

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Annexation

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Annexation is the process used by cities to bring surrounding areas within their Urban Growth Area (UGA) into City limits. Annexation is consistent with the policies established in Washington State’s Growth Management Act (GMA) where cities are urban service providers.

The City of Lake Stevens values input from the community and understands that the benefits and challenges of annexation are different for each individual. Many people however share the same concerns and request clarification on similar items before making a decision on annexation, this sheet was developed to address such questions.

#### Who decides on whether I am annexed into the City of Lake Stevens?

The City Council for Lake Stevens has chosen to move forward with an election, giving registered voters living within the proposed annexation area an opportunity to vote either for or against annexation.

#### Does the City currently have City staffing to support new areas?

The City has assessed the staffing levels needed to provide services for its overall annexation program and has determined what additional employees and equipment will be required to service these areas. The City anticipates the timing of additional staff so that the City is prepared to provide services upon the effective date of the annexation. The table below shows what and how many additional positions (FTE’s) would be required to service the proposed annexation area:

Staffing (FTEs)	Current City	Increment Increases with Annexation	Percent Increase
Legislative	7	0	0%
Executive	1	0	0%
Administrative Services	5	1	20%
Finance	2	0	0%
Planning and Community Development	6.5	1.5	23%
Building	1	1	100%
Parks	2	0.5	25%
Police	27	13	48%
Streets	6	3	50%
Storm Water Management	5.5	3	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37%</b>

#### Would all the potential annexation area resident’s addresses change?

Some residents in the proposed annexation area already have a Lake Stevens address and zip code. After annexation, those that are not will be re-addressed by the Postal Service. Automatic mail forwarding is provided at no cost for a period of twelve months following the address change.

#### How is zoning established in the proposed annexation area and will it stay the same?

Before annexation occurs the City of Lake Stevens City Council adopts pre-annexation land use and zoning designations for the area. Existing County zoning and other land use factors are used to determine comparable and appropriate City designations. A public hearing is held prior to the Council’s action so that any member of the public can participate and provide input.

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**Will annexation affect where my children go to school?**

No, annexation does not affect which school your children attend or which school district you belong to, School District boundaries are determined by the State and are rarely if ever affected by annexation. Regardless, the Lake Stevens School District boundaries currently encompass all of the Lake Stevens Urban Growth Area.

**My property is currently served by a septic system, after annexation will I be forced to connect to the sewer system?**

No, annexation does not drive whether you are required to hook up to the sewer system. Septic systems are permitted through the Snohomish County Health District; this is a requirement whether you are a City or County resident. Please contact the Snohomish County Health District and Lake Stevens Sewer District for further information on permit requirements and septic installation and repairs.

**Who will provide emergency services if my property is annexed and how do I call for help?**

All emergency services will still be available through 911. The Lake Stevens Fire District will still be your first responders for fire and medical emergencies. Police services will be provided by the Lake Stevens Police Department and not the Snohomish County Sherriff’s Department.

**How will annexation affect my property taxes?**

The table below shows a side by side comparison of City and County Taxes and is based on a \$328,500 assessed home value:

PROPERTY TAXES (Yearly)	CITY	RATE	COUNTY	RATE
Washington State Schools	\$627	1.91	\$627	1.91
Lake Stevens School District	\$1,319	4.01	\$1,319	4.01
Lake Stevens Fire and EMS	\$508	1.55	\$508	1.55
Snohomish County	\$225	0.68	\$225	0.68
County Roads	\$0	N/A	\$371	1.13
Sno-Isle Library	\$103	0.31	\$103	0.31
City of Lake Stevens	\$405	1.23	\$0	N/A
Surface Water	\$104	N/A	\$122	N/A
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES</b>	<b>\$3,291</b>	<b>9.69</b>	<b>\$3,275</b>	<b>9.59</b>

\*Based on Snohomish County’s 2009 Assessors Report

**What other changes could I see in my taxes?**

The City of Lake Stevens also charges an additional utility tax that County residents do not currently pay. The current utility tax rate is 5% on electric, natural gas and cable and 6% on phone services including cellular.

