



Kirkland Potential Annexation

Updated Fall 2009

Frequently Asked Questions—Community Involvement

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 community involvement.

The best source of City information about the Annexation Study is its website: www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/annexation. The site contains this and other FAQs, meeting information, maps, City Council staff reports (including links to meeting videos) and background information.

If annexation occurs, will my elected representatives change?

Unincorporated King County residents are represented by the King County Executive and the King County Council members. If annexation is approved by voters in the PAA, then the local government elected representation will change from the King County Council to the Kirkland City Council. City of Kirkland residents are represented by seven City Council members. The number of City Council seats is established at by state law.

The City Council is a part-time, nonpartisan body elected at large every two years to staggered, four-year terms. The primary responsibility of the City Council is to establish the policies and long-term goals for the City, and to provide the resources and guidance necessary to carry out these policies.

Will I be able to run for City Council if I'm annexed?

To be eligible to run for the Kirkland City Council, you must be a registered voter at the time of filing.

Should annexation occur, PAA residents would be eligible to file for City Council during the first filing period following the effective date of annexation.



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

- **Subscribe to receive email updates**
- **Watch a City Council meeting online**
- **Submit a comment**

Email: annexation@ci.kirkland.wa.us

Phone: 425-587-3001

When does the Kirkland City Council meet?

The Kirkland City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at Kirkland City Hall, 123 5th Avenue. Study Sessions are typically held at 6 p.m. in the Peter Kirk Room and Regular meetings are typically held at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. A public comment period is available during the Regular Meeting for those interested in addressing the City Council about items not on the agenda.

City Council meetings are streamed live and available "on demand" to anyone with internet access from the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/tv. For current city residents, the meetings are broadcast live and rebroadcast on KGOV (Channel 21/Comcast; Channel 31/Verizon).

Frequently Asked Questions—Community Involvement

How can I learn more about the Kirkland Annexation Study and process?

The best place to start is by visiting the City’s website at: www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/annexation. The City is available to provide updates at neighborhood and community meetings. You can submit your questions and concerns to the City by emailing annexation@ci.kirkland.wa.us. To receive email updates on the Annexation process, sign up for the Annexation E-mail Alerts at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/E-Bulletins. For more information, call the City at 425-587-3001.

Will I be able to serve on an advisory board or commission if I’m annexed?

There are 12 City boards and commissions whose members are appointed by the City Council. Many of these advisory boards have adult and youth positions. Several currently have residents of the PAA serving on them. If annexation is approved, it is possible that prior to it becoming effective, the City Council would temporarily increase the number of Planning Commission and Park Board members to ensure representation from the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods during the transition. After the initial appointment, annexation area members would need to apply to vacancies as they occur.

To learn more about City volunteer board and commissions, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us and search “Boards and Commissions.”

Will I become part of a neighborhood association?

There are three neighborhood areas identified in the PAA study—Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate. There are also existing neighborhood associations and homeowners associations that are already organized. If annexation occurs, the City’s Planning & Community Development Department will initiate a neighborhood planning process and develop more formal boundaries that would take into consideration existing associations and residents of that particular neighborhood area. If the PAA is annexed, the City’s Neighborhood Services Program staff would provide neighborhood leaders with information and resources. To learn more about Kirkland’s Neighborhood Services Program, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.

Kirkland’s Proposed Annexation Area

