

CRAIG L. NEWTON

Mayor | City of Norcross

For over twenty years, Craig L. Newton has been a passionate public servant who has demonstrated solid leadership and unwavering support for the City of Norcross, Gwinnett County, and the metro Atlanta region. Craig comes from a long lineage of Gwinnett history. The Newton family has been a part of Gwinnett County since the early 1900's and he has been a lifelong resident of Norcross. After serving nearly twenty-years on the Norcross City Council, he made history in November 2017 when he was elected as the first African American mayor of any city in Gwinnett County. Today, he continues his public servant journey as Mayor, where he is dedicated to guiding the City of Norcross to a new chapter of economic prosperity, growth, and improved quality of life for all residents. Mayor Newton brings decades of executive experience from both the private sector and public leadership roles to the City of Norcross that will serve the city well for years to come.

Mayor Newton recently retired from MICROMERITICS Incorporated, a high-tech analytical laboratory instrument manufacturer in Norcross. As a Certified Internal ISO 9001 Auditor, he was responsible for assessing process effectiveness through developing, implementing, monitoring and managing compliance with internal control requirements. His analytical and detail-oriented skills allowed him to serve in various executive and management positions including Manager of Manufacturing, Manager of Field and Factory Technical Support, and Senior Quality Auditor.

As a longtime public servant, Mayor Newton was first elected to the Norcross City Council in 1998—including 4 terms as Mayor Pro Tem—where he served until his historic mayoral election in 2017. During his tenure as a councilman, he was accountable for enacting sound policies, approving the city's annual budget, setting the city's tax rate, and focusing on major projects and complex issues such as land use planning, capital financing, and strategic planning. Mayor Newton has guided several multi-million-dollar redevelopment projects including the Historic Downtown redevelopment project that ultimately transformed the city's economic standing and has won numerous awards.

Drawing from his talents and decades of experiences from the private sector and as a councilman, Mayor Newton is currently serving his first two-year term. Since taking office, he has taken on a performance-driven approach to the job, creating more responsive, streamlined and efficient delivery of city services. He has assisted in a comprehensive budget review to ensure that the city is in sound financial standing. He has also provided leadership on staff reorganization for more efficiency and effectiveness. His vision is for Norcross to be a place where all residents prosper. Some of his priorities include improving the quality of life for residents through initiatives such as the Purple Heart City designation and AARP Age-Friendly Livable Communities. Also, economic prosperity is a high priority for Mayor Newton. Utilizing his political-will and networks of business leaders and politicians, he consistently advocates for more economic opportunities in Norcross including creating more jobs, start-up and entrepreneur opportunities, business recruitment, and major redevelopment projects.

Mayor Newton performs various civic duties throughout Gwinnett County and the metro Atlanta region. In 2018, he was named Chairman of the Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board, where he has served since its creation in 2000. In this capacity, he provides advisory leadership to assist in setting the direction of the County's transit planning, funding and governance. Other key leadership roles he has held include Vice President of Gwinnett County Municipal Association, Gwinnett County Special Local Options Sales Tax Committee, and Board of Director of Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, and Board Member for the Norcross and Stripling Elementary Committees for School Improvement. He has worked to create "Give Us Hope, Inc", a nonprofit after school program for latchkey and at-risk children, as well as serving as a Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Instructor.

Mayor Newton is a graduate of Central Georgia Technical Institute with a degree in metrology. He is the proud husband of his wife Lynn, whom he has been married to for 35 years and their four children.