**If I am annexed into the City can I still vote for County Council candidates?**

Yes, all Snohomish County qualified voters can vote on County Council candidates regardless of whether they live inside or outside City limits. If you are annexed you will also become eligible to vote for City of Lake Stevens Mayor and Council candidates.

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**Who will provide the other services I currently receive from Snohomish County, such as street sweeping and pet licensing?**

Following annexation, services such as street sweeping, snow and ice removal and surface water management will be provided by the City of Lake Stevens Public Works Department.

Planning and development services including building permits, environmental review, and comprehensive plan, land use, park planning and code development would be handled by the City of Lake Stevens Planning and Community Development Department. Plan reviews and inspections for building, plumbing and mechanical permits for conformance with various building codes and City ordinances would be provided by the Lake Stevens Building Department.

The City of Lake Stevens also provides a variety of services such as passport issuance and renewal and pet licensing. A lifetime license for your cat or dog currently costs \$20, with seniors over 62 years of age eligible for free pet licensing. If you purchase your pet license within 30 days of receiving a new pet or within 30 days of moving or annexing into the city, pet licensing is FREE.

**The following table outlines any changes in service providers you could expect following annexation:**

SERVICE	CURRENT PROVIDER	POST ANNEXATION
Local Government	Snohomish County	City of Lake Stevens
Schools	Lake Stevens District	No Change
Library	Sno-Isle District	No Change
Water	PUD	No Change
Sewer	Lake Stevens Sewer	No Change
Police	County Sheriffs	City of Lake Stevens
Fire and Medical	Lake Stevens Fire	No Change
Animal Control	County Sheriffs	City of Lake Stevens
Solid Waste	Waste Management*	Allied Waste
Traffic Engineering	Snohomish County	City of Lake Stevens
Street Maintenance	Snohomish County	City of Lake Stevens
Storm Water	Snohomish County	City of Lake Stevens
Permitting and Zoning	Snohomish County	City of Lake Stevens

\*For a period of seven years following the annexation service will continue under the same provider, after seven years mandatory basic garbage service will become effective.

**I currently have a Business License through Snohomish County, how soon after the annexation goes into effect do I have to apply for a Business License with the City of Lake Stevens?**

The City of Lake Stevens requires anyone doing business inside city limits to have a current city business license with a few exemptions (listed on the City Clerk’s web page under business licensing). After annexation and prior to the expiration of your existing business license you can make application with the City on-line at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/cities/lakestevens.html> or in person at City Hall, 1812 Main Street. The current cost for the Business License is \$40.00 plus a \$15.00 State processing fee, the yearly renewal fee for your license is \$25.00. For additional information please contact City Hall at (425) 377-3601.

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**Our Homeowners Association currently maintains the detention facility and drainage swales in our neighborhood, would that change with annexation?**

If your homeowners association currently maintains those facilities then that would not change with annexation, City Public Works crews only maintain City owned facilities and not those that are privately owned.

**Where can I get more information regarding annexation?**

You can view information regarding annexation, including a map outlining the proposed annexation area, on the City of Lake Stevens Website at [www.ci.lake-stevens.wa.us](http://www.ci.lake-stevens.wa.us) , or you can contact the City Planning Department at (425) 212-3315. Additional information such as public hearings or noticing will also be posted on the City Website and will be published in the Lake Stevens Journal and Everett Herald.

City staff and Council members are available to attend community group meetings or host informal coffee hours to provide any additional information and to answer questions, please contact Community Programs Planner, Diane “Scotty” Swift at (425) 212-3315 or via email [dswift@ci.lake-stevens.wa.us](mailto:dswift@ci.lake-stevens.wa.us), to schedule your meeting.

### **INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm  
(Except July)**

June 9 – Community Center  
Downtown Lake Stevens

July 25 &26 – Aquafest Booth  
Visit Downtown Lake Stevens

August 11 – Community Center  
Downtown Lake Stevens

Sept 8 – Cavelero Mid High  
Library

Oct 13 – Cavelero Mid High  
Library