



Oregon Communities For A Voice In Annexations

Promoting & Protecting Citizen Involvement in Land Use Issues

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ANNEXATION PROS & CONS

You will receive or have received a survey from the City of Springfield asking for your perspective on annexation of your property to the city. Annexation is a complex issue. OCVA has been involved in annexation matters across Oregon for nearly two decades and can share with our take on some (not all-inclusive) of the pros and cons of annexation.

ON THE PLUS SIDE:

BETTER LAW ENFORCEMENT: For county residents it's sorely lacking, even with the jail levy passed by county voters in 2013. This is probably the greatest plus.

SLIGHTLY LOWER GARBAGE RATES

LIBRARY CARD

HAVE A VOICE IN CITY AFFAIRS, e.g., bond measures, council actions, etc.

JOIN A FISCALLY-RESPONSIBLE CITY: We deal with many city governments. Springfield has been among the best in the past decade in matters of fiscal responsibility and listening to its citizens.

THE DOWNSIDE:

TAXES: Your property taxes would go up significantly. Depending on where you live, you could expect a tax increase of anywhere from about 25% up to nearly 100%, according to city-provided data. The city is looking at options such as a phase in to mitigate the increase.

INFRASTRUCTURE: The Metropolitan Area Plan requires sewers and other urban services with annexation. Depending on your property size this can amount to tens of thousands of dollars. City officials are investigating possible ways to reduce this impact. If you have a failing septic system a sewer connection may be your best option.

OTHER COSTS AND FEES: These vary, again depending largely on property size.

RULES & REGULATIONS: You'd have another layer to deal with.

WATER RATE: Current Rainbow customers would be transferred to higher-cost SUB. A storm water fee will also be added. SUB electric service rates would not change.

ANNEXATION PROS & CONS

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The foregoing are some of the major factors to consider. We encourage you to take the time to carefully evaluate your particular situation and get all your questions answered before completing the survey. **AND PLEASE DO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SURVEY.**

DIFFERENT APPROACH THAN LAST TIME

If you lived in the Springfield urban growth boundary (UGB) in 1994, you'll recall – and not fondly – the last time annexation was on the city's agenda. Details, if you're interested, are included in a report entitled “*HOSTILE TAKEOVER*” under the “*ORS-195 Annexations*” link on the OCVA website (www.ocva.org).

City officials appear to have taken the lessons learned from that debacle to heart with this current approach. They have involved us in the discussions from the start. **Most important to us, they have assured us, and you, in writing that the city does not intend to force you to annex. There is a caveat to this:** if your property is subject to a previously-signed consent to annex agreement, the city can annex your property at any time. This does not necessarily mean the city WILL exercise that right in the near future – only that it CAN.

In exchange for that assurance, we have chosen to play a passive role as the city seeks your input and investigates possible ways to provide incentives to annex.

Practically every municipality in Oregon – and around the nation for that matter – is struggling to keep up with rising costs. This is the primary driver for cities to annex territory. However, annexation needs to be a win-win proposition. We believe that the current city staff and elected officials recognize this and are thus approaching the idea from a different angle this time around.

We will be monitoring the process closely. City officials have indicated to us that they will willingly answer questions you may have and we will try to do the same.

If you are interested in or concerned about annexation issues you are welcome to get on the OCVA email list for our legislative alerts and other updates. There is no cost for this service. You can sign up either through me or through the OCVA website: info@ocva.org

Regards,

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