



Neighborhood Meeting with City Council

Totem Lake and Kingsgate Neighborhoods

Submitted Questions/Comments (24)

Meeting Date: March 16, 2011



Annexation

1. What additional services (or service levels) will citizens of Kirkland have that they didn't have in the County? How will life be different now?

Response: *The most noticeable difference for most annexation residents will be additional police coverage. The City will have three patrol districts in the annexation area which will each be staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with an officer. The City's level of service will also differ in areas such as street sweeping, permitting, garbage and recycling and parks maintenance. The City will be mailing an informational brochure to all annexation area residents that will more fully explain the differences that residents and businesses can expect after June 1, 2011.*

2. What can we do to prevent the city council from using our neighborhoods as only revenue generating areas, which will also destroy our property values as well as the close knit feeling we enjoy?

Response: *One of the major barriers to annexation has been the financial imbalance between revenues generated by the annexation area and the cost to provide services to the area. In 2006, the state legislature approved a bill that provided financial assistance to cities annexing urban areas and that legislation made the difference for the financial feasibility of annexation. The City Council has approved an annexation budget that will enable staff to provide services to the annexation area that is based on revenue raised from the area plus the funding assistance provided by the State. Residents and businesses in the annexation area should expect an improved level of service for approximately the same amount of fees and taxes paid to King County.*

The City also works closely to assist neighborhoods in forming neighborhood associations that help residents and businesses work with City staff on a variety of issues. The existing City is a collection of smaller neighborhoods that are represented by associations. The "close knit feeling" and unique character of each neighborhood are valued qualities in Kirkland and staff works with individual neighborhoods on issues impacting the neighborhood and the whole City.

3. What observable and measurable advantages to annexation will I see, after annexation is complete, that will convince me I was wrong to vote against annexation.

Response: *Each voter made their decision based on their own needs and values. The Kirkland City Council and King County believe that the City of Kirkland can provide an improved level of service to the annexation area. Residents' and businesses' will need to assess the positive (or negative) impacts of annexation once the City has had an opportunity to fully implement services in the area.*

Taxes

4. By what percentage should I expect my taxes, fees, levies etc. to go up after annexation?

Response: *The answer to this question will vary by taxpayer based on the assessed valuation, utility usage, and other factors. An illustration of the tax change for a representative household is attached for reference, which reflects that overall taxes will actually decrease by about 9%. Note that this decrease will not be apparent until 2012, as residents of the annexation area will continue to pay property taxes at the King County rates through 2011. The City of Kirkland rate will apply beginning in 2012.*

Fire Response

5. What is the City's plan to deal with the increased response times for Fire and Medical Aid in our area? The closing of Station 34 will decrease our coverage and increase the amount of time it will take to get help. I had heard the plan was to add more staff to Station 27 on 132nd. That will not change the fact it will take 7-10 minutes to get to my house if we need help. And that assumes they are not on another call as they run the most calls in the city out of that station.

Response: See below.

6. What are projected Fire and EMS response times after station 34 closes?

Response: Woodinville Fire and Rescue will close fire station #34 on June 1, 2011. Beginning June 1, 2011 the Kingsgate neighborhood will receive fire and emergency medical response from the Kirkland Fire Department with the addition, to current department resources, of 9 career firefighters, a fire truck and a cross staffed aid unit for medical transport. These resources will respond from fire station #27 located at 11210 NE 132 St. The Kingsgate neighborhood community will receive the same average response times to fire and emergency calls as the other neighborhood communities in Kirkland. The average response time to a fire incident is 5 minutes 41 seconds. The average response time to an emergency medical incident is 5 minutes 17 seconds.

2010 AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES (from time of 911 call, emergency only)							
Station	21	22	24	25	26	27	ALL
FIRE (Emergency)	5:42	5:37	n/a	6:08	5:41	5:32	5:41
AID (Emergency)	5:22	5:30	4:46	5:33	5:23	4:58	05:17

Parks and Community Services

7. Please consider the request raised at the last Totem Lake/Kingsgate Meeting for a neighborhood just north of 132nd across from Evergreen Hospital wants to give you their park so it can be better maintained.

Response: While the City has not yet gone through a community process with citizens to identify park needs and desires in the pending annexation area, the Parks and Community Services Department is willing to consider existing private properties for possible acquisition/transfer. Homeowner association representatives may contact Michael Cogle, Park Planning and Development Manager, at (425) 587-3310 or mcogle@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

8. Please communicate with and help LWSD to keep the Juanita Pool (and gym) from being torn down in 2014. Four or five swim teams practice there. We can't handle a delay of 2-6 years while a new recreation center "may be built."

