

PANTHER LAKE AREA POTENTIAL ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF KENT

The Kent City Council has announced that there will be an annexation vote by the residents of the Panther Lake area to be annexed into the City of Kent.

The annexation plan was reviewed by the King County Boundary Review Board on October 28, 2008 and the application was approved. The Kent City Council has authorized an election in the proposed area. The annexation election will be November 3, 2009 by a mail in ballot. The election will give every resident in the proposed area the opportunity to cast their vote. A 51% yes vote is required for annexation. An anonymous telephone survey taken last fall indicated a 62.5% favorable opinion among residents.

When the city called for the election, a citizen' committee was created to promote and publicize for a "yes" vote in favor of the annexation. Marci Wainhouse and Marvin Eckfeldt have volunteered to co-chair the citizens committee. Community meetings will be held throughout the annexation area to inform voters of all the issues.

Facts about the annexation:

- 24,000 residents in a five square mile area
- Boundary areas are: city of Kent on the south, city of Renton on the north, Soos Creek on the east, city of Kent on the west
- Street addresses will remain the same
- Kent School district boundaries are not affected
- Soos Creek Water District (and sewer) remains the same
- Fire service is already jointly contracted with the city of Kent
- Garbage services remains the same
- Based on current rates, property taxes will DECLINE by \$132.00 annually on a property valued at \$250,000.
- The city would maintain and pay electricity for existing street lights
- Police protection: Panther Lake area would become the 4th separate city patrol area. Plans include neighborhood response teams, K-9 unit, traffic officers and detectives - over 20 new-hires are planned - response time will be significantly decreased.