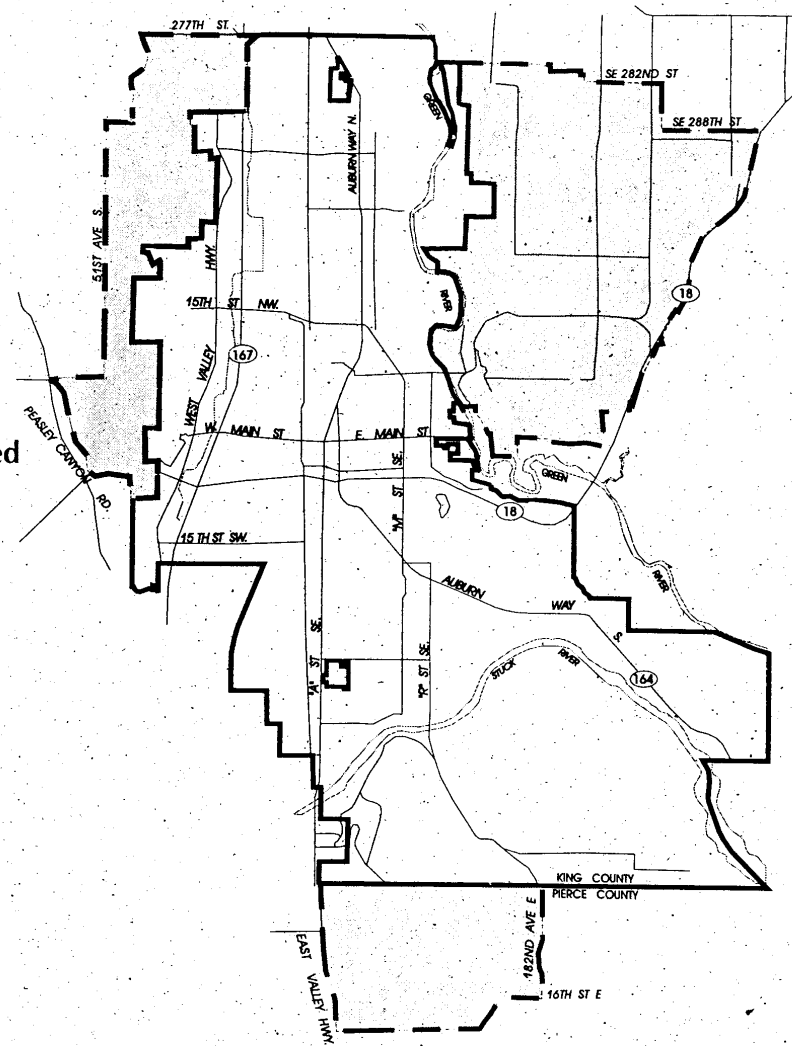


Q 3.1150

FACTS ON ANNEXATION:

Does it make sense for you?

Answers to
Commonly Asked
Questions



Provided by
the City of
Auburn

For King County Residents

October 1995

13-1 NOV 0 6 1996

Dear Neighbor,

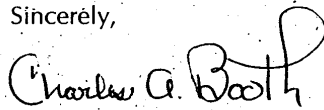
As an area develops, the need for government to provide services such as police, fire, and parks and recreation increases. Discussions with King County and other cities have identified areas that may be annexed to the City of Auburn some time in the future because Auburn will be best able to provide the most cost effective services to the area's residents and businesses (see map on page 6). The ultimate goal of the designation of these areas is to provide property owners and residents with an appropriate level of services at a reasonable cost.

Upon annexation, the City of Auburn will provide quality municipal services, including police and fire protection, recreation, zoning and building services, public works, street maintenance, appropriate utilities, and park and public facility maintenance. Many questions have been asked regarding the annexation process, particularly the effects of annexation on services and the costs to property owners. This brochure should answer the most commonly asked questions concerning annexation.

It is important to understand that an annexation can take place only if a significant number of you and your neighbors support an annexation proposal. We hope the information contained in this brochure will assist you in making an informed decision.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to telephone the City of Auburn Department of Planning and Community Development at 931-3090.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Booth
Mayor



Auburn City Council

Jeanne Barber	Virginia Haugen
Trish Borden	Don Kurlle
Stacey Brothers	Rich Wagner
Pat Burns	

GOVERNANCE

Q: Will my elected representatives change?

A: There will be no change in any of your county, state and federal elected representatives or special district officials (if applicable). You will remain in the same county council, state and federal legislative districts. You will, however, be represented on local issues by the Mayor and seven Auburn City Councilmembers, all of whom are elected at large.

