



City of Hoonah

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Borough Formation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the City of Hoonah pursuing forming a borough government?

A: The City of Hoonah maintains the position that proactive formation of a Borough with proper strategic boundary alignment is in the community of Hoonah's best interest now and into the future, particularly for sustainability of the Hoonah School District. Federal and State funding sources for the District continues to shrink, but the need to fund our local contribution as much as possible and supplement other funding sources is paramount to the District's success. The City government is limited to its corporate boundaries to generate revenue and both additional sales tax and property tax are not viewed as a favorable means to raise more money for the school at this time.

In forming a borough and expanding corporate boundaries to include land and water resources far beyond Hoonah City limits, this will

The City is not seeking to add an additional layer of government or add any additional services or government positions from this process. If approved, the City of Hoonah would transition to a unified borough government, for example the City of Hoonah would become the City and Borough of Hoonah. The government office locations and employees would remain the same.

Q: I am concerned that if a borough government is formed, it will impose property tax on my property in Hoonah. Is this true?

A: It is true that taxation of property is within the authority of a borough government, it is also within the authority of the City of Hoonah government now. However, the proposed borough government will not include taxation of real property as a means to fund government services. The revenue sources that have funded the City of Hoonah government will continue as they are within the corporate boundaries of Hoonah, and additional revenues will be raised through taxation of other resources and commerce primarily tied to commercial fishing grounds that would be included within the Hoonah borough boundaries.

Q: Will the registered voters of Hoonah be involved in deciding whether to form a borough government for Hoonah?

A: Yes, absolutely. Once the petition to form a borough is approved by the State of Alaska Local Boundary Commission, registered voters will have the opportunity to vote in a special election to decide whether to move forward with forming a borough government.

Q: Would other communities and their school districts from around the region be a part of the borough too?

A: Throughout 2018, the City of Hoonah reached out and travelled to surrounding communities not already in a borough including: Kake, Angoon, Gustavus, Tenakee, and Pelican and none of these communities were interested in moving forward with Hoonah to form a borough together. Therefore, the City of Hoonah is moving forward without these organized communities and their schools. The borough boundaries will include the non-incorporated communities of Game Creek/Mt. Bether and Elfin Cove.

Q: How can I stay informed and get involved in the Borough Formation process?

A: For more information, please stop by City Hall or go to the City of Hoonah website at www.cityofhoonah.org for more information on the Borough Petition and exhibits.