



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ANNEXATION

### 1. Under what authority is my property being annexed?

Under Illinois State law, municipalities are permitted to annex areas that are less than 60 acres and completely surrounded by one or more municipalities. Annexation does not require consent of the property owners.

### 2. Why is the Village annexing my property?

There are several unincorporated areas contiguous to Village boundaries which exist in small pockets and create gaps in service delivery. Road maintenance, emergency response and other services are handled by different entities and areas of coverage often overlap between agencies. Annexing these properties will ensure that services are provided in an efficient manner and paid for equitably by those who benefit from them.

### 3. Will my property taxes be affected by this annexation?

**Yes.** A tax bill paid by residents of the Village of Downers Grove will show some line items not seen before, while others on your current tax bill may be removed. The net effect will be that a property with a market value of \$300,000 will pay anywhere from \$100 to \$125 more.

*(See the enclosed sample tax bill for your current taxing district for comparison.)*

Below is an example of line items from a Downers Grove tax bill paid by residents in 2011 (for the year 2010).

**In this example, the assessed value of \$100,000 is used.**

1. **Village of Downers Grove (except fire)**  
\$100,000 (value) divided by 100 x .2705 (rate) = **\$270.50**
2. **Village of Downers Grove Fire Fund**  
\$100,000 (value) divided by 100 x .1205 (rate) = **\$120.50**
3. **Pension Fund** *(for police and fire.)*  
\$100,000 (value) divided by 100 x .1715 (rate) = **\$171.50**
4. **Downers Grove Library**  
\$100,000 (value) divided by 100 x .1966 (rate) = **\$196.60**

4. **If my property is currently served by a Fire Protection District (FPD), will I be required to continue paying property taxes to the FPD, as well as to the Village of Downers Grove for this service?**

If your Fire Protection District has a debt service, you are required under State law to continue to pay a portion of the property taxes to this District. Once the debt service is retired, you will only pay taxes to the Village of Downers Grove for fire protection at the rate noted.

5. **Will I continue to pay the annual out-of-district library fee?**

No. The property taxes paid to the Downers Grove Library cover this cost.

6. **Will my property be annexed to the Downers Grove Park District?**

The Park District is aware of the Village's plans to annex these properties and will, in general, annex them into the Park District under separate proceedings. In rare instances, some of the annexed properties may already be annexed into the Park District boundaries.

If you have questions regarding park district services, contact the Downers Grove Park District at (630) 963-1304.

7. **Who will be responsible for maintaining roads and rights-of-way?**

The Village of Downers Grove is responsible for maintaining public roads and rights-of-way within its jurisdictional boundaries, including snow removal.

8. **Who do I call for emergency services?**

As always, call 9-1-1 for emergencies. The Downers Grove Police and/or Fire Department will respond to your emergency.

9. **Will I be required to comply with Village property maintenance codes and ordinances?**

**Yes.** Chapter 7.1401-1403 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code establishes the 2006 International Property Maintenance Code (with amendments) to protect property values and ensure that structures and dwellings meet local, state and national safety standards. Property maintenance standards enforced by the Village differ from DuPage County.

The *Downers Grove Municipal Code* can be found on the Village website, [www.downers.us](http://www.downers.us). Hard copies are also available at the Library and with the Village Clerk's office.

10. **Will my zoning classification or address change?**

Upon annexation, properties will default to an R-1 (Single Family Residential) zoning, the most restrictive of all zoning classes. At a later date, properties may be re-zoned to a classification that more accurately reflects the property's size and physical characteristics. (See Chapter 28 Zoning of the *Downers Grove Municipal Code*.)

The majority of properties will keep their current address.