



ANNEXATION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is an annexation?

Annexation is the process by which a municipality extends its jurisdictional boundary (City limits) to include adjacent areas and areas of future growth.

2. How does the annexation process work?

- Annexation is a democratic process that requires consent of property owners, according to A.R.S. 9-471. Signatures of over 50% of the property owners and owners of 50% or more of the assessed valuation in the area are required by Arizona State Law. If the required signatures are gathered, the Mayor and Council will vote to adopt an ordinance officially annexing the area into the City of Maricopa.
- Annexation areas must be contiguous to existing City boundaries.
- Each annexation takes time to complete in order to comply with all aspects of state law such as public hearings, signature gathering, and opportunities for public input. Therefore, annexation is a deliberate, incremental process. The City's annexation plan is a long-range plan.

3. Why does the City want to pursue annexation?

- The City of Maricopa is experiencing hypergrowth, with population estimates of 325,000 residents by the year 2025. We are making annexation a priority because we believe that annexing growing areas will help us properly plan for the growth that will occur, and annexing developed areas helps bring state shared revenue to our area, increases local control and provides for more localized decision making.
- State shared revenues are primarily based upon the number of people living within the City limits. This means more money from the State to invest in our region.
- Annexing underdeveloped land where growth will occur allows the City to properly plan the area and provide adequate roads, parks, and open space. This is important because growth around the City's boundaries affect the City, significantly adding to its costs whereas the City does not receive additional funding for these costs.

4. What are some of the benefits of being a resident of the City of Maricopa?

- Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services via an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Maricopa Fire District
- Local, Enhanced Police Services via an Intergovernmental Agreement with PCSO
- Water/Wastewater Services via a Memorandum of Understanding with Global Water Resources
- Dedicated, focused, and local Economic Development Program and Resources
- Participation in City Elections and Decisions (local control and input)



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6. Why are some people opposed to annexation?

- Some ***annexation myths*** are that it means large tax increases, zoning changes, or school district changes forced upon residents. It is important to remember that annexation is a democratic process. Annexation cannot change school districts or zoning. It can, however, save homeowners money and provide improved services to residents in the region.

7. It seems like the City just wants my tax dollars.

- Sales tax is one of the primary funding sources for the City. As a result, annexing residential areas generally does not provide a financial gain.
- The City does receive about an additional \$300 per year per person from the State in state shared revenues to help pay for services provided to newly annexed areas.
- *These funds are new money for our area that we are already paying to the State and are then returned to cities and towns based on population.*

8. What will NOT change with Annexation?

- Annexation does not affect your school district.
- Annexation does not change your zoning. State Law requires the City of Maricopa to convert County zoning into the most equivalent City zoning without adding intensity or density.
- Private water companies and private wells within the metropolitan area are not affected by annexation.

9. How can I be annexed into the City of Maricopa?

- Submit a letter to the City Clerk, requesting annexation. Be sure to include your contact information and a description of the area you want annexed.

For more information regarding annexation or any other questions, visit our Web site at www.cityofmaricopa.net or call City Hall at 520.568.9098.