

City of Kent Proposition No. 1
Panther Lake Annexation
Explanatory Statement

If this Proposition is approved by the voters, the area known as the "Panther Lake Annexation Area" would become part of the City of Kent on July 1, 2010. Services currently provided by Kent School District #415, Soos Creek Water and Sewer District, and Fire District #37 will continue to be provided by those districts, and these services will not change because of annexation. The City will provide other municipal services, including police protection, road and storm drainage construction and maintenance, traffic management, and parks and recreation. Upon annexation, all property within the annexation area will be subject to City comprehensive planning and zoning as determined through an open public process prior to the annexation's effective date. Property within the annexation area will not be required to assume the City's existing voted indebtedness, and upon annexation, would be assessed and taxed on the same basis and at the same rate as property within Kent. This Proposition will be authorized if a simple majority of all votes are cast in favor of the proposition.

The Panther Lake Annexation Area is approximately 3200 acres, bounded by the City of Renton on the north (generally along SE 192nd St. to the Benson Road, then continuing west along SE 200th St. to 100th Ave. SE), Big Soos Creek on the east, and contiguous with Kent's existing city limits on the annexation area's south and west boundaries.

Pro Statement

"Citizens for Annexation to Kent" is a broad-based citizen group promoting a "Yes" vote. The Kent City Council voted unanimously to invite residents to join the city. This annexation is supported by the King County Council.

- As Kent resident's public safety will be increased by establishing a 4th city patrol district with response time significantly shorter for all police services. Kent will hire over 20 new police positions
- Panther Lake residents will have greater community access in Kent. Locally elected officials and staff can respond more quickly to needs of neighbors - offices are close by - parks and recreation will be administered locally
- Kent will provide more direct service to the Panther Lake area. King County is unable to provide urban services. They recently announced mothballing the three county parks in the area. Further cutbacks in all county services will occur because of growing county fiscal deficits.

It is estimated that property taxes will essentially be the same or perhaps slightly lower. We believe that annexation to the City of Kent is in the best interests of citizens, businesses, homeowner associations, and all community groups.

Citizens for Annexation to Kent

www.annex2kent.com

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