



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What does it mean to be annexed?**

Annexation is the process by which a city extends its boundaries to incorporate adjacent land. This expansion allows the city to manage growth and extend its services and regulations to the newly included area.

### **What are the motivations behind the City of Goshen wanting to annex land?**

Goshen strives to handle growth thoughtfully, maintaining its charming small-town character and steering clear of the crowded, urban feel that can come with the expansion of larger cities. By including the neighboring quaint county area in the annexation, Goshen ensures that this region can develop in a deliberate, rural manner.

### **Who gets to vote on the annexation and why?**

Per the Washington County Election Commission both landowners in the proposed annexation area and residents of the City of Goshen can vote in the election. Annexation effects city residents as well as those in the annexed area.

### **Will residents be given the option to opt out of the annexation if it is approved?**

No, opting out is not an option. De-annexation is possible but requires meeting specific criteria, such as not being surrounded by city-annexed areas.

### **How much will property taxes be?**

Assessed Property Value ÷ 1,000 x Tax increase per year (2.9 mils) = Tax Increase

For every \$100,000 of the market value of your home, your property taxes will increase by \$58.00

### **What portion of property taxes does the City of Goshen receive?**

Goshen receives 7% of property tax payments made **by** citizens of Goshen **to** the Washington County Tax Collector.

### **Which ward would new residents be assigned to after the annexation?**

New wards will be established based on the annexation results as quickly as possible. Wards are based on population and the City of Goshen will work closely with Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission to achieve this.

### **What will the land be zoned as if it's annexed into the City of Goshen?**

Annexed land will initially be zoned as R-R (Rural Residential). After new wards are created, the Growth and Development Committee will consider recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council to rezone areas based on current land use in the city's Zoning Regulations.

### **Will utilities stay the same as a result of the annexation?**

Yes, all utilities will remain the same.

### **How does the city intend to manage the expenses associated with additional roads and infrastructure for the annexed area?**

All expenses will be evaluated annually during the city's budget preparation. Increased tax revenues from new developments will help offset these costs.

### **Will this annexation contribute to attracting businesses to the City of Goshen?**

Yes, expanding the city's area could make more land available for commercial use, potentially attracting new businesses.

### **Will properties be grandfathered in to convey how they have been in the past?**

Current City of Goshen Zoning Regulations 14.04.07 say if a building or piece of land was being used legally according to the rules in place before the current zoning regulations were enacted or amended, it can continue to be used in the same way.

### **What are the advantages of annexation?**

- **Access to City Services:** Annexed areas gain access to municipal services like road maintenance, improving infrastructure, and living conditions.
- **Enhanced Public Safety:** The Goshen Police Department offers better coverage and faster response times compared to rural services.
- **Improved Roads:** The Goshen Infrastructure and Maintenance Department will enhance county roads, especially if unpaved, leading to better transportation services.
- **Road Clearing:** City streets are cleared more quickly during snow events compared to rural areas.
- **Increased Property Values:** Enhanced access to city services and infrastructure will boost property values.
- **Voice in Local Government:** Residents gain the right to vote in municipal elections and participate in city governance. The City of Goshen is very dedicated to citizen inclusion.
- **Planning and Zoning Regulations:** Comprehensive planning and zoning can lead to more effective development and preserved green spaces.

### **What are the disadvantages of annexation?**

- **Increased Taxes:** Higher property taxes and increased sales tax rates.
- **Regulatory Changes:** New zoning regulations and building codes might restrict property use or necessitate modifications.
- **Legal Obligations:** New legal obligations may arise, such as compliance with city ordinances and participation in municipal duties.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Goshen City Hall at (479) 442-9128 and dial extension 3 or email [cityhall@cityofgoshenar.net](mailto:cityhall@cityofgoshenar.net). For planning or building questions please dial extension 1 or email [llawson@cityofgoshenar.net](mailto:llawson@cityofgoshenar.net).