Response: We are aware of the situation and will continue our ongoing communication with LWSD. The City has a formal agreement with the School District which provides opportunities for shared use and possible development of new facilities. However, no decisions about joint development of facilities at JHS have been made.

Planning and Economic Development

9. How do you plan to keep the Kingsgate neighborhoods single family centered areas?

Response: Prior to annexation, the City Council adopted an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan establishing planned land use in the Kingsgate annexation area. The vast majority of the area is designated for single family use. At the same time, the Council adopted a zoning ordinance reflecting the planned land use. The zoning ordinance was subsequently approved by annexation voters. Any proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan or zoning require a public hearing before the City Planning Commission and approval by the City Council. For further information about the Comprehensive Plan and zoning, please contact the Department of Planning and Community Development

10. What can we do to remove from our neighborhoods the casinos and the planned government funded housing, which lowers our property values?

Response: Under the Kirkland Municipal Code, casinos are not allowed in the current City. In February 2011, the City Council adopted an ordinance which caps the number of casinos in Kirkland to those operating on the effective date of annexation.

Under the Growth Management Act, the City's Comprehensive Plan must include a housing element that addresses the issue of housing affordability by reviewing existing and projected housing needs and developing plans to accommodate those needs with a variety of housing types and densities. Public comment is always welcome on both the broad policies and goals established by the comprehensive planning process and the zoning regulations which provide the detailed means of achieving those goals.

The City works on affordable housing issues collaboratively with other jurisdictions east of Lake Washington through an organization called "A Regional Housing Coalition" (ARCH). According to ARCH staff, there are numerous studies that report there is not a correlation between affordable housing development and surrounding property values.

11. Regarding the Totem Lake Mall: Please provide an update as to the mall's status, and address the fact that mall news is merely recycled information. I read an old newspaper article that spoke to the need to redevelop the site. It was dated 1978, and still accurate today. I do realize that the City Council very much wants to develop this property, and that there are differences between public vs. private development. So while it's not an entirely fair comparison, the lack of mall development seems comparable to the fact that the council discussed the bathrooms at Marina Park for a decade before rebuilding what is essentially the same facility.

Response: Plans to redevelop the mall are on hold by the property owners, due to the economic downturn as well as a legal dispute between the owners. Several years ago, the City adopted policies and regulations encouraging redevelopment of the mall as a mixed use commercial center. The owners subsequently prepared a master plan for redevelopment which was approved by the City's Design Review Board. The City Council also adopted a development agreement committing to construct or fund public improvements associated with redevelopment (paid for from increased tax revenues). The Master Plan and development agreement are still in effect, but it is uncertain whether the property owners will eventually proceed with the approved plans.

12. I attended the City Council member meeting last year and I thought I heard Bob Sternoff say the Council will consider rezoning the City Hall land for more commercial use, then selling it to a developer and relocating. Is this true? This seems like a conflict of interest, and in addition I am in favor of keeping public buildings.

Response: *The comment must have been misunderstood. Bob Sternoff has suggested that all City owned properties have current appraisals. He has also pushed to consolidate City facilities whenever possible to better utilize taxpayer dollars. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact Bob Sternoff directly via email at BSternoff@ci.kirkland.wa.us*

Police Enforcement

13. One primary motivation for annexation was to deal with law enforcement issues. King County was very resource constrained. We'd like to hear how the following issues will change and how quickly:

- a.) Speeding enforcement, particularly on NE 140th by Robert Frost Elementary

Response: *The Kirkland Police Department strongly believes that enforcement changes poor driving behavior, which may ultimately save lives and avoid injury. Speeding is often a significant factor in serious collisions and as such, speed zone enforcement is a primary focus for our officers. In 2010, Kirkland Police Officers issued 2,288 speeding tickets, approximately 200 of which were school zone violations.*

Additionally the police department strives to deploy enforcement resources as effectively as possible, placing our officers in areas of greatest benefit or impact. The traffic sergeant maintains a citizen generated traffic complaint tracking log which is compiled from information received from the citizens of Kirkland and collision data. The log is distributed to officers on a weekly basis, so that they are aware of traffic issues as they arise. The officers then report their efforts, observations and impacts to the traffic sergeant.

