



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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www.kingcounty.gov

November 2011

Dear Residents of Eastgate, Tamara Hills, and Hilltop and Horizon View:

King County supports the proposed South Bellevue annexation. Here are some of the reasons for this support:

- Eastgate, Tamara Hills, Hilltop and Horizon View are part of the City of Bellevue's South Bellevue potential annexation area (PAA). These islands of unincorporated King County are entirely surrounded by Bellevue. As you can imagine, providing local services in areas that are surrounded by a city is a challenging undertaking.
- The ongoing economic downturn and a large reduction in gas tax revenues means that King County cannot maintain current service levels in urban unincorporated areas of the county. For example, King County Roads has adopted a tiered service model that will set priorities for future road investment. Unfortunately, we are at a point in time where not all unincorporated area roads will receive the same level of service. Eastgate is affected by this tiered system. Most roads in the South Bellevue PAAs are classified as low-priority roadways under the new tiered service system. A map details these service levels:

<http://kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/Roads/NewServiceLevels.aspx>

- Bellevue is a high performing, resident-focused city and is reaching out to residents in your neighborhood to invite you to join their community. This is great news as cities are specifically structured to provide residents with quality urban services at a reasonable cost. Generally, cities have greater flexibility in how they spend the tax dollars they generate, and have a more appropriate local sales tax base to support local services.
- The benefits of annexation are many: lower property taxes; increased levels of essential services, direct access to city programs and services at the local level; effective land use, transportation and parks planning, and lastly annexation does not affect school district boundaries, so your neighborhood will continue to be served by your current school district.. Find out more on the City of Bellevue South Bellevue Annexation web site at:
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/south-bellevue-annexation.htm>

I strongly encourage you consider the benefits of annexation to your family and your community and to consider signing an annexation petition before the deadline to **do so before November 30, 2011.**

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King County will actively coordinate with the City of Bellevue to provide a seamless governance transfer upon a successful annexation, as we have done in many other formerly unincorporated areas. And, the County will continue to be involved with South Bellevue residents as a provider of regional services.

As always, King County is available to answer any questions you may have as we work together to ensure a smooth governance transition, should residents choose annexation.

Please feel free to contact Karen Ann Freeman, project manager for the County's participation in the City of Bellevue's South Bellevue Annexation. Ms. Freeman can be contacted at 206-263-9697 or via email at: Karen.Freeman@kingcounty.gov.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the proposal to annex to Bellevue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dow Constantine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dow Constantine
King County Executive