TAXES AND FEES

Q: To whom will I pay my property taxes?

A: You will continue to pay all of your property taxes to the King County Assessor. The Assessor will forward the appropriate taxes to the City of Auburn.

Q: Do I currently pay taxes that I will no longer have to pay if I annex to the City?

A: Yes. Upon annexation, you will no longer pay the King County Road levy, the King County Library tax, the general levy for your current Fire District, or a fee for King County Surface Water Management.

Q: Does the City have taxes I do not currently pay in unincorporated King County?

A: Yes. If you annex to the City of Auburn, you will pay taxes for the City's general fund, to retire the City's bonded indebtedness (see discussion on next page), and a monthly fee on developed property toward the City's stormwater utility.

Q: What is bonded indebtedness?

A: Bonded indebtedness is debt that has been approved by voters through an election. In 1986, Auburn residents approved the sale of bonds for park and road improvements. Payments on this debt cost the owner of a house assessed at \$150,000 approximately \$80 per year. When you become a City resident, these payments will be added to your total taxes. However, the current debt will be retired in 1996. As an Auburn resident you will be able to vote on whether the City assumes additional debt to pay for major capital projects.

Bonded indebtedness also applies to fire districts and library districts. While you will no longer receive service from your current district (or pay for their general operating expenses), you may continue to be responsible for outstanding bonds specific to your service district until that debt is retired.

Q: Will my property taxes change upon annexation?

A: As explained above, there are some new taxes and fees that you will be charged as a City resident that you are not currently paying. There are also taxes that you are currently paying that you will no longer pay. Overall, however, your taxes and fees should decrease upon annexation to Auburn. The City of Auburn estimates that taxes and fees for the owner of a house assessed at \$150,000 will decrease approximately \$30 per year upon incorporation. After the City's bonded indebtedness is retired in 1996, this savings should increase to approximately \$110 per year. The exact amount will vary based upon where you are located and your current service providers. If you would like more specific information on your taxes should annexation take place, telephone the City of Auburn Finance Department at 931-3033.

Q: What will happen to my auto and fire insurance ratings if I am annexed?

A: Auto insurance rates are not determined by municipal boundaries, but by your zip code, which will not change with annexation. Fire insurance rates are determined by the property class rating of the City or fire district established by the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau. The City of Auburn Fire Department is rated class 4, which offers the lowest base fire insurance rate for a residential dwelling. Depending upon your current Fire District's rating, your fire insurance rates may decrease upon annexation into Auburn. For more information, contact your insurance agent.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Q: How will annexation affect law enforcement and fire protection services?

A: The City of Auburn Police and Fire Departments provide police and fire service throughout the City. Both departments are dispatched from a centralized location using computerized communications equipment. Both departments have strong and effective mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions to provide assistance when needed. Both the police and fire departments provide very active public education programs to enhance citizens' ability to protect property and improve life safety. The City evaluates the need for additional police officers and firefighters as annexations are proposed to ensure appropriate response.