*The city also offers volunteer opportunities for citizens who wish to partner with the Kirkland Police Department in order have a greater impact on speeding around their schools and neighborhoods. **Speed Watch** volunteers support the Kirkland Police Department by monitoring vehicular speeds using handheld radar units in neighborhood, school and known problem areas. The City of Kirkland contact for this program is: [Julie Huffman](mailto:Julie.Huffman@ci.kirkland.wa.us) at 425.587.3012.*

- b.) Parking enforcement, particularly junk and inoperable vehicles

Response: *The Kirkland Police Department investigates and when appropriate, enforces reports of junk, abandoned or inoperable vehicles on City streets. After June 1, 2011 residents in the annexation area should call NORCOM (dispatch) at 425-577-5600 to report vehicles that they believe to be inoperable or abandoned. NORCOM will create a call for service and send the district officer when he or she is available. The officer will attempt to contact the registered owner to determine the status of the vehicle. The vehicle will be marked and tagged as abandoned. If the car is not moved within 72 hours, the assigned officer will conduct follow-up and determine if the vehicle needs to be towed.*

c.) Crime prevention, particularly residential burglaries and car prowls

Response: *The Kirkland Police Department has a full time Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) who is available to conduct crime prevention classes. The NRO attends neighborhood meetings on a regular basis, sharing crime patterns and offering advice on how to reduce victimization. The primary function of the NRO is to serve as the liaison between the community and the patrol officers. The NRO works with the community to identify various problems or crime trends, and then works with patrol, detectives, and other city departments and divisions in order to mitigate the problem or concern. This strategy has been very beneficial. For example, both residential burglaries and car prowls are examples of crimes which can be reduced with community education, proactive prevention, and increased police focus. In 2010 our NRO focused on these types of crimes and engaged the community in proactive strategies. Subsequently, our reports of auto theft, car prowls and burglaries were significantly reduced.*

14. Can you explain how Kirkland Police services will be expanded to cover the Kingsgate area? (How many more officers will you have versus how many would be *ideal* to cover the new area?)

Response: *The City of Kirkland has carefully studied the available data for the annexation area to ascertain the number of additional officers we would need to provide maximum benefit and police coverage to the annexation community. The current annexation area is basically patrolled by King County as one very large patrol district. We have hired enough officers to divide this large area into three smaller patrol districts (one of these being the Kingsgate area) each of which will have one officer assigned 24/7. This staffing model is consistent with what we currently have in place and it has proven to be effective. Additionally, once we have the necessary number of new patrol officers in place, we will begin to add additional traffic officers, records and detectives.*

15. What communications are you having with the King County Sheriff to get up to speed with crime issues in particular neighborhoods? (Are you aware of the pocket of gang/drug/burglary/gun violence in my neighborhood?)

Response: *From the very onset of this project, the Kirkland Police and the King County Sherriff's Office have been working cooperatively to ensure a smooth transfer of jurisdiction. This has included crime data and personal insight as to the projected needs of our new neighborhoods. Additionally our agencies have worked side by side for many years, and we often provide police services in the annexation area, when King County has been unable to respond to a priority call. This assistance has allowed the Kirkland Police Department to develop a strong sense of the issues and community concerns.*

Additionally many of our officers have lived or currently live in the annexation area and are already personally aware of the challenges and opportunities. Lastly and most importantly, we will not assume to know everything you need, we will work with the community to identify concerns and develop solutions.

16. Should I expect more/same/less police support once we become part of City of Kirkland?

Response: *Quite candidly, you will experience greater police support and visibility as we have added enough officers and supervision to establish three new patrol districts, which is two more than you currently have. You will find our officers to be highly visible, interactive and engaged in proactive enforcement. In addition to these three officers, when needed, these districts will receive additional assistance from adjoining patrol districts.*

17. My wife and I (and many of our neighbors) are long time residents of Kings Gate and live in Olympic Village. Up until last spring we enjoyed a quiet and peaceful atmosphere where we could sleep with window's open if desired and sit out behind our Townhouse or on our deck and enjoy the evening till any hour. That all change with the opening of a bar and grill located two lots over from us. Now we are driven indoors at 10:00 PM when the DJ's and the music and noise begin. We enlisted the help of State Representative Roger Goodman who is in full sympathy with our plight but is powerless; we're told, until Kings Gate is incorporated. We've contacted the city of Kirkland and where told the same thing. We've been brushed off by the Sheriff's which is a story in its own right and Carrey Wood, a reporter for the Kirkland paper wrote about our situation but to date we are still living with this insanity in our midst's. Our hope is that with incorporation we can, with the help of government, can get our peace and quiet back. Please help us, this is NO way to live and we were here first.

