

Questions from Annexation Information Meeting

1. **How does the annexation of property effect future grants for Law Enforcement?**
None
2. **What freedoms will the property owners lose if their property is annexed?**
A property owner would be required to comply with the City of North Augusta's ordinances which includes zoning, land development regulations, business license fees, etc.
3. **How annexation takes place?**
Three main ways of annexation:
 - 1) 100% Percent Petition Method
 - When all of the property owners request annexation
 - 2) 75% Petition Method
 - 75% of the freeholders owning at least 75% of the assessed value of the property in the area to be annexed requests the annexation
 - 3) 25% Petition and Election Method
 - 25% of the qualified electors who are residents in the area petition the area to be annexed
 - Property owners must be informed by certified mail of the petition
 - If the freeholder does not reply at least 10 days prior to the election the area is included in the area to be annexed
 - If the freeholder files a written notice with the municipal clerk objecting to the annexation, the freeholder's property must be excluded from the area annexed
 - Special election is conducted to determine if the area will be annexed or not
4. **How will annexation affect the enrollment of students into the Edgefield School District?**
The students will attend the school district in the county they reside. If Edgefield County resident they will attend Edgefield County Public Schools
5. **What other means can North Augusta use to annex land other than the 75% rule?**
Yes, see #3
6. **What services or benefits will property receive other than more taxes?**
As a city resident you would receive the services of the city as well as the county. These include police, fire, garbage, in-city sewer rates, yard waste, recycling, zoning and recreation from North Augusta. The County would still continue to provide water and EMS.
7. **Will SC Bill 848-34 affect the annexations?** According to the Assistant Clerk of House Research and Constituent Services, Don Hottel, the Local Government Efficiency Act failed to be approved by the General Assembly.

It would have allowed a municipality to annex up to 25 acres if it is completely surrounded by the City, thereby eliminating some doughnut holes in cities. For a period of not less than 5 years this area would have to be either:

- (1) completely surrounded by the municipality; or
- (2) completely surrounded by the municipality except for the area's border with one or more of the following:
 - (a) a state line;
 - (b) a military installation;
 - (c) a state or national park or forest; or
 - (d) a lake or river.

8. If annexed will we be Aiken County?

No, annexation does not change county lines

9. Is this a done deal?

There is no "deal" involved. The City of North Augusta has said they are not aggressively annexing but will consider annexing anyone who comes to them.

10. Is the ECWSA, working with North Augusta on an EPA grant?

Administrator John Hare with Edgefield County Water Sewer Authority states, "ECWSA is not currently working on any joint grant projects with the City of North Augusta. We did cooperate with the City in the early 2000's on a grant to eliminate a bottle neck in the Regional Sewer system that would ultimately increase capacity in the system."

11. Where did the annexation of Merriwether start and when?

North Augusta has annexed several large parcels in the Merriwether area. These annexations occurred in 1986, 1989, 1994, and 2016

12. Why does NA want to annex portions of Edgefield County?

The property owners of large tracts of land typically request annexation from North Augusta in order to get sewer service which allows for a higher density of residential house to be developed. Also some areas in the Merriwether area do not perk adequately and therefore septic systems for residential property are not available.

13. Why does the Edgefield County Council not invest more resources in Merriwether such as recreation/stormwater/sewer etc.?

In 2012 Edgefield County Council entered into an agreement where sewer service would be brought to the North Augusta Country Club which was going to be developed. The developer did not proceed with the development so there was not a need for the sewer line.

Edgefield County has also worked with ECWSA on proposing other projects to developers where the County and Authority would jointly bring sewer service to the area. However, none of the potential developers decided to pursue the project. Edgefield County Council will continue to look for opportunities to partner with ECWSA.

In 2015 Edgefield County completed the reconstruction of the Sweetwater Community Center. In June 2015 they entered into an agreement with the Mount Vintage developer on completing the roads and infrastructure.

The Edgefield County Sheriff's Department also maintains a Sheriff's Department substation and Edgefield County EMS maintains and EMS substation in the Merriwether area.

14. Does the map represent annexation?

The map shows those areas of Edgefield County that are already in the city limits of North Augusta.

15. For those of us owning farmland, why would we want to annex into North Augusta and pay more taxes?

Typically farmland is not annexed until it is ready to be developed for some other use.

16. What is the process for annexation especially concerning the school notification, Planning Commission and County Council?

See #3 above.

17. Is North Augusta required to provide sewer when annexing property in Edgefield County?

Sewer is usually the reason that property requests annexation. However, a property owner could request annexation and not need sewer.

18. If sewer is available to a property does North Augusta require connection and for them to sign an agreement to annex?

Connection to the sewer is usually not required if the property has an operable septic tank. However, when the tank fails connection to the sewer is usually required.

In order to receive sewer service, North Augusta, like most cities, require annexation or if the property is not contiguous an agreement to annex when it becomes contiguous.

19. Is Natural Gas available in the Merriweather area and how do the citizens petition to receive it?

According to SCE&G they are committed to providing natural gas service to communities in their service territory where they can. They use an established process to carefully evaluate each natural gas service growth opportunity. Some of the factors that help determine whether natural gas expansion is right for a community include: proximity to existing natural gas pipelines, interest among local homeowners and businesses, and the cost of adding or extending natural gas infrastructure. SCE&G's comprehensive approach helps ensure that clean, safe natural gas is available in as many communities as possible. For questions about natural gas service, please call SCE&G at 800-251-7234.