

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ANNEXATIONS

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- *Will the School District Boundaries change?*
 - No. School District boundaries are determined by the Olympic Educational Service District and are drawn independently of City Boundaries. Your school district boundaries will not be affected by an annexation.
- *Will school taxes change?*
 - No. The taxes you pay for schools will remain the same and will continue to go to the same school district you are currently in.

SEWER SERVICES

- *Will I be required to hook up to public water and/or sewer?*
 - No. You can continue to use a septic system and/or well after annexation. Continued use of an existing septic system is allowed unless there is a system failure and a determination is made by the Kitsap Public Health District that connection to a public sewer system is required. If you are interested in connecting to the City's sewer system or finding out more information, please contact Public Works at (360) 473-5285 or (360) 473-5343.
- *Would monthly sewer rates be cheaper in the City?*
 - Yes. Once connected to sewer, ongoing bi-monthly rates for sewer services are cheaper for residents of the City.
- *Does the wastewater treatment plant have the capacity to accommodate this area?*
 - Yes.
- *What is a Local Improvement District (LID)?*
 - An LID enables property owners to finance almost any public street or utility improvement at municipal bond interest rates. The property owners work with the City Engineering Department to create a plan for their improvement and circulate a petition to the residents of the area. The petition requires at least 50% of the property owners signatures, goes before a hearings examiner, and then to City Council for adoption. Once adopted the City installs the improvements and the citizens make begin to pay the City back. This is beneficial to the property owners because they get the improvements they wanted with very low interest rates.
- *If there is a sewer and/or water line in the street in front of my property and I am not currently using these public services, will I have to pay a fee?*
 - No. Your property will not be charged for water or sewer service unless it is connected to the public system.

TAXES

- *Where will our tax dollars be going?*
 - Currently your tax dollars are paid to the County and are distributed to projects throughout the entire County. If annexed, some taxes would go to Bremerton and pay for projects only within the city boundaries. Bremerton is a much smaller area than the County so your money would be used for projects that are closer to your home and more directly benefit you.
- *Will my property taxes increase as a result of annexation?*
 - It depends on the urban growth area (UGA) if your property will increase or decrease property taxes. Please see the Annexation Calculator to calculate the impact on your specific property: www.BremertonWA.gov/AnnexCalc
- *How will this change other taxes i.e. Phone, power, cable etc.?*
 - The City of Bremerton has utility taxes on cable (7%), phone (6%) and electricity (6%).
- *Will my property still qualify for various property tax reduction/exemption programs that I currently rely on?*
 - Yes. The senior and disabled citizen property tax programs are available statewide and will continue to apply following annexation. Other property tax programs such as forestry, open space and agriculture will also continue to apply under the same parameters following annexation.

LAND USE REGULATIONS

- *Would land use regulations change?*
 - Yes. If annexed your property would be regulated by the City's Zoning Code and development regulations. These regulations are very similar to the County's, with some unique local differences. For instance, the County allows for development at 5-9 units per acre and the City allows for 5-10 units per acre. The City is conscientious of neighborhood compatibility and requires that new development be at a similar density to the homes around it.
- *How will this affect my property value?*
 - Annexation should have no affect on your property value.
- *Will I be required to put in a sidewalk in front of my house?*
 - No. Sidewalks are only required for re-development or new development of a site. Property owners would not be required to put in sidewalks at existing residential properties. The City may install sidewalks in your neighborhood in the future.
- *If I live on a private road will that change?*
 - No, your road would remain private.

GENERAL ANNEXATION INFORMATION

- *Will I have to get rid of my farm animals or livestock?*
 - No. Current legal uses will be allowed to continue in the manner that it exists at the time of annexation. See Bremerton Municipal Code, Nonconforming Use: Section 20.54, for more information.

- *Will I have to go through the City's permit process if I've already requested a permit from the County?*
 - No. The City and County work together to ensure that land use applications that are currently being reviewed by the County will transition smoothly to the City. Projects currently vested to the County's standards will not have to conform to the City's standards, unless there is a change to the original proposal.
- *How do I address a code enforcement issue after annexation?*
 - Uses that are legally established in the County can continue in the City after annexation. If and when an established use changes, it will be required to conform to City standards. In addition, existing uses that are not legally permitted in the County will be required to conform to City standards after annexation. City code enforcement, like the County, is complaint-driven. After annexation, please direct code enforcement questions or complaints to the City's Code Enforcement Department: (360) 473-5213.

GARBAGE SERVICE

- *Is garbage pick-up required in the City?*
 - Yes. Garbage service is required for all residents within the City limits. However, for newly annexing areas the City passed on ordinance to provide a waiver.
- *What about people who only live here part of the year?*
 - If you are going to be gone for more than 4 weeks your garbage service can be put on a "vacation hold" and you will not be charged for that time.

Please contact us if you have more questions or want to set up a public meeting or presentation for your neighborhood. Staff will meet with you, your family or a group of your neighbors, please contact the City to make this possible.