Response: *The Kirkland Police Department has enforcement powers regarding noise through Kirkland Municipal Code **11.84A.070 Public Disturbance Noises**. This code states that "It is unlawful for any person to cause, or for any person in possession of property to allow to originate from the property, sound that is a public disturbance noise."*

The Police Department recognizes that this issue is not always an easy problem to correct, as both parties have legitimate interests and concerns. Upon receiving a complaint, our officer will respond, and attempt to reconcile the issue through education and/or enforcement. Additionally, in an effort to help mitigate these complaints, officers often make frequent self-initiated unannounced visits to complaint areas or businesses, which often have a very positive effect in eliminating or reducing the problem.

Our Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) can be utilized as a helpful tool in mediating problems between neighbors, both residential and business. The police department will also refer the involved parties to a cost free mediation program. Often a trained neutral third party mediator is able to assist the parties in reaching common ground and resolution.

Traffic and Transportation

18. I walk & cross 132nd street at 121 Ave NE to go to work at Evergreen. The crosswalk needs to be repainted. Its dark there & very little marking. Cars do not see me & won't stop. How can I get those push button lights across the street installed and one of the hanging crosswalk signs (like the ones on 124th Ave)? There's a bus stop there too so lots of people cross there & it's very dangerous.

Response: *We will restore the crosswalk stripes with this summer's pavement marking update program; the wet pavement prevents appropriate application at this time. In the mean time, City staff has installed additional advanced warning signs for the crosswalk, and installed orange flags at the crossing. Additionally for nighttime safety enhancements, reflective markers have been installed at the crossing. The City has funds dedicated for crosswalk improvements and we can consider this location as a candidate for additional improvements in the future, although there are many locations in Kirkland also under consideration. If you have more questions about this matter please contact David Godfrey, Transportation Engineering Manager at dgodfrey@ci.kirkland.wa.us or (425) 587-3865.*

19. Making a left turn from 132nd Ave NE (facing South) to NE 124th St during rush hour can sometimes take 3 lights. Can a sensor be added to that set of lights to more efficiently optimize for how much traffic there is at any given time?

Response: *The Public Works Department is monitoring the situation and will respond directly to the requestor after additional study. For more information, please contact Iris Cabrera at 587-3866 or icabrera@ci.kirkland.wa.us*

20. For years our neighborhood has endured speeding cars on 119th Ave NE. This is used as a north-south shortcut by drivers travelling between NE 132nd (Totem Lake) and NE 160th (I-405 interchange) to avoid 5 traffic signals if they used the normal arterial route via 124th NE). This is a neighborhood street with numerous pedestrians, bicyclists, skate boarders, baby carriages, dog walkers, etc. on the sidewalks and in the street. There have been some serious accidents over the years. KC Dept of Transportation has steadfastly refused to do anything to retard speeding. They even stated that there would have to be a fatality before they seriously looked at the situation. The KC Sheriff's Dept will periodically check for speeding if they receive enough complaints. How will the City of Kirkland deal with this? Throughout the city, I see all sorts of traffic circles and other speed retarding methods in the neighborhoods. Can we expect the same? What is the process for installing such devices? I see this as key to keep the neighborhood character of High Woodlands and Kingsgate intact. Appreciate your assistance.

Response: *Enforcement by Police is in order in this situation and will be added to the list of concern areas; after annexation and depending on resources, a speed watch emphasis can be prioritized for the area. Traffic calming design/construction, if funding is available, would originate in Traffic Engineering in the Public Works Department, however due to budget constraints, the City of Kirkland has discontinued our neighborhood traffic control program at this time. This is the program that worked with neighbors to design and construct the devices you've seen in other parts of Kirkland. This means that police enforcement will be the primary response to speeding. A copy of your email has been sent to our Police Traffic unit, and beginning in June, officers can begin working in this and other areas in the new annexation area. If you have more questions about this matter please contact David Godfrey, Transportation Engineering Manager at dgodfrey@ci.kirkland.wa.us or (425) 587-3865.*

21. In little league (KNLL area is in north area) basketball, boy scouts, cub scouts activities St Edward Park, etc. We are constantly driving back and forth across 132nd Street to cross I405 during rush hour. Can this road be widened and the route straightened east to west all the way to the Lake?