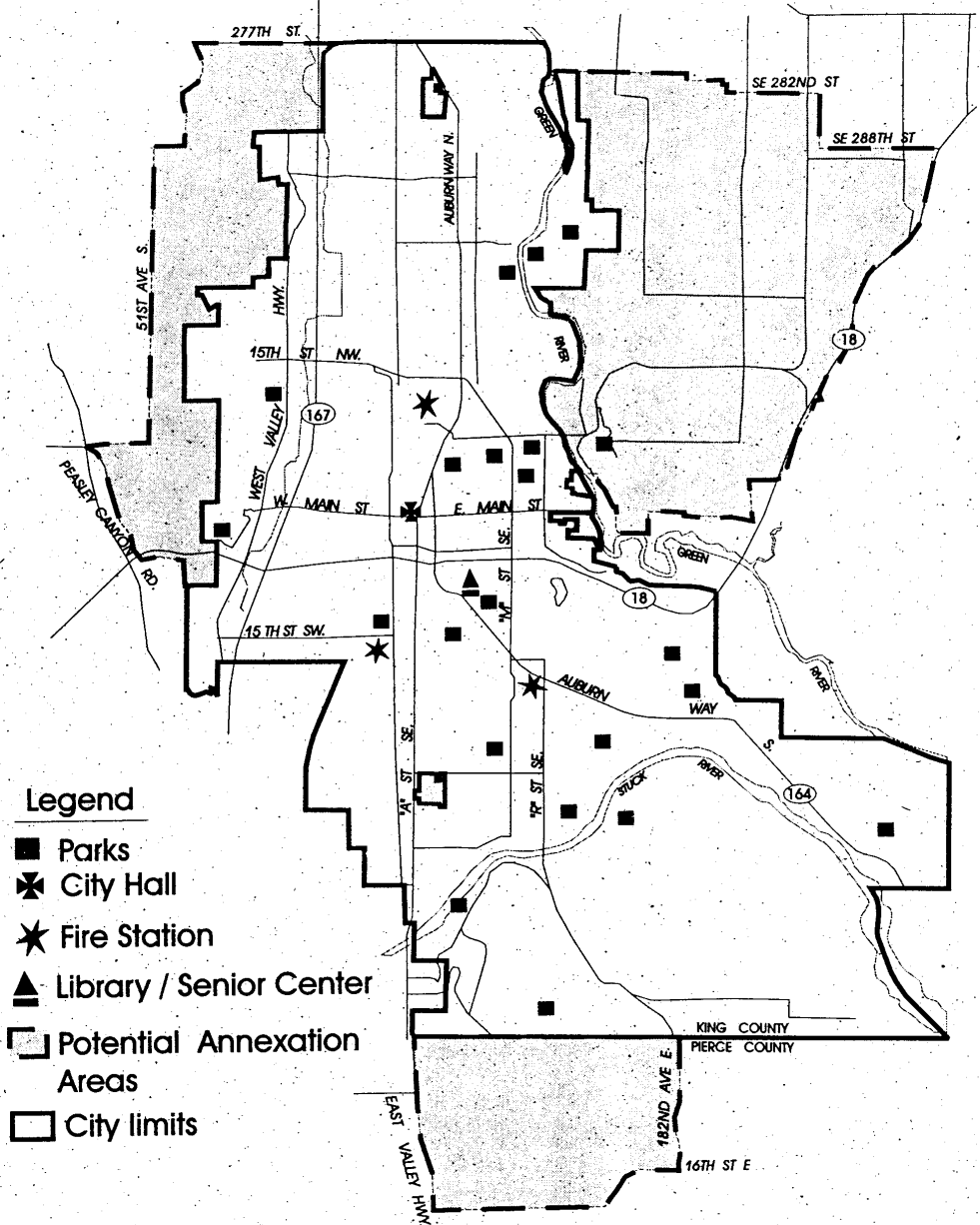
All firefighters are trained to provide emergency medical service as well as fire suppression. Many firefighters have additional training in specialties such as hazardous materials, investigation, and water and cliff rescue. The City of Auburn Fire Department will assume fire code enforcement responsibilities in the annexed area. The average response time to emergency incidents is 5 minutes. The City currently has 1.8 career firefighters on duty 24 hours a day for every 1000 residents. The Department has been recognized by King County and the State numerous times for its outstanding programs and leadership.

The City maintains its own disaster management division that has been approved by the state. This division coordinates local resources and disaster preparedness training in local schools, businesses and neighborhoods.

The City of Auburn Police Department provides a full range of crime prevention, safety education, and drug awareness services in addition to traditional police services such as preventive patrol, and investigative follow-up. The Department has an outstanding Crimewatch program which has successfully empowered citizens to fight crime in their neighborhoods.

Auburn police have an average response time of four minutes for emergencies and 10-30 minutes for non-emergencies, depending on the circumstances. Currently, the City maintains 1.9 officers for every 1000 residents. In general, this is a higher level of service than is offered by the County Sheriff.

If you have any additional questions, please telephone the Auburn Fire Department/Emergency management Division at 931-3060 or the Auburn Police Department at 931-3080.



- Legend**
- Parks
 - ✕ City Hall
 - ★ Fire Station
 - ▲ Library / Senior Center
 - Potential Annexation Areas
 - City limits

Map of Public Facilities

City of Auburn

ZONING AND BUILDING

Q: Will annexation affect my zoning?

A: There may be a change in zoning and land use designations at annexation, but only after significant public outreach and public input. Additional zoning changes may be considered if requested by property owners, but only after completion of an appropriate public hearing process.

Q: Will existing land uses be allowed to continue?

A: Yes. All legally established existing uses within the annexation area will be allowed to continue. This includes non-conforming "grandfathered" uses.

Q: How will development standards change if my area is annexed?

A: Following annexation, City development standards will apply to all new development. Building permits are obtained from the City Building Division of the Public Works Department. If you have specific questions or wish to obtain additional information, telephone 931-3010.

Q: How will I know about public hearings on a new project proposed within my neighborhood?

A: Notices of time and place of public hearings are published in the local newspaper. Written notice is mailed, at least ten days prior to the hearing, to all owners of property within at least 200 feet of the proposed project. In addition, a notice of the proposed action is posted on the site along with the dates and times of all relevant public hearings. Public comment is strongly encouraged.

