

City Rules and Regulations

Will my existing land use and/or zoning change?

PRO: No, all legally established existing uses within the annexation area will be allowed to continue following annexation.

Will I be able to keep existing farm animals on my property?

PRO: Existing farm animals at the date of annexation will be permitted. While the ownership of cattle, horses, mules, burros, swine, goats, or sheep is prohibited within City limits, it is permitted on property annexed into the city pursuant to a pre-annexation allowable use, as long as use is continuous and not interrupted by more than twelve (12) consecutive months. Chickens are allowed, subject to the requirements of Title 6 of the municipal code, which limits the amount of number of chickens to four (4) per property.

Will I need to license my pets?

CON: All dogs owned, possessed, harbored, or maintained in the city for more than thirty days must be licensed (\$10/ annual fee), if over four months of age. This measure is intended to protect the safety of our residents and the health and welfare of their pets.

Will annexation affect my home-based business?

PRO: If you already have a legal home occupation that complies with Cochise County requirements, this use will be permitted in the City following annexation. However, the City of Douglas requires that all businesses operating within the city obtain a Business License (services and regulated businesses). Additionally, businesses located inside the city limits, including home-occupations, must obtain zoning clearance for their business license(s).

More Good News

Will I have a voice in local issues?

PRO: Yes, you will be able to vote in city elections and may run for one of the Council positions. As a resident of the City of Douglas you will also have the right to serve on Boards and Commissions, as well as a right to have a say in the way the affairs of the City are conducted. This includes a say in whether financial bonds are approved. The City of Douglas Mayor and City Council members understand neighborhood issues and concerns because they are also residents. Also, the small geographic size of Douglas keeps them focused on the issues that matter most to you.

Are there any other City initiatives that could impact me soon?

PRO: The City has initiated sewer improvements in Bay Acres in coordination with Cochise County. This project will result in improved wastewater treatment for the area and new paving will be installed on roads impacted by the sewer project. In addition, an expansion to the Port of Entry will be the economic engine to sustain services in perpetuity, among other new manufacturing and warehousing industries as a result of the commercial port construction. This development will bring new revenues to the City for expanded amenities and services.

CONTACT US

For more information about annexation, please contact us!

P: 520-417-7329

**A: 425 E 10th Street
Douglas, AZ 85607**

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THE CITY OF DOUGLAS PROS AND CONS OF AN ANNEXATION



Annexation is the process by which a city or town adds lands to its jurisdiction. The City of Douglas is interested in pursuing annexation of some properties that are adjacent to its border in Cochise County, within its "growth area." The City's growth area is identified in the voter-approved General Plan. This is the best indicator of areas the City is interested in annexing. The growth area identifies areas located immediately outside of the City's incorporated boundaries that plan to be located within the City in future years. Growth areas help developers determine where they want to build, with the expectation that if they build in the City's growth area, they will be in the City at some point.

It's important to understand that with annexation, there can be various associated pros and cons. The City has prepared this brochure to help identify and answer some of the more common issues that can arise with annexations.

IS ANNEXATION RIGHT FOR ME?

Taxes

Will my property taxes change upon annexation?

PRO: Generally, your property taxes will decrease if you annex to the city of Douglas. The city estimates property taxes for the owner of a home with an assessed valuation of \$50,000 will decrease approximately \$61.59 per year upon incorporation. This is largely because the fire district tax rate of 0.002391% is more than double the City tax rate of 0.0011591%. In addition, thanks to expanded public services offered by the City to annexed residents, the City anticipates that property values will continue to rise over time, following infrastructure improvements and development.

Will my household utility costs increase if I'm annexed into the city?

PRO: Generally, your household utilities will decrease if you are currently receiving city water/sewer services and you annex to the City of Douglas. Base residential sewer fees will drop from \$32.02 to \$25.00 per month while base residential water rates will decrease from \$19.50 to \$15.50 per month.

Does the City have taxes I do not currently pay in unincorporated Cochise County?

CON: Yes, City residents pay a regular city levy on their property taxes, which funds the general operations of the city. The City tax rate of 0.0011591% is comparatively speaking lower than the fire district tax rate and a great value for the additional services you will receive in exchange.

Services

Who will provide law enforcement and fire protection services?

PRO: Annexed areas fall under the City of Douglas police and fire jurisdiction. Dedicated fire service with certified firefighters EMT and structural fire service included in your City taxes as well as City police service that is available around the clock, every day of the year. City services will replace volunteer-served fire districts and County sheriff service, which does not patrol this area 24 hours a day.

Who is responsible for street maintenance and paving?

PRO: The City Street Division maintains all streets, curb, sidewalks, storm water facilities, street lighting, traffic control devices (traffic signals), graffiti abatement, signing and striping within the City of Douglas limits utilizing staff and/or contract services.

Where do I obtain development and building permits, and where do I go with development questions?

PRO: Once a property is annexed into the city, development questions such as zoning or obtaining building permits may be directed to the Development Services Division. Building Safety is located within City Hall, which is located at 425 E 10th Street. Not only are the City's building, development and right-of-way permits a short drive away, but they are typically lower in cost than similar Cochise County permits.

What does the City offer regarding public parks and recreation?

PRO: The mission of the Douglas Parks Division is to provide well-planned, clean and safe parks, green spaces, and recreation facilities in order to enhance the quality of life for all residents of the community and visitors. The City currently operates over ten parks and two public pools. It also offers a wide variety of recreation activities for all ages.

Will the City provide garbage services?

PRO: Yes, the City's Sanitation Division provides Douglas residents with twice weekly trash pickup at a cost of \$20/month. In addition, the City offers special pickups for the disposal of large items such as furniture, trees debris and appliances. Special pickups can be arranged at a cost of \$15 per pickup plus the cost of transfer station fees.

Will the City require me to hook up to the water and/or sewer system?

PRO: No, the city does not require property owners with properly functioning septic tanks and/or wells to hook up to the municipal water system or sanitary sewer system, with the exception being the Area subject to the Bay Acres Water/Wastewater agreement. However, if your property is currently served by municipal sewer and/or water or is proposed to be added to either system, you will receive a discount following incorporation. On a monthly basis, residents pay approximately \$4 less for water service and \$7 less for sewer service.

What other services does the City offer?

PRO: The City offers a strong team of economic development professionals that are focused on retaining and strengthening existing businesses in our community as well as recruiting new businesses that are consistent with the needs and desires of the community. In addition, Code Compliance officers work with owners and neighborhoods to maintain high standards and preserve property values for everyone's benefit.

Will annexation affect school district boundaries?

PRO: No, annexation does not affect school district boundaries. It has no impact on which school your children will attend.