



# Annexation by Special Election

## Olympia Annexation Petition FAQs

The We Are Olympia community is seeking annexation into the City of Columbia through a special election to be held on the question of annexation. Below are some answers to questions you might have about the petition and the annexation process.

We can't answer all your questions here! Visit [www.ColumbiaSC.gov/annexation](http://www.ColumbiaSC.gov/annexation) or contact us at 803.545.3217 or [annexation@columbiasc.gov](mailto:annexation@columbiasc.gov) for more information.

### What is the petition asking for?

It is the first step towards the annexation of Olympia and its environs into the City of Columbia. By signing the petition, you are **asking for a special election** that will give the voters who live in Olympia the chance to say whether or not the area should be annexed.

### Who can sign the petition?

If you **live in the area** to be annexed **and you are registered to vote**, you can sign the petition and vote in the special election.

### What are the boundaries of the area proposed for annexation?

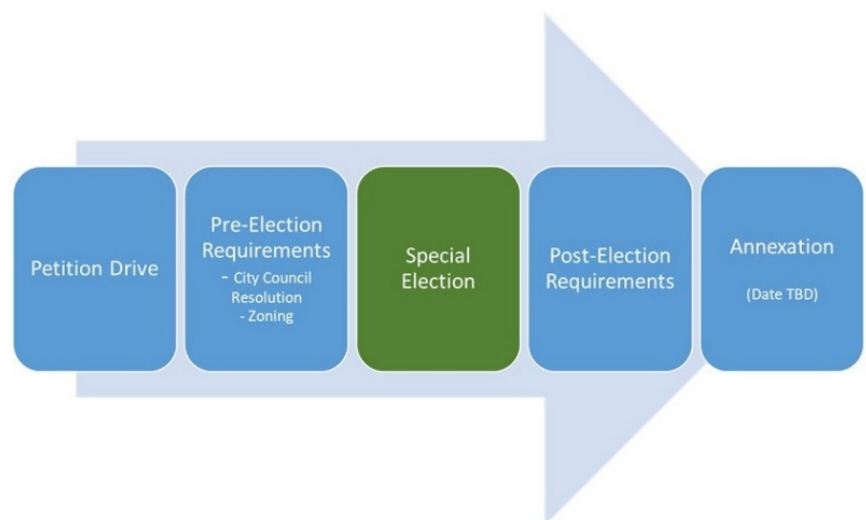
Generally, the unincorporated portions of Olympia Mill Village and the adjacent warehouse area. The quarry and the heavy industrial area west of the CSX railroad spur is not included. See the map attached to the petition for specific boundaries.

### I've signed the petition, now what?

- Vote! If enough signatures are collected – 25% of the registered voters who live within the area to be annexed, a special election will be called to determine if the voters want to be annexed.
- Stay informed! [Sign up for the Olympia Annexation mailing list](#).
- Volunteer with *We Are Olympia*!

### When and where will the Annexation Special Election be held?

The special election will be held at a polling place within the area to be annexed, at least 30 days after the petition is completed and a notice about the election is published. The actual date and location of the special election will not be known until after a completed petition is turned into the City, however the regular polling place (Olympia School) is within the annexation area. The election will be run by the Richland County Election Commission.



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## When will annexation happen?

Expect at least 12 months after the election, though the date may be sooner if possible. If both the petition and election are in favor of annexation, City Council must pass an ordinance incorporating the area into the City, where the annexation date will be set. To ensure quality services for the newly annexed area and the rest of the City, vehicles & equipment must be purchased and personnel hired. Recent supply-chain disruptions mean that these processes are taking longer than usual.

## What is Annexation?

Annexation is the legal process where land is incorporated into the boundaries of a town or city. In South Carolina, the process starts after a petition from property owners or (in this case) resident voters.

## How does Olympia benefit by annexing?

Ever since it started developing in 1899, the Olympia Mill Village has not had access to most of the City's services, as it has been just outside the City's original southern boundary at Heyward Street. If annexed, this urban community will receive services from Columbia's Public Works department such as Garbage & Recycling services to residences and Forestry & Beautification services for street trees and medians. The simplified boundary will lead to more efficient services, including from the Metro Region of the Columbia Police Department.

Olympia will keep its current representation on County Council, but will add representation from City Council – in addition to the mayor and two at-large council members, Olympia would have at least one district council member. And importantly, most residents will save money (including on water, sewer, and real estate tax bills): see our fact sheets for [homeowners](#) and [residential rental property](#) for more information.

## What is a "Donut Hole"?

A donut hole is a property or group of properties entirely surrounded by the City (or in the case of Olympia, the City and the river/Cayce). These are often areas that were developed prior to being adjacent to the City limits, and result in a patchwork of City, County, and private services in the area.



A "donut hole"

## Will annexation change the zoning of my property?

Zoning maps will be made public before the annexation special election.

In most cases, the [zoning district](#) of newly annexed land will be similar to the zoning district prior to annexation. However, the City of Columbia and Richland County have different Zoning Ordinances and Olympia is not on the City's zoning maps, so the area will go through a "map amendment" process, also known as rezoning. If you have specific questions or plans for your property, please contact us for a consultation about zoning and land use classification for your property.

## Will I have to pay two tax bills if I annex?

No, your property tax bill will include City taxes along with the other taxes you pay for County-wide services. Furthermore, unlike in unincorporated areas, there is no added annual solid waste fee on the tax bill for properties in the City of Columbia.

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