

## **ANNEXATIONS**

**Relative Information:** Annexation is the process of adding additional geographic area to the jurisdictional boundaries of a district and is distinct from the merger or consolidation processes. They each have different legal meanings and procedures. A merger is the process in which one district becomes another district. A consolidation is the process in which two or more districts join to form a new single entity.

This policy only addresses the considerations of the annexation process.

The procedural details for annexations are prescribed in the Oregon Revised Statutes.

Annexation may be initiated in one of three ways:

1. The electors residing in the area may petition the District Board for annexation.
2. The District Board may initiate the annexation by resolution.
3. The County Commissioners may initiate the annexation by resolution.

There are five key issues in the consideration of an annexation proposal:

1. The ability of the District to provide an acceptable level of service to the new area without diminishing services to the territory of the existing District.
2. The projected revenue's ability to sustain services to the new area.
3. The impact of the annexation on administrative, managerial, and operational processes.
4. The relative proximity to existing boundaries, and emergency access to the proposed new area.
5. The political feasibility of the annexation.

Each of these factors will figure into the evaluation, discussion, and ultimate decision to approve or reject an annexation proposal. Annexation requests are evaluated by Staff and presented to the Board of Directors with recommendations and supporting material.

**Policy Statement:** It is the policy of the Board of Directors to approve annexations when such annexations are found to be in the best interest of the District based on affirmative findings in the key areas discussed above.

It is the policy of the Board to limit annexations to properties contiguous with existing District boundaries.