



Frequently Asked Questions— Community Involvement and City Communications

On June 1, 2011, the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhood areas will officially become part of the City of Kirkland. This largely residential area is approximately seven square miles, extending north of Kirkland to approximately NE 145th Street. It will add over 31,000 people to the City's current population of 48,000. The annexation will make Kirkland the 12th largest city in Washington and the 6th largest city in King County.

In November 2009, the question of annexation, zoning regulations, and assumption of indebtedness was placed on the ballot for a vote by annexation area residents. A majority of residents approved annexing to Kirkland and the Kirkland City Council accepted the annexation in December 2009. Annexation voters did not approve the assumption of indebtedness.

To ensure a smooth transition, City and County staff have been negotiating the transfer of services, property and assets that will be guided by the adoption of an Interlocal Agreement which will be approved by the Kirkland City Council and King County Council prior to the effective date.

A series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handouts have been developed to answer common questions about changes in services, City finances, land use and building permit processes and regulations, and community and neighborhood involvement. The FAQs are available online at www.kirklandwa.gov/annexation and at City Hall.

The City of Kirkland welcomes our new residents and businesses and we look forward to serving you.

Will my elected representatives change after annexation?

City of Kirkland residents are represented by seven City Council members who are elected "at large." King County residents are represented by the King County Council.

The City Council is a part-time, non-partisan body elected every two years to staggered, four-year terms. The number of City Council seats is established at seven by state law. The primary responsibility of the City Council is to establish the policies and long-term goals for the City, and to provide the resources and guidance necessary to carry out these policies. To learn more about the current City Council, go to www.kirklandwa.gov/council.

State and federal legislative districts will remain the same. The City of Kirkland is primarily served by the 45th and 48th State Legislative Districts. The annexation area is served by the 32nd and 45th State Legislative Districts. After June 1, 2011, Kirkland will continue to be served by all three districts.

Federal legislative representation—1st Congressional District—will remain the same for the City and the annexation area. For more information about your State Legislators, visit www.leg.wa.gov and for information about your Federal legislators, visit www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.



**City of Kirkland
City Manager's Office**

425-587-3001

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Annexation Information

425-587-3001

annexation@kirklandwa.gov

www.kirklandwa.gov/annexation

What are the eligibility requirements for a Kirkland City Council Member?

To be eligible to run for the Kirkland City Council, you must have resided within Kirkland City limits or annexation area boundaries for one year and be a registered voter at the time of filing. Annexation area residents are eligible to file for City Council during the first filing period following the effective date of annexation. For filing date information, visit the King County Elections Office website at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

When does the Kirkland City Council meet?

The Kirkland City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at Kirkland City Hall, 123 5th Avenue. Study Sessions are typically held at 6 p.m. in the Peter Kirk Room and Regular meetings are typically held at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. A public comment period is available during the Regular Meeting for those interested in addressing the City Council.

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To receive email notification when a City Council agenda is posted to the City website, subscribe to Kirkland E-Mail Alerts at www.kirklandwa.gov/e-bulletins and select “City Council Agendas.” City Council meetings are available live and “on demand” to anyone with internet access from the City’s website at www.kirklandwa.gov/ondemand. After June 1, 2011, annexation residents can watch live and rebroadcasts of Kirkland City Council meetings on KGOV (Channel 21/Comcast; Channel 31/Frontier).

Can annexation area residents serve on a City advisory board or commission?

Yes. Members of boards and commissions provide an invaluable service to the City of Kirkland. They advise the City Council and City staff on a wide variety of subjects by making recommendations on important policy matters. There are adult and youth vacancies on several City advisory boards and commissions. The City conducts a recruitment process to fill existing or soon-to-be vacancies during the first quarter of each year. Eligibility requirements vary and some have adult and youth seats. Most member positions are appointed by the City Council. For information about these various advisory boards, go to www.kirklandwa.gov/depart and select “Boards & Commissions.” To receive email notifications regarding vacancies, visit www.kirklandwa.gov/e-bulletins and select “Current Recruitment Positions.”

How can I become part of a neighborhood association?

Kirkland Neighborhood Associations are your connection to sustaining and improving Kirkland’s sense of community. Contact Kari Page, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator at Kpage@kirklandwa.gov or 425-587-3011 to learn more about how your annexation area can organize into a neighborhood association. To learn more about Kirkland’s Neighborhood Services Program, go to www.kirklandwa.gov/neighborhoods.

How does a neighborhood become eligible for City of Kirkland neighborhood grants?

To qualify to be a recognized Kirkland Neighborhood Association the association must:

- be located in the City of Kirkland
- have boundaries contiguous with Kirkland’s Comprehensive Plan neighborhood designations
- be incorporated as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with by-laws and have a Board of Directors
- have a majority of the organization’s members living or operating businesses in the neighborhood
- not discriminate and must actively offer membership to all neighborhood residents

What are the benefits of becoming a recognized neighborhood association?

The City of Kirkland is committed to sustaining strong relations with neighborhood associations and residents through the following programs:

Neighborhood Matching Grant Program: Neighborhoods receive matching funds to support their neighborhood efforts on physical improvements, neighborhood identity projects, special events, leadership training, communications, and fostering active living.

Neighborhood Meetings with the City Council: Neighborhoods meet their City Council and City staff in an informal setting and discuss any City issues which may be of interest or concern. These special City Council meetings cycle every three years in order to reach all neighborhoods.

Does the City have government access television channels?

Yes. The City manages two government access TV channels—KGOV and Klife. KGOV broadcasts City Council and other legislative agency meetings. KGOV can be viewed on Comcast Channel 21/Frontier Channel 31. Klife airs programming about the Kirkland community, including the weekly program “Currently Kirkland.” Klife can be viewed on Comcast Channel 75/Frontier Channel 32. Both channels are available on the City’s website at www.kirklandgov.wa/tv.

How can I receive information about the City?

The City uses various means to release City information including publications, website, television, and email. To receive email updates, go to www.kirklandwa.gov/e-bulletins. The City also produces a quarterly online newsletter, “City Update,” a semi-annual recycling newsletter, “Reuse, Recycle & Conserve,” and a Recreation Guide published three times per year. “Currently Kirkland” is a weekly TV news show produced by the City which is aired on the Klife Channel (Comcast Ch. 75/Frontier Ch. 32).

The City’s website, www.kirklandwa.gov, contains extensive detail about City programs, services, projects and events. Visit www.ExploreKirkland.com for tourism related information and activities.

The Kirkland Reporter newspaper is expected to deliver its weekly publication to the annexation area following the change of addresses to Kirkland. Contact the newspaper at 425-822-9166 or view it online at www.kirklandreporter.com.