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**The Possibility of Hostile Annexation by Adjoining Borough:  
Answers to Basic Questions**

**Q: If the Xunaa Borough is not incorporated, could neighboring boroughs annex lands within that proposed borough (*i.e. northern Chichagof Island, Glacier Bay or Funter Bay*)?**

**A: Yes**, if the Local Boundary Commission (the “Commission”) finds that the proposed annexation meets the standards in state statute and regulation. 3 AAC 110.160-210.

**Q: Would Hoonah voters have any role in the annexation decision if the City of Hoonah was not included in the annexation proposal.**

**A: No**, other than their ability to offer public comments to the same extent as any member of the public.

**Q: Would Hoonah voters have any role in the annexation decision if the City of Hoonah was included in the annexation proposal?**

**A: Probably Not.** The neighboring boroughs could petition to annex the City of Hoonah under the “local option,” in which case the voters of the City of Hoonah would need to approve the petition. AS 29.06.040(c). However, the vast majority of annexation petitions have been filed through the “legislative review” process—including the Haines Borough’s annexation of Excursion Inlet. Alaska Const., Art. X, §12; AS 29.06.040(b). Under this option, there is no local election. Instead, once approved by the Commission, the annexation is sent to the legislature, when then has 45 days to disapprove the annexation. On the 46<sup>th</sup> day, and absent a vote of disapproval from both houses of the legislature, the annexation is approved.

**Q: Could neighboring boroughs seek to annex Xunaa Borough territory even if the Xunaa Borough is approved?**

**A: Hostile Annexation would be more difficult once the Xunaa Borough is formed.** Such a petition would require the neighboring borough to petition for both the detachment of the target territory from the Xunaa Borough and its annexation by the competing borough. “Detachment” has its own standards, creating another hurdle that would not be present if only the “annexation” standards were involved. 3 AAC 110.273.