

# **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Annexation of the City of Lacey into Fire District Three**

**1. What is annexation?**

Annexation is a formal process that allows boundaries to be adjusted. In this case, we are talking about adjusting the boundaries of the Fire District to include the City of Lacey.

**2. Who gets to vote on the issue of Lacey annexing into Fire District 3?**

All Fire District 3 residents and City of Lacey residents will be eligible to participate in voting on the proposed annexation.

**3. Why are the City and the District proposing annexation?**

The Lacey City Council, after reviewing the options, found that annexation into the Fire District is in the public interest of its citizens. The Fire District 3 Board of Commissioners concurs with the proposed annexation.

If annexation is approved, all Fire District residents will pay the same property tax levy rate for fire services and all District residents will be eligible to participate in District elections.

**4. How will my property taxes be affected if annexation is approved?**

Based on the estimated 2011 Fire District budget, a Lacey resident who owns a \$250,000 home will experience a \$2.<sup>50</sup> per month increase to property taxes. Current Fire District residents will experience a slight decrease to their property tax rate.

**5. As a Lacey resident, when will I start paying Fire District 3 property taxes? When will my Lacey property taxes decrease?**

Fire District 3 will levy a district-wide property tax levy beginning on January 1, 2011. The City of Lacey's property tax levy will decrease beginning on January 1, 2011.

**6. If the Fire District cannot levy property taxes until 2011, how will the Fire District fund its operations if annexation is effective upon certification of the election?**

The City of Lacey will continue to pay the Fire District the amount called for in the current Service Agreement through 2010.

**7. Will the combined Fire District and City of Lacey property tax levy be enough to cover the 2011 costs of running a fire department?**

Based on the estimated 2011 Fire District budget, the combined property tax revenues will address the cost of operating the Fire District.

**8. Will the same level of emergency medical and fire services continue with an annexation?**

Yes. When you have an emergency and call 9-1-1, the same people, in the same trucks, from the same stations will be providing the same service.

**9. Will the Fire District continue to utilize volunteers to provide efficient and effective services?**

Yes. The Fire District is currently recruiting for the fall volunteer firefighter class.

**10. If annexation passes:**

- **What changes will take effect in 2010? Will Lacey residents have a voice in Fire District operations? How many City residents would be on the Board of Fire Commissioners?**

Upon approval of annexation the City Council will appoint two advisory board members.

No later than the 2010 general election, the Fire District will submit a vote to the newly combined Fire District on the question of whether the Board of Commissioners should be expanded to five members.

All fire district residents of the combined area will have an equal vote when electing the Board of Fire Commissioners.

- **What will happen to the jointly owned equipment and stations?**

All Fire District residents will continue to own the equipment and stations.

**11. What happens if Lacey voters approve annexation and Fire District voters reject the proposal?**

In order for annexation to be approved, both the Lacey and Fire District voters must approve the proposal.

**12. What will happen if annexation is not approved?**

The City of Lacey and the Fire District will reconvene to consider the next steps to make the partnership work.

**13. I thought Lacey already had its own fire department?**

Annexation will provide continuity in service – to date Lacey Fire District Three has provided Lacey residents 62 years of service.