Q: If I have farm animals, will they still be legal in the City?

A: Farm animals are only permitted in limited areas within the City. Farm animals which come into the City through annexation will be treated as non-conforming to the existing City code, but will be considered "grandfathered." This means that they will be permitted to remain, however, no additional animals will be permitted.

UTILITIES AND OTHER SERVICES

Q: How will my utility service change after I join the City of Auburn?

A: Utilities in newly annexed additions to the City will continue to be furnished by the current providers, but these services will be taken over by the City over a period of time. If you are already served by City of Auburn utilities, your water and sewer rates (exclusive of Metro fees) will decrease approximately 37 percent upon annexation. To find out the impact of annexation upon your water and sewer rates if you have another service provider, please contact the City of Auburn Public Works Department at 931-3010.

Q: Will the City require me to hook up to the sewer system?

A: The City does not require property owners with properly functioning septic tanks to hook up to the sanitary sewer system. If a septic tank does not meet the requirements of the Seattle/King County Health Department, property owners are required to hook up to the sanitary sewer system if such service is available to their property, regardless of whether they live in the City or in unincorporated King County.

Q: What library services are offered by the City of Auburn?

A: The City maintains a full service library located at Les Gove Park. The library is a free service to all City residents. The library is funded from the City's general fund and does not rely on additional property tax levies such as those used by the County library systems. You will be able to continue to use the King County Library system.

Q: What will happen to my garbage pickup and curbside recycling?

A: At annexation, garbage and recycling service will continue to be provided by your current service provider, but these services will be taken over by the City over a period of time. The City currently offers curbside recycling for yard waste only. Efficient drop box service is provided at no additional cost.

Q: Will annexation affect school district boundaries?

A: Annexation does not affect school district boundaries. It has no effect on which school your children will attend.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Q: What does the City offer in the area of public parks and recreation?

A: Auburn is a full-service city with a comprehensive parks and recreation program. As a city resident you are entitled to participate in all recreation activities. City residents receive preference for enrollment in recreation programs and discounts on classes and activity fees.

Auburn is proud to offer diverse recreational opportunities for all ages. The Senior Center provides recreation, education, health care, nutrition and other programs and services year round. City parks, trails, and open spaces are professionally planned and maintained for family enjoyment. Auburn has a policy of establishing neighborhood parks, and currently, there are over a dozen such parks within the city limits. This policy would be continued in all annexed areas.

A wide variety of recreational activities are featured. There are neighborhood summer playground programs, musical and theatrical performances, sports leagues, fitness activities and community events, plus a variety of classes and other activities presented year round.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Q: How will I be able to get involved with community issues?

A: The City offers many opportunities for public involvement in local government. These opportunities include elected positions, and appointed advisory boards and commissions. City government is approachable and accessible. City Council meetings and hearings are held the first and third Mondays of each month in Auburn City Hall. Opportunity is provided for public inquiries and comments at each meeting. Direct contact with elected officials and Department Heads is encouraged.



ANNEXATION PROCESS

Q: How does annexation occur?

A: The annexation process is defined by state law; several methods are used, but all require property owner involvement. For more information, call the City of Auburn Department of Planning and Community Development at 931-3090.

Q: How long will it take for me to join the City?

A: The length of the annexation process varies from one petition to another. The process could take as little as a few months, but if extensive public hearings are held, the process could last more than one year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like additional information, please telephone the City of Auburn at the following numbers:

Finance Department	931-3033
Fire Department	931-3060
Parks and Recreation	931-3043
Planning Department	931-3090
Police Department	931-3080
Public Works	931-3010

CITY OF AUBURN VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Family oriented community

A safe well-planned, family-oriented community with a strong sense of identity, conscious of both its small town heritage and its regional amenities.

Diverse economic base

A diverse economic base which values the environment, and takes advantage of its proximity to regional transportation corridors, but remains centered around a vibrant and traditional downtown core.

Regional center

A home to regionally significant centers of employment; retail services; educational and medical facilities; and cultural and entertainment opportunities.

Responsive government

A responsive, accessible government, energetically and efficiently meeting the municipal service needs of the citizens who have empowered it.

FACTS ON ANNEXATION:

Does it make sense for you?

This brochure details information about the annexation process and how annexation to the City of Auburn may affect you. Look inside for answers to your questions about the effect annexation to the City of Auburn will have on:

- Governance
- Taxes and Fees
- Public Safety
- Zoning and Building Issues
- Utilities and Other Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Community Involvement
- The Annexation Process Itself

City of Auburn

25 West Main Street
Auburn, WA 98001-4998

