

What Does Annexation Mean?

Annexation means that your area would become a part of the City of Renton. Annexation typically occurs when residents or property owners of King County request or agree to become part of Renton for improved services or representation.

Residents often have many questions about annexation, questions ranging from property taxes and school districts to garbage collection and sewer connections. Annexation does affect some of these activities and services, but some, like the schools your children attend, are not affected.

"Renton welcomes those who desire to become part of the City to begin the petition process. Our role is to provide information and answer questions, and balance the interest of those who wish to annex with maintaining services to current residents. The City rarely initiates annexations. Instead, the request, and the desire, to annex comes from area residents and property owners seeking lower taxes, improved services, and accessible government."

- Mayor Denis Law

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS PLEASE FEEL FREE
TO CONTACT US AT
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City of Renton

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City of Renton

ANNEXATION BROCHURE

Answers to questions about annexing to the City of Renton



- Property Taxes?



- School Districts?



- Sewer Connections?



- Police and Fire Services?



- Local Government Access?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION & ACCESS

Annexation brings you local government representation. The Renton Mayor and Council members understand neighborhood issues and concerns because they represent smaller geographic areas. Elected by Renton voters, the Mayor and Council members have the responsibility to assess the needs of the citizenry, to set community priorities, and to represent Renton citizens regarding various regional issues, such as transportation.

PROPERTY TAXES

With annexation, property taxes can be expected to show a small decrease or remain the same. Property taxes allow the City to bring you police, parks, library, and other services residents value.

TAX & FEE COMPARISONS

Annexation typically lowers overall fees and taxes for area residents. Actual yearly savings for each residence will vary. The example (see insert), a \$400,000 home (land and house), plus telephone, electricity, and cable bills of \$40, \$100, and \$80 per month respectively. A 6% City fee is charged for each of these 3 utilities. Surface water, wastewater, and garbage collection fees differ between the City and the County and area also listed on the insert. The Tax and Fee comparison sheet inserted in this document shows an example of the savings for a typical single-family property.

POLICE SERVICES

Upon annexation, the City of Renton Police Department will serve the area. The Renton Police Department is one of the 12 departments in the State with both State and National accreditation. Average response time is 4 minutes. Renton Police also offer many community oriented programs including the highly successful Block Watch, Business and Night Watch, and Neighborhood Speed Watch.



FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire services and response time typically do not change with annexation. The City of Renton already provides fire service to some of its Potential Annexation Areas (PAA) under contract with Fire District #25 and Fire District #40.



GARBAGE SERVICE

Current garbage service and collection will continue for 7 years after annexation, as required by state law. After that, mandatory garbage collection, curbside recycling, and yard waste collection will be provided by the City. Currently, Renton charges \$13.44 for one 32-gallon residential can as compared to unincorporated King County's average rate of \$37.25. Rates vary by the number of cans and differ for residential and commercial service.

LAND USE & ZONING

Renton has already designated land use (i.e. single-family residential, commercial, etc.) throughout its Potential Annexation Areas in its Comprehensive Plan. Renton's growth strategy is to concentrate new development in the Urban Center (historic downtown an former industrial land adjacent to Boeing) and in areas surrounding outlying commercial areas. King County designates zoning differently than the City does. For example, the County's R-6 zoning allows 6 units/gross acre and Renton's R-8 allows 8 units/net acre. The County's zoning also allows bonuses. Renton does not allow density bonusing in its single-family zones, so overall development in Renton is generally less dense than what would be allowed in King County.

ADDRESS CHANGES



Most annexations will not affect addresses. In most areas, house numbers and street names in your area are expected to remain the same as they are today.

SERVICES COMPARISON

Renton provides a significantly higher levels of service to its residents than King County. King County spends an estimated \$513 per person for police, libraries, planning and development services, legal/judicial, and administration compared to an estimated \$2,790 per person by the City of Renton.



SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Annexation does not effect school district boundaries. Children will attend the same schools they now attend.

SEWER CONNECTIONS

Property owners can retain their current septic systems because sewer connections are not automatically required with annexation. However, connections to a district's sewer system are required if a parcel is within 250 feet of a sewer main and one of the following exists:

- The County Health Department has determined that a septic system is failing, has failed, or
- New construction occurs on the parcel, as defined by Renton Building Code, or
- A parcel is part of a Local Improvement District for sewers approved by residents.

WATER

Depending upon a proposed annexation's location, either the City of Renton or another designated water purveyor will provide this service. Water rates will continue to be set by service provider, whoever that may be.



STORM & SURFACE WATER

Annexation to the City of Renton can bring homeowners a reduction in the cost of surface water management. Renton's Surface Water Utility rate for single-family customers is \$7.41 per month compared to \$9.25 per month (\$111/year flat fee) in unincorporated King County.