



# Kirkland Annexation

*Finn Hill ~ North Juanita ~ Kingsgate*

## Frequently Asked Questions—Annexation Process

The Kirkland City Council began its study of the annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods in 2006 and placed the question of annexation, zoning and assumption of indebtedness to voters in the annexation area on the November 2009 General Election ballot. A majority of voters approved annexing to Kirkland and the City Council accepted the annexation which will become effective June 1, 2011.

Throughout its study of the annexation, the City Council endeavored to meet the intent of the Growth Management Act (GMA), evaluate financial impacts of annexation and provide public participation opportunities for those impacted by the annexation. The City Council continues to discuss key policy and operational issues associated with annexation. City departments are developing plans to coordinate the smooth transition of services from King County to the City of Kirkland.

The last major annexation occurred in 1988 with the annexation of the South Rose Hill, North Rose Hill and Lower Juanita neighborhoods. Due to the size and complexity of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate annexation, services will be need to be transitioned in over time as revenue sources become available.

City staff is available to answer your questions. Annexation area residents may be directed to King County or another service provider because the annexation does not take effect until June 1, 2011.

### Why annex?

The State's Growth Management Act (GMA) calls for annexation of unincorporated urban areas. An underlying principle of GMA is that urban services should be provided by cities and that rural and regional services should be provided by counties. Providing urban-level services to small pockets of unincorporated areas is inefficient and creates a burden for all County taxpayers. The City's potential annexation area (PAA) has long been assigned to Kirkland in the Countywide Planning Policies and in the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

### How does annexation occur?

The Finn Hill, Juanita, Kingsgate annexation used the "election" method of annexation. The first step to initiate this process was for the City Council to approve a "Resolution of Intent" and file the Resolution along with a Notice of Intent with the Washington State Boundary Review Board for King County (BRB) which was completed on April 8, 2009. The BRB approved the City's annexation proposal and the King County Council approved placing the annexation proposal on the ballot. Finally, the City filed the ballot measure with the King County Elections Office on August 11, 2009 and it appeared on the November 3, 2009 ballot in the annexation area. Registered voters of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods were eligible to vote on this annexation as required by State law.



For annexation information:

[www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/annexation](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/annexation)

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### What were voters asked to decide on in the annexation election?

There were three questions considered for the proposed annexation. The first was whether the voters of the PAA wanted to annex to Kirkland. At the same time, they were asked to approve the zoning for the area as proposed by Kirkland. Both of these questions required a simple majority approval. A third question asked voters in the PAA to assume a proportional share of outstanding voter-approved debt currently held by the Kirkland. This third question required approval by 60% of the voters and also required that at least 40% of the voters who voted in the previous general election cast a vote in the annexation election (referred to as "validation.")

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### **What happened since the vote?**

Registered voters in Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods cast ballots on the proposed annexation in the November 3 General Election; 59.94% voted in favor which met the threshold for approval of the annexation and zoning. The King County Elections Office confirmed that the 40% validation threshold was met. However, the 60% threshold related to assumption of outstanding voter-approved debt was not met. The King County Elections Office certified the annexation election results as 59.94% in favor; 40.06% not in favor.

Since the affirmative vote was over 50 percent, state law provides for the City Council to accept the annexation without requiring the assumption of voter-approved indebtedness. Voter-approved indebtedness includes bonds approved by current city residents major capital parks and public safety projects.

At its December 15, 2009 meeting, the Kirkland City Council took action to accept the annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods without requiring the voters in those areas to assume existing voter-approved debt. In a 6 to 1 vote, the Council approved Resolution 4791 which expressed its intent to accept the annexation. In a 4 to 3 vote, the Council approved Ordinance 4229 which formally accepts the annexation area to the City of Kirkland, makes the annexation area subject to zoning regulations adopted via Ordinance 4196 and sets the effective date of annexation as June 1, 2011.