1988, when the construction on the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center was completed. The Historic Courthouse, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, now serves as a public museum and meeting facility for residents and civic organizations and is open for tours Monday through Friday. The annual Lighting of the Tree at Thanksgiving, the Moonlight and Music Summer Concert Series, and many other festivals are held here during the year.

In 1914, a portion of Gwinnett was joined with parts of Walton and Jackson Counties to form Barrow County. More of Gwinnett’s land area was lost in the mid-1950s with the construction of Buford Dam. As the Chattahoochee River was backed up behind the new dam, the water of Lake Lanier covered hundreds of acres.

In recent years, despite a challenging economic environment, the local economy in Gwinnett County has prevailed. Many international and domestic firms have relocated or expanded their operations in Gwinnett, creating additional employment opportunities in the area. Businesses are attracted to Gwinnett due to its talented labor force, affordable real estate, excellent infrastructure, premier schools, and rich diversity of cultures. Located in close proximity to the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the busiest airport in the world, the County also has geographical allure. Located within a two-hour flight from 80 percent of the United States’ population, the County is easily accessible to the majority of Americans.

Population

For the past 20 years, Gwinnett County has been among the fastest-growing counties in America. According to Moody’s Analytics, Gwinnett’s population was estimated at 855,459 in 2013, 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 758 sworn officers, supported by 308 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. (CALEA) since 1993. Approximately 5 percent of over 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide enjoy this prestigious recognition. Additionally, 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 2014 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 one of the largest geographic areas in the state of Georgia, and serves the area with fire protection and emergency medical services. The department meets its challenge with approved personnel of 847 well-trained men and women. Fire and Emergency Services operates 30 strategically-placed fire stations that include 30 engine companies, 10 ladder trucks, and 23 advanced life-support medical units. The department responded to more than 68,000 calls for help in 2013.

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 2,750 miles of roads, with more than 695 signalized intersections. The 2014 Capital Budget and 2015 – 2019 plan for the Transportation Capital Improvement Program (CIP) totals approximately $448.4 million.

In 2013, the County was awarded and began construction of 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 will also oversee the state-funded construction. The project includes widening from two lanes to four lanes with a depressed median. Construction is expected to take approximately three years.

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.
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. One local bus route operates all day on Saturday. 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. The transit system is operated using 60 express coaches, 28 local buses, and 10 paratransit vehicles. In 2013, the transit system transported more than 1.8 million riders on express and local buses.

Education

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) is the largest school system in Georgia, and it continues to grow. In the 2013 – 2014 school year, the district is serving more than 168,600 students, an increase of approximately 3,700 students over the previous school year. With more than 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 132 schools, including 77 elementary schools, 26 middle schools, 19 high schools, and 10 other educational facilities. The average cost to educate a student is $7,548 per year. For 2013 – 2014, Gwinnett County operates more than 1,900 school buses that transport more than 126,000 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 has taken steps toward obtaining its 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. In 2011 – 2012, the average SAT score of GCPS students was 1518, which is 15 points higher than the national average and 61 points higher than the state average. GCPS also topped both state and national ACT averages with an average score of 22.

As the recipient of the 2010 Broad Prize, the largest education award in the country, GCPS received $1 million in college scholarships for graduating high school seniors. The annual Broad Prize honors large urban school districts that demonstrate the strongest student achievement and improvement while narrowing achievement gaps between income and ethnic groups.

In fiscal year 2014, the total budget adopted by the Board of Education is $1.7 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 graduate credit programs, professional development opportunities, and a small business development center.

Georgia Gwinnett College opened its doors as a four-year college in fall 2006. In fall 2012, approximately 9,400 students attended the college. Georgia Gwinnett College ranked fifth in U.S. News & World Report magazine’s Southern Public Regional Colleges in 2014.

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. Today, Gwinnett Technical College serves approximately 20,000 students, making it one of Georgia’s largest technical colleges.

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 more than 6.7 million items borrowed and more than 6.3 million visits to the website and mobile site in fiscal year 2013. The value of items borrowed and services provided in fiscal year 2013 was $29,950,642.

The Gwinnett County Public Library system has identified the following goals in its Fiscal Year 2013 – 2015 Strategic Plan: 1) maximize funding efforts that most efficiently leverage library and community resources, 2) be a leader in creating an engaging customer experience through exceptional staff and innovative expanded access to facilities, programs and services, and 3) have the library perceived as the central building block in establishing lifelong learning as an enriching feature of community life in 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 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.

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. From small businesses to industry giants and global companies to home-grown start-ups, it is clear that Success Lives Here.
The Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce’s economic development arm globally markets Gwinnett County as the premier location in metro Atlanta and the state of Georgia for growing and doing business. By encouraging investment and trade into the County through relocation and expansion assistance, the organization works with local and regional partners to bring technology, communications, life science, advanced manufacturing, supply chain operations, and corporate headquarters to the community.

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. In 2013, Gwinnett County issued 16,935 occupation tax certificates (business licenses).

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, Discover Mills (now Sugarloaf Mills) in 2001, The Forum on Peachtree Parkway in 2002, and The Avenue Webb Gin (now The Shoppes at 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.

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. Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation offers facility rentals and partners with 28 volunteer youth athletic associations to offer sports such as baseball/softball, basketball, cheerleading, football, soccer, roller hockey, and lacrosse. In 2013, the division offered more than 6,600 classes, summer camps, and special events.

