

## State law establishes procedures for seven different types of annexation.

These relate to:

- annexation of adjoining municipally-owned property;
- annexation of adjoining property upon unanimous consent of the owners of that property and the voters who live within the area to be annexed;
- annexation by election among voters in the area proposed for annexation;
- annexation by election among the combined voters of the annexing municipality and the area proposed for annexation;
- annexation by election by voters of the annexing municipality, if the area proposed for annexation is uninhabited;
- step annexation (city only);
- Annexation by legislative review.

Some of the methods of annexation are less complex than others and may be acted upon by the Commission in a relatively short period. Others are more complex and can require a year or more for the Commission to consider. The seven annexation types are summarized as follows:

- **Annexation of Adjoining City-Owned Property.** City-owned property that is next to the boundaries of that city may be annexed. The city council must adopt an ordinance and then petition the Local Boundary Commission.
- **Annexation Upon Unanimous Consent of Owners and Resident Voters.** An area next to a city may be annexed if all of the property owners and all of the voters living in the area proposed for annexation approve. The city council must adopt an ordinance and then petition the Local Boundary Commission.
- **Annexation Through Election by Voters in the Area Proposed for Annexation.** An area may be annexed, upon approval by the Local Boundary Commission, if an election is held and a majority of the voters living in the territory to be annexed vote to approve it. Only those living in the territory approved for annexation may vote on the proposal. To pass, the proposition must be approved by a majority of those voting on the question.
- **Annexation Through Election by Aggregate Voters of the Annexing City and the Area Proposed for Annexation.** An area may be annexed, upon approval by the Local Boundary Commission, if an election is held and a majority of the voters living in both areas approve it.
- **Annexation Through Election by Voters of the Annexing City, if the Area Proposed for Annexation is Uninhabited.** An uninhabited area may be annexed, upon approval by the Local Boundary Commission, if an election is held and a majority of the voters living in the annexing city vote to approve it. The proposition must be approved by a majority of those voting on the question.
- **Step Annexation.** (City only) Territory next to a city may be annexed to a city gradually over a period not longer than five years. Step annexation requires approval by the Local Boundary Commission and the voters of the area proposed for annexation. In addition, it requires review and tacit approval by the State legislature. Legislative review is initiated when the LBC files a recommendation for the annexation with the legislature. Such recommendations may be filed only during the first 10 days of a regular session of the legislature. The recommendation is rejected only if the legislature adopts a concurrent resolution to deny the action within 45 days of the date that it was filed. Otherwise, the proposal is tacitly approved by the legislature, meaning that it is approved unless the legislature specifically denies it within the 45-day period.
- **Annexation by Legislative Review.** An area may be annexed without approval by the voters or property owners under the legislative review process. Such proposals require approval by the Local Boundary Commission as well as review and tacit approval by the State legislature. Legislative review is initiated in the manner described for step annexation. Again, the recommendation receives tacit approval from the legislature unless that body adopts a concurrent resolution to deny the action within 45 days of the date that the Commission's recommendation concerning the matter was filed.

Additional information on the LBC's process for city annexations can be found under the heading "Annexations to Cities in Alaska" at <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/lbc/lbcannualreport.htm#genpubs>