

City of Scottsdale Annexation Policy and Criteria

In annexation decisions, it's vital to weigh the practical implications and costs of providing services to the proposed area. While the annexation of new territory may mean additional state-shared revenue, the additional revenue to be gained must be compared to the necessary expenditures associated with providing services to the annexed area.

Consequently, Scottsdale's annexation criteria aim to establish clear standards for assessing whether annexation aligns with the community's long-term interests and outlines expectations for property owners seeking annexation. The criteria have been established to ensure any potential annexation proposal is carefully considered and managed appropriately. Although Arizona Revised Statutes govern the annexation process, each entity can develop its own criteria for evaluating annexation proposals.

The criteria described below represents Scottsdale's most significant annexation considerations of equal importance.

The city will evaluate the following criteria to determine whether it is beneficial to annex an area either at the time of evaluation, or at some point in the future:

Criterion No. 1 (Community Policy)

Compatibility with the city's adopted General Plan.

Criterion No. 2 (Water)

Whether the annexed property can provide/commit a 100-year sustainable and accessible water supply, in an acceptable form, to the City.

Criterion No. 3 (Regional)

Long-term desirability of the proposed annexation area for purposes of master planning and/or building regional solutions to address flooding, circulation, water, sewer, and public safety challenges.

Criterion No. 4 (Character)

The historical, ecological, and community importance of the annexation area and any potential impacts on community character via the consideration of:

- Scottsdale's southwestern, Sonoran Desert characteristics such as climate, native plants, topography, and history/culture.
- Connection and sensitivity to surrounding landforms, land uses, and transportation corridors.
- Sensitive integration into established neighborhood character.
- Contributions to citywide linkages of open space, Growth and Activity Areas.
- Creation of new or reinvention of the existing character of an area, when necessary.

- Visual and physical access to public settings, significant natural features, and neighboring properties.
- Sensitivity to the natural environment, including the provision of Natural Area Open Space in required areas.

Criterion No. 5 (Zoning)

The ability of the city to initially adopt zoning classifications that permit densities and uses not greater than those permitted by the county immediately before annexation.

Criterion No. 6 (Connection to City Service)

The ability for the annexed area to pay all costs to extend and/or improve infrastructure to city construction standards.

Criterion No. 7 (Cost Of City Service)

Ability of the city to provide basic services (i.e. public safety services, sanitation services, etc.) to the annexed area in a timely manner, with acceptable revenue-to-cost ratio over time.

Criterion No. 8 (Prioritization)

The ability to maximize the long-term benefits of annexation through careful determination of which areas could be annexed and the optimum timing for annexation and development. The city will not support development within the annexed area ahead of the development of vacant lands currently within the city that are near or adjacent to the annexed area.

Criterion No. 9 (Economic Analysis)

The city may require a financial impact analysis of the annexed area. The level of analysis details and content may vary with the intensity or complexity of the proposed annexation. The purpose of the analysis is:

- To analyze the potential financial impacts of annexation on city facilities and services, and
- To estimate revenues from local sales taxes, state-shared revenues, and other fees

The financial impact analysis must develop growth projections, assess market issues, measure existing demand for county services, and project future costs of services.