

Petition Method Annexations – Fire Districts



Washington State Boundary Review Board for King County
August 13, 2026

Fire Districts

Petition Method

RCW 52.04.021 - RCW 52.04-051

- Area must be within “reasonable proximity” to a district per [RCW 52.26.020\(5\)](#)
 - “...geographical areas near enough to each other so that governance, management, and services can be delivered effectively.”
- Area may be located in other county or counties than the district
- A written petition for annexation may be addressed to and filed with a district board of commissioners by 60% of property owners
 - Petition must include a property description and a plat which outlines the proposed boundary
- The petition must state the financial obligation, if any, to be assumed by the district

Fire Districts

Petition Method

RCW 52.04.021 - RCW 52.04-051

- If the petition “complies with the requirements of the law” district board of commissioners may accept the petition and hold a public hearing
 - Notice publication requirements - newspaper and three public locations within the proposed annexation area
 - Publication costs borne the district
- District board of commissioners must determine by resolution whether annexation shall be made
 - May annex all or portion of the proposed annexation area, but it cannot add territory at this stage
 - If annexation area is reduced, property owners of at least 60% of the remaining area must have signed the petition
 - Must file a copy with the County legislative authority

Other Steps

- District must undertake a SEPA process
 - [RCW Chapter 43.21C](#) and [WAC Chapter 197-11](#)
- Boundary Review Board (BRB) process in BRB counties per [RCW 36.93.090](#)

Other Steps

- County legislative authority determination [RCW 52.04.011](#)
 - County legislative authority has “the authority and duty to determine on an equitable basis, the amount of any obligation which the territory to be annexed to the district shall assume to place the property owners of the existing district on a fair and equitable relationship with the property owners of the territory to be annexed as a result of the benefits of annexing to a district previously supported by the property owners of the existing district”
 - If BRB jurisdiction was invoked and approves the proposal, the County legislative authority may require such an assumption of indebtedness
 - County legislative authority would fix a yearly installment benefit charge to be collected with annual tax levies until paid
 - Amount may not exceed \$0.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation
 - On entry of the order of the County legislative body incorporating annexed territory into the district, annexed territory becomes subject to indebtedness of the exiting district



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19520

Proposed No. 2022-0409.1

Sponsors Dunn

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the annexation of
2 approximately 1.36 acres of land into fire district 43,
3 known as Vander Woude Annexation, for the purpose of
4 providing fire suppression and emergency medical services.

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6 1. Fire district 43 accepted a petition requesting annexation of
7 approximately 1.36 acres of land into fire district 43, known as the Vander
8 Woude Annexation, for the purpose of providing fire suppression and
9 emergency medical services in Resolution R-2022-003, adopted on March
10 17, 2022.
- 11 2. Pursuant to the state Environmental Policy Act, fire district 43 made a
12 determination of nonsignificance on the proposed annexation March 7,
13 2022.
- 14 3. The King County Assessor issued a certificate annexation petition of
15 the signatures on the petition under the provisions of RCW 35A.01.040 on
16 May 16, 2022.
- 17 4. The Washington state Boundary Review Board has completed the
18 required evaluation of the proposed annexation and found the proposed
19 annexation to meet the necessary requirements.

Ordinance 19520

20 5. The board of fire commissioners has exercised its right under RCW
21 52.04.011(3) to dispense with an election and to proceed directly to
22 annexation.

23 6. A notice of intention proposing the annexation of the annexation area
24 was filed with the county council on August 23, 2022.

25 7. RCW 52.04.011(2) requires the county council to determine whether
26 and the extent to which the annexation area shall be subject to the existing
27 indebtedness of the district. The petition states that the petitioners are not
28 assuming any pre-existing financial obligations of the fire district.

29 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

30 SECTION 1. The annexation of approximately 1.36 acres of land into fire district
31 43, known as Vander Woude Annexation, for the purpose of providing fire suppression
32 and emergency medical services described in Attachment A to this ordinance is
33 approved. Approval of this proposed annexation is consistent with chapter 52.04 RCW.

