

# ADDITIONAL ANNEXATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS INCLUDING HOW TO REQUEST ANNEXATION

[Extraterritorial Jurisdiction \(ETJ\) – What is it?](#)

[Full and Limited Purpose Annexation – What is it?](#)

[Near-term Annexation Area – What is it?](#)

[How will full purpose annexation affect my property tax and utility bills?](#)

[What will I gain from annexation?](#)

[How to request annexation](#)

## **Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) – What is it?**

The ETJ is the unincorporated land within five miles of Austin’s boundary that is not within the city limits or ETJ of another city. It is the territory where Austin alone is authorized to annex land.

The ETJ enables the City to extend regulations to adjacent land where development can affect quality of life within the city. ETJ regulations also help to ensure that subdivisions that may be annexed by Austin in the future meet minimum standards for road access, lot size, and other factors.

No City taxes are collected in the ETJ. Services such as public safety, road maintenance, and parks are provided by the County or special districts. Residents in Austin’s ETJ may vote on City referenda which impact ETJ residents.

Land subdivision in the Austin ETJ in Travis County is regulated jointly by the City of Austin and Travis County in accordance with Title 30 of the Austin City Code. Land subdivision in the Austin ETJ in Hays and Williamson Counties is regulated exclusively by the City of Austin. For more information about land development, call the Development Assistance Center at (512) 974-6370.

## **Full and Limited Purpose Annexation – What is it?**

In areas annexed for full purposes, the City provides full municipal services, assesses taxes, and enforces City ordinances and regulations. Residents may vote in all City elections and run for office.

Limited purpose annexation extends the City's ordinances and regulations pertaining to land development and the environment and, in some cases, health and safety. The City collects no taxes in limited purpose areas and does not provide municipal services such as police protection. Residents may vote in city council and charter amendment elections. They may not vote in bond elections or run for office.

# **ADDITIONAL ANNEXATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS INCLUDING HOW TO REQUEST ANNEXATION**

## **Near-term Annexation Area – What is it?**

A "near term annexation area" is located in Travis County and within the City of Austin's limited purpose or extraterritorial jurisdiction. These areas consist of property that is included in the City's municipal annexation plan; has been or is being annexed for limited purposes and will be annexed for full purposes within three years after the date of limited purpose annexation; is the subject of an agreement to which the city and the county are parties and that provides assurances to the county for the design, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure, including infrastructure for transportation, floodplain management, or stormwater conveyance; or is described in Title 30 – Austin/Travis County Subdivision Regulations, Appendix "A"

An area that is classified as "near term" is not necessarily planned for imminent annexation. Contact staff if you have questions about when the City will annex a particular property.

## **How will full purpose annexation affect my property tax and utility bills?**

In the calendar year following the annexation, you will begin paying property taxes to the City of Austin. You will cease paying taxes to any emergency service district (ESD) or municipal utility district (MUD) that may have included your property.

Additionally, you will see three City of Austin fees on your utility bill that help fund additional services. These are the clean community fee, drainage utility fee, and transportation user fee.

The board of Austin Community College (ACC) may annex the area into its taxing district boundaries after full purpose annexation by the City of Austin, if your property is not already within the district. After annexation into ACC's district, you will begin paying taxes to ACC.

Annexation will NOT affect your status in relation to, or taxes owed to, the following entities:

- The county
- The school district
- The Travis County Healthcare District

Annexation also will NOT affect the following services:

- Natural gas
- Electric
- Cable
- Telephone

# **ADDITIONAL ANNEXATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS INCLUDING HOW TO REQUEST ANNEXATION**

## **What will I gain from annexation?**

Immediately upon annexation, the City of Austin will provide police and fire protection, emergency medical services, garbage and recycling collection, and maintenance of roads and existing street lighting. Residents will enjoy full voting privileges in all mayoral, council, bond, and charter amendment elections.

In addition, centralized water and wastewater collection (sewer) will be extended to lots with septic tanks and wells. Access to a centralized system provides greater reliability and higher capacity with fewer maintenance requirements.

Furthermore, the City of Austin conducts many other programs for public benefit including zoning and development review, code compliance, libraries, health and human services, recreation programs, and small business assistance.

## **How to request annexation**

Annexation requests are considered on an ongoing basis by the Planning and Zoning Department. If you would like to request annexation of your property, please contact staff to discuss the annexation process and the information needed to submit a request.

Once a completed request for annexation is received, the Planning and Zoning Department annexation staff will initiate an interdepartmental review process to evaluate the City's ability to provide full municipal services to the property and the cumulative impact of all scheduled annexations on departmental operations. If staff recommends annexation, public hearings and ordinance readings will be scheduled at City Council.

For further information, contact Virginia Collier at (512) 974-2022 or Dee Dee Quinnelly at (512) 974-2036.