



## **Annexation FAQs**

**Background:** Annexation is the method by which land is transferred from one jurisdiction to the other. In Washington State this typically involves moving land from the county to a city's jurisdiction. The City of Fife proposes annexing two small areas of property, into the City of Fife. This means the new property will be within the City of Fife and subject to ordinances and resolutions of the City of Fife. With the change in governmental authority, also comes potential change in other arenas.

### **What will change?**

Local Government – The newly annexed properties will be a part of the City of Fife and will be regulated by the Fife City Council instead of the Pierce County Council. The City of Fife has a 7 member council with one member appointed by the other members to fulfill the position of Mayor. The City of Fife council holds weekly meetings, which can be viewed in person or live on the City of Fife's website, [www.cityoffife.org](http://www.cityoffife.org).

Police – The annexation area is currently serviced by the Pierce County Sheriff's office. After annexation the area will be served by the Fife Police Department.

Roads – Road maintenance and construction standards will now be the responsibility of the City of Fife instead of Pierce County.

Development Requirements – The City of Fife will become the jurisdiction in charge is issuing permit and review plans for approval, instead of Pierce County. Fees associated with development may differ between the two agencies, and are unique based on the type of activity proposed. Due to the size of the agencies and the area of land under their respective jurisdictions, the City of Fife has the ability to review permits and development proposals in a shorter timeline than Pierce County.

### **What will remain the same?**

Water/Sewer provider – The annexation will not change water service area boundaries. Properties within the annexation area(s) will not see a change in their water service provider.

School District – School Districts are their own district and have state mandated requirements related to adjusting their boundaries. Annexations do not generally change school district boundaries. The current annexation will not change the school district boundaries.

Pierce County Library – The City of Fife is a member of the Pierce County Library and the annexation will not change a citizen's ability to access the Pierce County Library system.

Private Utility Providers – Private utility providers such as Comcast, Click, Puget Sound Energy, and other non-City utilities will not change as a function of the annexation.

Garbage Service – Waste Connections provides service to Pierce County residents as well as the City of Fife. Garbage service will not change as a function of the annexation.

**Will the City of Fife require me to do anything after annexation?**

The City of Fife does not require any physical work be conducted on private property as a function of the annexation. Any requirements for physical improvement to private property (water/sewer connection, building codes upgrades, etc.) will be triggered as a function of development on the property or other physical actions taken by the property owner.

**Will my taxes change?**

Yes, they should be less. The newly annexed areas will be subject to the same property tax rate as the rest of the City of Fife, instead of the current property tax rate under Pierce County. The current rate for property tax in Pierce County is \$13.012669 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, and the current rate within the City of Fife is \$12.822793 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The difference is based on not paying the County Road Tax at \$1.409094 and beginning to pay the City of Fife property tax at 1.219219. For a single family home valued at \$400,000 this equates to an annual decrease in property tax of approximately \$75.95. These tax rates are further broken down in the table below.

<b>Tax Name</b>	<b>Pierce County Rate TCA 695</b>	<b>City of Fife Rate TCA 066</b>
CONSERVATION FUTURES	0.037915	0.037915
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE	0.101804	0.101804
PORT OF TACOMA	0.184032	0.184032
CENTRAL PS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY	0.199370	0.199730
FIRE DISTRICT #10 EMS - FIFE	0.392235	0.392235
PIERCE COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY	0.471500	0.471500
COUNTY	1.013033	1.013033
STATE SCHOOL LEVY 2	1.053433	1.053433
FIRE DISTRICT #10 EXPENSE - FIFE	1.113210	1.113210
CITY/TOWN OF FIFE	N/A	1.219219
COUNTY ROAD	1.409094	N/A
STATE	1.957593	1.957593
SD #417] CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND - FIFE	0.270940	0.270940
SD #417] ENRICHMENT (FKA M&O) - FIFE	2.128440	2.128440
SD #417] BOND - FIFE	2.680070	2.680070

If you have any question that are not covered by the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the City of Fife Planning Department at 253-922-9625 or visit the City of Fife website at [www.cityoffife.org](http://www.cityoffife.org).