34 SECTION 2. Fire district 43 is the appropriate entity to serve the area proposed
35 to be annexed.

36 SECTION 3. The county council finds that the property owners of the
37 annexation area are not obligated to assume responsibility for any preexisting
38 finances or indebtedness of the district.

39 SECTION 4. Completion of this annexation does not constitute county approval

Ordinance 19520

- 40 or disapproval of any other permits, certifications or actions necessary to provide service
- 41 to this annexation area.

Ordinance 19520 was introduced on 10/10/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/1/2022, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry,
McDermott, Upthegrove and Zahilay
Excused: 1 - von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

Claudia Balducci

F8830816F1C4427...

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melani Pedroza

8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of 11/10/2022, ____.

DocuSigned by:

Dow Constantine

4FBCAB8196AE4C6...

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: A. Legal Description Tax Lott 082207-9034-00



EASTSIDE CONSULTANTS, INC.

**ENGINEERS-
SURVEYORS**

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

TAX LOT 082207-9034-00

BERNARD T. VANDER WOUDE AND JANICE E. VANDER WOUDE

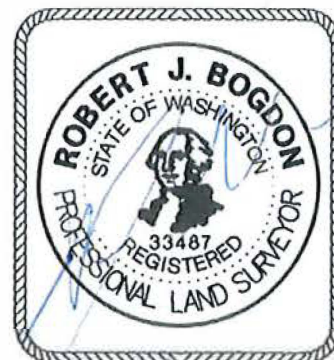
THE WEST 394 FEET OF THE NORTH 180 FEET OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE
NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, W.M., IN
KING COUNTY WASHINGTON;

EXCEPT COUNTY ROAD

TOGETHER WITH;

THE WEST 394 FEET OF THE NORTH 30 FEET OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE
NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 22 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, W.M., IN
KING COUNTY WASHINGTON;
(ALSO BEING A PORTION OF SE 208TH STREET)

SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF KING, STATE OF WASHINGTON.



7/2/2022



King County

Metropolitan King County Council Committee of the Whole

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	8	Name:	Andy Micklow
Proposed No.:	2022-0409	Date:	October 17, 2022

SUBJECT

Proposed Ordinance 2022-0409 would approve an annexation of approximately 1.36 acres into King County Fire District 43.

SUMMARY

State law¹ requires the County to effectuate an annexation into a fire district, and to determine whether there are any debt obligations to apportion to the annexation area property owners.

Fire District 43 (the District) and the proposed annexation area have completed the other statutory requirements for an annexation into the Fire District. County approval is the final step in the process. This ordinance completes that step.

BACKGROUND

Fire District 43 provides fire suppression and emergency services to the Maple Valley area, within Council District 9.

The 1.36-acre parcel proposed for annexation is not currently located within a fire protection district. Surrounding parcels receive fire protection services from Fire District 43. According to the notice of intention, "the purpose of this action is to adjust a legal boundary to include the subject parcel into a fire protection district to ensure the legal provision of fire protection and emergency medical services."

ANALYSIS

Under RCW 52.04.011, the Council has two requirements in the annexation process. First, the Council must make a determination of whether there are any debt obligations to apportion to the proposed annexation area property owners, and second, the Council must enter an order effectuating the annexation once the other statutory requirements for annexation have been satisfied.

¹ Chapter 52.04 RCW regulates annexations by Fire Protection Districts.

Debt Obligations. The petitioners are not assuming any pre-existing financial obligations of the Fire District, and a finding to this effect is in Section 3 of the Proposed Ordinance.

Statutory Requirements. The other statutory requirements, including a petition by the owners and acceptance by the District, environmental review, a public hearing, a resolution accepting the annexation by the District, certification by the King County Assessor, and review by the Boundary Review Board, have been completed. A finding to this effect is in Section 1 of the Proposed Ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2022-0409 with attachments