Response: *The City completed a study of the NE 132nd Street Corridor, between 100th Ave NE and 132nd Ave NE, in 2008 and the resultant outcome included the creation of nine "unfunded" Capital Improvement Program Projects (CIP) totaling \$11.3 million. The unfunded projects included phased improvements for what is today parts of Kirkland and King County; those CIP Projects are for the re-striping of the existing travel lanes on NE 132nd St together with the widening of the existing intersections to provide for right-turn lanes and other intersection operation improvements. As the City completes the Annexation process on June 1, 2011, all future CIP updates will revisit the individual unfunded CIP projects along NE 132nd Street -- each will be evaluated and re-prioritized, given the availability of appropriate funding.*

With regard to opening up the corridor in an east-west direction all the way to the lake, existing contours, steep grades and the cost of property acquisition leaves this concept both physically and economically unfeasible.

22. At John Muir Elementary, the sign about not turning left during school start/end time needs to be adjusted to the school's current schedule.

Response: *The signs are on school property. We contacted the School District and they are reluctant to create new signs as the circulation of the site will be entirely different with the new school (currently under construction). However, they said they would investigate the situation. For more information, contact Jeff DeGallier, Principal at 425-936-2640.*

23. PW: Re Upland Green, will it be possible to lower the speed limit? Install speed control devices with in our development?

Response: 25 MPH is the lowest statutorily enforceable speed limit that can be posted. If the current speed limit is greater than 25 we could consider lowering it or possibly posting some other warning signs. Due to budget limitations our neighborhood traffic control program has been discontinued and we are not installing devices like speed humps and traffic circles. After June 1, 2011 this area will be in the City of Kirkland and we can discuss options in more detail.

Vegetation overgrown

24. Last year I inquired about city cleaning up the weeds on the strip of land along 124th AVE NE (between 132 St and 133rd St) on the part that is above a high retention wall. I was informed at that time there were not enough resources for that. The overgrown vegetation is growing along a fence surrounding a small community Harmony Ridge, situated at the intersection of 132nd St NE and 1214th Ave NE. I hope this year it can be done. Thank you!

Below is the response I got on May 10th 2010 from a city employee:

Dear X

This email is a follow up to our phone conversation. King County Road Maintenance will be unable to provide ongoing, regular maintenance to the property in question. We have an obligation to prioritize our maintenance activities based on safety needs. At this time the vegetation along the top of the retaining wall bordering 124th Ave NE poses no visible safety issue. Should that change we would respond accordingly.

I apologize that we, as your neighbor, are unable to provide the kind of "landscape" maintenance that would keep the area more aesthetically pleasing. We unfortunately do not have the staff or resources to provide this type of service.

Please give me a call if you have additional questions. Sincerely, Carter B Reeve, Road Maintenance Supervisor (206) 296-8096

Response: This area is the adjacent property owner's responsibility to maintain. Similar to the King County policy above, Kirkland also relies on the adjacent property owner for maintenance. This policy has been in place for some time and reflects language in the Kirkland Municipal Code. If you have more questions about this matter please contact David Godfrey, Transportation Engineering Manager at dgodfrey@ci.kirkland.wa.us or (425) 587-3865.

2011 Tax Comparison Illustration ⁽¹⁾

King County (Area served by FD #41) vs. Kirkland

Property Tax Comparison			
Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation			
King County		City of Kirkland	
County Road Levy (Levy Code 7337)	\$ 2.20	Regular Levy	\$ 1.30
Fire District #41	1.15	Debt*	-
Consolidated (State, Port, County)	3.84	Consolidated (State, Port, County)	3.84
Finn Hill Park District**	0.06	Finn Hill Park District**	0.06
EMS	0.30	EMS	0.30
Lake Washington School	2.98	Lake Washington School	2.98
Hospital District	0.48	Hospital District	0.48
Library District	0.57	Library District	0.55
Flood Control Zone District	0.11	Flood Control Zone District	0.11
Ferry District***	0.00	Ferry District***	0.00
Total Levy	\$ 11.69	Total Levy	\$ 9.62
Property Tax on \$495,000 Home	\$ 5,788	Property Tax on \$495,000 Home	\$ 4,763
		Difference City to County	\$ (1,025)
		Rate Difference	\$ (2.07)

* Excludes debt service on City's voted debt (\$0.09/1,000 A.V.) which does not apply to the annexation area. A portion of Fire District 41 debt service will remain until debt is retired (estimated at \$0.06-0.11/1,000 A.V.)

