



Benefits of Annexation Reform

Budget crunches, the need to slow climate change and the need to clean the state's lakes and rivers are all compelling reasons to support annexation reform in 2009. Annexation reform will:

PROMOTE EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT.

State and local governments and their taxpayers can't afford the high cost of poor planning, which leads to duplicative services and excessive public infrastructure needs.

PROMOTE FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAX BURDENS.

Township residents use city services but pay 3/4 – 2/3 less in taxes than city residents.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OPEN SPACE.

Poorly planned, non-sewered development causes water pollution and leads to the loss and fragmentation of agricultural land and open spaces.

HELP THE STATE MEET CO₂ REDUCTION GOALS.

Land-use reform can help Minnesota attain a significant amount of its greenhouse gas reduction goal in a way that will cost significantly less than other identified ways of dealing with global warming.

How can we achieve annexation reform?

- ✓ Make energy conservation—as well as reduction of vehicle miles traveled and carbon emissions—an explicit goal of state policy and a factor in annexation decision-making.
- ✓ Expand the circumstances under which a city may pursue annexation by ordinance.
- ✓ Clarify rules governing the reimbursement of property taxes from city to township and prohibit any other forms of payment from city to town.
- ✓ Allow cities to plan, zone and develop in a growth area up to two miles outside their current boundaries.
- ✓ Clearly define “urban or suburban in character,” an important criteria used when making a determination on annexation.

What is the law?

UNDER STATE POLICY, urban development is to take place in cities while townships are to administer rural and agricultural areas. These goals, however, have been eroded due to unrestrained development in unincorporated areas.

(Minn. Stat. 414.01)

The Legislature needs to pass legislation that upholds its policy of urban development taking place in cities with townships remaining rural. The CGMC annexation reform proposal will accomplish this goal.



To learn more, visit www.greatermncities.org/annexation