

**Washington State
Boundary Review Board
for Spokane County**

1026 West Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260
509/477-4237
brb@spokanecounty.org
www.spokanecounty.org/boundary

ANNEXATION ELECTION PROCESS FOR CITIES IN SPOKANE COUNTY **Initiation by Voters**

RCW 35.13.020 - .120 is the state law which describes the process for the election method of annexation for first, second, third, and fourth class municipalities. This process is outlined below including the SEPA (RCW 43.21C) and Boundary Review Board (RCW 36.93) steps.

1. A petition is submitted to the County Prosecuting Attorney who certifies it and forwards it to the City Council. The petition must include:
 - A call to vote on the annexation;
 - The boundaries of the area to be annexed;
 - The number of registered voters in the annexation area;
 - The signatures of registered voters living in the annexation area not less in number than twenty percent of the votes cast at the last general election in the area to be annexed; and
 - Statements, if any, as to assumption of debt by owners of the property to be annexed, and/or as to the assumption of a comprehensive plan for the area to be annexed.
2. Within three days, the City forwards it to the County Auditor who certifies the sufficiency of the petition to the City Council.
3. If the petition is sufficient, within 60 days the City Council shall by resolution accept or reject the petition and notify the petitioners of its acceptance or rejection of the annexation.
4. The City Council, in its approval, may also determine:
 - Whether it will require simultaneous adoption of a comprehensive plan;
 - Whether it will submit to the voters a proposition to assume of all or any portion of city indebtedness by the area to be annexed.
5. A Notice of Intention including the Resolution is then filed with the Boundary Review Board. An affected entity or voters/property owners by petition may within 45 days request review by the Boundary Review Board. If no request for review by the Boundary Review Board is filed within the 45-day period, the proposed annexation is deemed approved by the Board.

If a request for review is filed within the 45-day period, the Boundary Review Board must hold a hearing on the proposal and make a decision within 120 days of the filing of the request for review. The Board and the person(s) who filed the Notice of Intention may agree to an extension of the 120-day period. After the hearing, the Board may do any of the following: Approve the proposal; modify the proposal; or deny the proposal.

6. The Boundary Review Board then sends to the City and Board of County Commissioners, either its written Hearing Decision or a Certification of the Expiration of the 45-Day Period.
7. If the proposal is approved or modified by the Boundary Review Board, the Board of County Commissioners at its next meeting must set a public hearing on the annexation petition to be held not less than two or more

than four weeks from its meeting. The Board of County Commissioners must grant the petition if it meets legal requirements.

8. If approved or modified by the Boundary Review Board, the City must notify the County Auditor its preference for a special election date that is 60 days or more after the notification.
9. The County Auditor must call the special election at the date requested by the City.
10. If the Boundary Review Board disapproves the annexation, no further action shall be taken and no proposal for annexation of the same territory shall be initiated for twelve months.
11. Notice of the election is to include:
 - Boundaries as approved or modified by the Boundary Review Board;
 - Objects of the election;
 - Wording of the ballot; and
 - Other requirements of the general election laws (time, date, place, etc.)
12. The Notice of Election must be posted for at least two weeks in four public places in the annexation area and published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area from three to ten days prior to the election.
13. If the majority of votes cast are in favor of the annexation (and comprehensive plan, if applicable), the annexation is deemed approved. If the issue of assumption of indebtedness is also included, as a separate proposition, that proposition must be approved by 60 percent of the voters with a minimum number of votes not less than forty percent of those from the last general election. If the annexation is approved by a majority of the voters but the indebtedness proposition is not approved, the City Council may refuse to annex the property. If the indebtedness proposition is combined with annexation proposition, the combined measure must also be approved by 60 percent of the voters with a minimum number of votes not less than forty percent of those from the last general election. However, if the combined proposition receives only a simple majority vote, the City Council may accept the annexation without the assumption of indebtedness.
14. If the annexation is approved, the County Auditor transmits a certificate of the election results and a certified abstract of the vote to the Board of County Commissioners and to the City Clerk.
15. The City Council must then adopt an ordinance annexing the territory (and adopting the comprehensive plan and assuming indebtedness, if applicable).
16. This City Ordinance and a recording fee of nine dollars for the first page and one dollar per additional page are sent to the Boundary Review Board Office.
17. The Boundary Review Board Director will verify that the legal description is the same as approved or modified by the Boundary Review Board and will record one copy with the Spokane County Auditor and file two copies with the Spokane County Assessor and one with the Spokane County Board of Commissioners.
18. The Boundary Review Board then notifies the various county departments and affected agencies of the changed boundaries.
19. Within 30 days of the effective date of the annexation, the city must submit an annexation certificate and supporting documents to the state Office of Financial Management. To begin receiving sales tax at the beginning of next quarterly period (the first days of January, April, July, or October), city must notify the state Department of Revenue of the boundary change at least 75 days before the beginning of the quarterly period.