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation operates 46 parks and facilities that include 170 sports fields, 51 tennis courts, 40 outdoor basketball courts, five year-round and seven seasonal aquatic facilities, seven dog park areas, six cultural/historic sites, more than 123 miles of trails, seven skate complexes, 67 playgrounds, picnic areas, pavilions, fishing lakes, and more. In 2013, Harbins Park and Rabbit Hill Park opened expanded youth sports facilities with the assistance of volunteer-based youth athletic associations. Parks and Recreation also developed partnerships with healthcare providers to promote community health and wellness programs, including the Park Rx program.

Gwinnett County continues to place a high priority on greenspace, as well as active and passive park land. As of 2013, Gwinnett parkland totaled 9,282 for both passive and active parks.

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center is a unique partnership among 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 facility, history, culture, heritage, and environment facility. 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.
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. ArtWorks! Gwinnett held its second annual Fusion awards program in February 2013 at the city of Buford Community Center.

The Gwinnett Center complex consists of a convention center, a performing arts center, an arena, and an arts center. 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 Convention and Visitors Bureau is the official tourism, hospitality sales, and marketing arm for the County.

The Convention Center 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 Convention Center also has 24 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 Performing Arts Center 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 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 Al Weeks Sculpture Garden offers 28,000 square feet of enclosed, private outdoor space with a lily pond, waterfalls, koi, and garden seating.

The Arena at Gwinnett Center seats up to 13,000 attendees for concerts, sporting events, religious conventions, corporate meetings, and family shows. Since 2003, the Arena has been the home of the Gwinnett Gladiators of the East Coast Hockey League. With 36 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.

Gwinnett Center 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, Gwinnett Center received an award as one of ConventionSouth’s 2013 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 2013 season marked the fifth 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.
Healthcare

Gwinnett Medical Center (GMC) is a 553-bed, not-for-profit healthcare network comprised of two hospitals, a long-term care facility, and a full spectrum of outpatient services. In 2012, GMC served approximately 400,000 patients (ER discharges, inpatient and outpatient surgical patients, and outpatient visits).

With more than 4,800 associates and approximately 800 affiliated physicians, GMC is comprised of the following licensed facilities: Gwinnett Medical Center-Lawrenceville with 353 acute care beds, Gwinnett Medical Center-Duluth with 81 acute medical/surgical beds and 30 acute physical rehabilitation beds, and the Gwinnett Extended Care Center on the Lawrenceville campus with 89 nursing home beds.

GMC-Lawrenceville, the system’s flagship hospital, provides inpatient and outpatient services as well as 24-hour emergency care including the Children’s Emergency Center and Level II trauma care. The North Tower features the most advanced technology in healthcare, and the Strickland Heart Center provides advanced cardiac services, including open-heart surgery.

GMC-Lawrenceville’s comprehensive array of medical specialty services includes the Center for Orthopedics, Center for Neuroscience, Brain & Spine Institute, and Center for Sleep Disorders. The hospital is also the site of Gwinnett Day Surgery, Gwinnett Extended Care Center, Gwinnett Sports Rehab, and the Gwinnett Women’s Pavilion. The Women’s Pavilion offers a Level III neonatal intensive care unit and a high-risk pregnancy unit.

GMC-Duluth offers 24-hour emergency care and is best known for its Sports Medicine Program, Concussion Institute, Center for Weight Management, robotic surgery, and Glancy Rehabilitation Center, which offers inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services for individuals with orthopedic or neurologic conditions.

To meet the growing need for primary care in Gwinnett County, GMC established a graduate medical education program that will offer family medicine and internal medicine residency programs. The hospital system will welcome its first residents in July 2014.

Serving the area since 1980, the Emory Eastside Medical Center in Snellville is a 310-bed full-service hospital offering a pediatric urgent care unit, day surgery, obstetrics, breast health center, and an in-patient physical rehabilitation center. Eastside Medical has 450 physicians and employs nearly 1,200 clinical and support staff. Through a partnership with the Piedmont Heart Institute, the hospital expanded its cardiac care services in 2012. The medical center opened a new patient tower in January 2013 that features advanced technology including a hybrid operating suite and 48 surgical beds. The Eastside Heritage Center, located at the original hospital campus on Fountain Drive, specializes in the care and treatment of many adult conditions with programs for senior mental health, wound care, sleep disorders, and pain management. Eastside Digital Imaging at Loganville provides an array of imaging services, and in 2011, Eastside Medical Center opened The Spine Center in its office building at 1600 Medical Way in Snellville. The Spine Center offers a variety of treatment options for patients suffering from neck, back and spine problems.
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 policy 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.

While most county government operations 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

Auburn – Located on U.S. Highway 29 between Lawrenceville and Athens, Auburn became a part of Gwinnett County in 1988, annexing 2,500 acres.

Berkeley Lake – Established in 1956, Berkeley Lake is located near the Chattahoochee River and is mostly residential with wooded lots and rolling hills.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Grayson – Founded in 1880, Grayson is another city given birth by the railroad. The city was previously known as Berkely.

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.

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.

Loganville – This town also started as a branch of the railroad in 1898 and is another city that Gwinnett shares with an adjoining county.

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.

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.

Rest Haven – Incorporated in 1940, Rest Haven is one mile and a half wide.

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.

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.

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.