



Frequently Asked Questions—Annexation Process

Since 2006, the Kirkland City Council has been carefully studying the annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods, known as Kirkland's Potential Annexation Area (PAA). Throughout the City's analysis of the potential annexation, the City Council has endeavored to meet the intent of the Growth Management Act, evaluate financial impacts of annexation and provide public participation opportunities for those impacted should annexation occur.

The annexation process is guided by a series of strict events. In April 2009, the City Council initiated the annexation process by declaring its intent to hold an election in November. In June, the City presented its annexation proposal to the Washington State Boundary Review Board for King County which was approved. Following several public meetings, the City Council adopted zoning regulations in July for the PAA that define land use designations, identify allowed uses within each zone and regulate such things as building height and setbacks.

The purpose of this Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) handout is to address questions and concerns the City has heard from current City and PAA residents about the annexation process.

Annexation is a process by which new land is added to a city. Annexation can occur by an "election," "petition" or "interlocal agreement" method. Each method is guided by State law and involves a strict series of events.

Why annex?

The State's Growth Management Act (GMA) calls for annexation of unincorporated urban areas. An underlying principle of GMA is that urban services should be provided by cities and that rural and regional services should be provided by counties. Providing urban-level services to small pockets of unincorporated areas is inefficient and creates a burden for all County taxpayers. The City's PAA has long been assigned to Kirkland in the Countywide Planning Policies and in the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

How does annexation occur?

The Finn Hill, Juanita, Kingsgate potential annexation is predicated on the "election" method of annexation. The first step to initiate this process was for the City Council to approve a "Resolution of Intent" and file the Resolution along with a Notice of Intention with the Washington State Boundary Review Board for King County (BRB) which was completed on April 8, 2009. The BRB approved the City's annexation proposal and the King County Council approved placing the annexation proposal on the ballot. Finally, the City filed the ballot measure with the King County Elections Office on August 11, 2009.

Who gets to vote on annexation?

Registered voters of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods are eligible to vote on this annexation as required by State law.



For annexation information, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/annexation.

- [Subscribe to receive email updates](#)
- [Watch a City Council meeting online](#)
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Email: annexation@ci.kirkland.wa.us

Phone: 425-587-3001

What will voters be asked to decide on in the annexation election?

There are three questions that would be considered for the proposed annexation. The first is whether the voters of the PAA want to annex to Kirkland. At the same time, they will be asked to approve the zoning for the area as proposed by Kirkland. Both of these questions require a simple majority approval. A third question would ask voters in the PAA to assume a proportional share of outstanding debt currently held by the Kirkland. This third question requires approval by 60% of the voters and also requires that at least 40% of the voters who voted in the last general election cast a vote in the annexation election.

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What happens if the ballot measure is approved by voters?

Following the certification of votes from King County that validates the necessary majority vote in favor of annexation, the next step the City Council has to take is to adopt an ordinance that provides for annexation, sets an effective date of annexation, and enacts all related provisions for the ballot measure. Simultaneous to completing post-election requirements, the City would have to notify state and county agencies and special purpose districts.

What happens if the ballot measure is not approved by voters?

The areas would remain unincorporated unless another annexation is undertaken or the area chooses to incorporate into its own city.

If annexation is approved, when will it be effective?

The effective date for annexation would be established after the election if the voters approve the ballot measure. The City will conduct a detailed analysis of cash flow (the timing of revenue and expenses for the new area) and develop a service transition plan that assures continuity of services for both Kirkland and PAA. Given the size of the annexation and the many services and service providers involved, it is most likely that annexation would take effect in 2011.

Kirkland's Proposed Annexation Area

