

FIRE DISTRICT ANNEXATIONS
RCW 52.04

Annexations to Fire Districts may be made following either the election or petition method.

Election Method - RCW 52.04.011

1. Petition of 15% of qualified registered electors residing within territory proposed to be annexed is filed with fire commissioners of district. If commissioners concur, they file the petition with the BRB Clerk who forwards it to the County Auditor. Within 30 days, the Auditor examines the signatures and certifies the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures.
2. After the Auditor certifies the petition, the fire district files a Notice of Intention with the Boundary Review Board (BRB). Submittal requirements are listed in the Board's Notice of Intention format. The BRB considers the proposal under the same basis as it would a proposed incorporation or formation of a fire protection district (RCW 52.02).
3. A public hearing on the annexation is held:
 - a. By the BRB if its jurisdiction is invoked within 45 days of filing (Board has 120 days after jurisdiction is invoked to hold hearing); OR
 - b. By the County Council if jurisdiction of the BRB has not been invoked (Council has 100 days from the time the proposal is submitted to the BRB to hold hearing).
4. If the annexation is approved by the Council or BRB, the board of fire commissioners shall adopt a resolution requesting the Auditor to call a special election; passage requires a simple majority YES vote.
5. HOWEVER, if the petition is signed by 60% of the qualified registered electors residing within the territory proposed to be annexed and if the board of fire commissioners concurs (RCW 52.04.011(3)), an election and hearing on the petition shall be dispensed with and the County Council shall enter an order incorporating the territory into the existing district.
6. The fire district must send a certified copy of its final resolution (or County Council order) to the Chief Clerk of the BRB who will notify various affected agencies of the boundary change. The fire district is encouraged to record the annexation ordinance with the Pierce County Auditor.

Petition Method – RCW 52.04.021-.051

1. A petition (signed by owners of 60% of the land area, containing a legal description and map and financial obligation to be assumed, if any) is filed with the board of fire commissioners. If the petition complies with the requirements of law (commissioners determine this), the board may accept the petition, publish notice of and hold a public hearing.
2. The board of fire commissioners determines by resolution whether to pursue annexation. The proposed annexation is subject to hearing by the BRB/Council as provided in RCW 52.04.011 and 52.02.040, just as if it were done under the election method. A copy of the resolution is filed with the Council. A Notice of Intention of the proposal is filed with the BRB (submittal requirements are listed in the Board's Notice of Intention format).

3. A public hearing on the annexation is held:
 - a. By the BRB if its jurisdiction is invoked within 45 days of filing (Board has 120 days after jurisdiction is invoked to hold hearing); OR
 - b. By the County Council if jurisdiction of the BRB has not been invoked (Council has 100 days from the time the proposal is submitted to the BRB to hold hearing).
 4. If the annexation is approved by the Council or BRB, the board of fire commissioners adopts a final resolution annexing the territory.
 5. The fire district must send a certified copy of its final resolution to the Chief Clerk of the BRB who will notify various affected agencies of the boundary change. The fire district is encouraged to record the annexation ordinance with the Pierce County Auditor.
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Other Fire District Activities:

For withdrawal or reannexation of territory, see RCW 52.04.056.

For annexation of adjacent city, see RCW 52.04.061-.131.

For merger of districts, see RCW 52.06.

For partial merger of districts, see RCW 52.06.090.

For withdrawal, see RCW 52.08.

For dissolution, see RCW 52.10.