** Finn Hill Park District levy only applies to residents within the Finn Hill Park District boundary.

*** Ferry District rate is \$0.00360/\$1,000 A.V.

	King County	City of Kirkland	Annual Increase or (Decrease)
Average Property Tax Paid [^]	\$5,788	\$4,763	(\$1,025)
Utility Tax/Franchise Fee ^{^^}	\$0	\$409	\$409
Surface Water Fees	\$100	\$178	\$78
King County Surface Water Debt Service ^{^^^}	\$11	\$11	\$0
Total	\$5,899	\$5,360	(\$539)

[^] These figures are based on an average home value of \$495,000 and exclude debt service on City's voted debt since residents in the annexation area will not be assuming Kirkland's outstanding voted debt; actual property tax rates vary within different areas of the annexation area.

^{^^} Actual utility taxes for annexation area residents may be more or less depending on their utility usage.

^{^^^} King County surface water-related debt service continues until debt is retired in 2021.

Note (1): King County property taxes continue to apply in 2011. The annexation area will be subject to City of Kirkland property taxes in 2012.

Annexation FAQ: City Finances

March 2011

In November 2009, a majority of voters in the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate neighborhoods approved annexing to Kirkland and the City Council accepted the annexation which will become effective June 1, 2011. Due to the size and complexity of this annexation, services will be phased in over time as revenue sources become available.

What is the City of Kirkland's budget outlook for 2011-2012?

The 2011-2012 biennium is a time of transition. First, the City has moved from a time of economic expansion into what is being termed the "Great Recession." In this aspect, we are not alone. Governments across the region and throughout the United States are struggling to recognize the new fiscal realities and communicate what they mean to their constituents. Kirkland, through its conservative fiscal policies and quick recognition of the decline, has fared better than many jurisdictions, but the transition has been difficult and has meant adjusting the City's service levels to match the expected revenues. To learn more about the budget, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/budget.

How is the economy affecting the City's ability to pay for services in the annexation area?

With the completion of the annexation of Finn Hill, North Juanita, and Kingsgate, the City will grow by over 33,000 residents, which represents both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is ramping up to provide services to the new area and the opportunity is to incorporate the resources from the annexation area, both human and financial, to help build toward the City's vision. Services in the annexation area will be phased in until the revenue picture begins to improve. The annexation service levels proposed as part of the 2011-2012 Budget are intended to match the revenue expected from the annexation area, including funds from the state annexation sales tax credit.

Will the amount of my property taxes change upon annexation?

Your property's Assessed Valuation (AV) is determined by the King County Assessor's Office. Assessed Valuation is based on the appraisal of your real and personal property at 100 percent of its true and fair market value. The 2011 Tax Comparison table (attached) compares the estimated taxes the owner of a \$495,000 home in the annexation area would pay (prior to annexation) compared to the owner of a similar home in the City of Kirkland. Note that the estimated taxes exclude the City's voted bonded indebtedness given that the annexation vote passed by less than 60%. For calendar year 2011, residents of the annexation area will continue to pay taxes at the King County rates in effect at that time. In 2012, annexation area residents will pay taxes at the City of Kirkland rate in effect at that time (excluding voted debt service), and any debt service associated with debt issued by Fire District 41 for those that were part of that District.

The City of Kirkland is one of several jurisdictions that levy property taxes. Although property taxes represent a major source of funding for City services, the portion of each property owner's total tax bill that goes to the City is relatively small. In 2011, a little more than 14% of the total property tax rate in Kirkland, or \$1.39 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, will go to the City. Of this, \$0.09 is for voter-approved debt service.

Will I continue to pay my property taxes to King County after annexation takes effect?

Yes, you will continue to pay all of your property taxes to the King County Assessor's Office. King County distributes your property tax payments to all of the taxing districts serving your area. For more information, visit www.kingcounty.gov/assessor or call 206-296-7300.

Will I still receive property tax exemptions?

Annexation will not impact an owner's ability to qualify for property tax exemptions. Note that property tax exemption programs are administered by the King County Assessor's Office. Please visit www.kingcounty.gov/sites/assessor/taxpayerassistance/taxrelief.aspx or call 206-296-7300 for additional information.