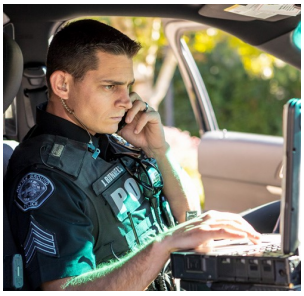
THE CITY OF
Battle Ground
WASHINGTON

April 2019
NEWSLETTER

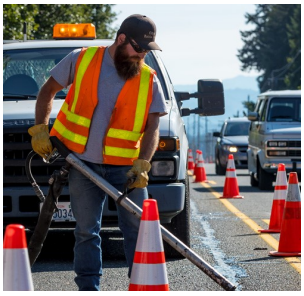
www.cityofbg.org | 360-342-5000


Police


Parks & Recreation


Community Development


Fire/EMS


Public Works

Watch your mailbox the week of April 8!

We are sending a survey to get input from city residents on the idea of annexing to Fire District 3.

APRIL 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

What does it mean to annex into Fire District 3?

The area within the city limits becomes part of Fire District 3's jurisdiction. City of Battle Ground residents would be within the fire district and pay for fire/EMS services directly to the fire district.

Doesn't the city already provide fire/EMS?

Unlike other Clark County cities, Battle Ground does not have its own fire department nor are we part of a fire district. The city contracts with Fire District 3 to provide services within the city. The current contract expires in 2021 and must be renegotiated, typically every 5 - 6 years.



What is the cost of the Fire/EMS contract?

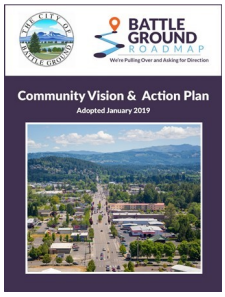
This year, nearly $3 million - 21% of the city's general fund. The general fund is also obligated to pay for other city services such as police, parks and recreation, community development (planning, building, code compliance), and public works (streets and public facilities).

With 21% of funds tied to the fire/EMS contract, the city has fewer resources and flexibility to fund other public safety services, ongoing maintenance projects, or planned investments that make Battle Ground a desirable place to live.

Why consider annexation into a fire district?

- Sustainability of fire/EMS services; no more contracts that need to be renegotiated at the risk of lower service levels.
- It is considerably less expensive than the city developing its own fire department; a volunteer department is simply out of the question for a city the size of Battle Ground.
- To help fund public safety services, maintenance projects and other priorities identified by the community.

Community focused priorities



More than 2,000 residents participated in last year's Roadmap visioning survey. Results show that residents are seeking additional city investment in parks and trails, revitalization of the downtown core, and planning that will relieve traffic congestion and lay a foundation for the future. Visit cityofbg.org/BG-Roadmap for details.

Value for your tax dollar

Battle Ground has the lowest combined tax rate of any city in Clark County (see back page). This prevents us from being able to invest in what the community is asking for.

In an effort to stretch resources we rebid the emergency services contract (awarding it to Fire District 3); laid off employees, cut office hours and services; and have deferred maintenance on parks, streets and public facilities.

While we have held the line on public spending, demand for services is exceeding available revenue and we are losing ground quickly unless a change is made. Annexation into Fire District 3 would maintain our excellent fire/EMS service and free up city revenue to help fund police services; street, park and facilities maintenance; and other community priorities.

Why Fire District 3?



In 2015, the city sought new proposals for the fire/EMS contract. Fire District 3's proposal provided for additional staffing and services for less cost than the previous contract.

In January of 2016, Fire District 3 began serving the citizens of Battle Ground. Response times have improved, resources are used more efficiently, and they have demonstrated a strong, personal commitment to the city and its residents. Annexation would finalize this beneficial partnership.

Your input is needed

Watch for the fire/EMS survey to arrive in the mail next week; please complete and return it in the envelope provided no later than April 26. Thank you for participating.

Survey results will be published mid to late May on the city's website at www.cityofbg.org and we will keep you informed of next steps.

In Battle Ground, city services are supported by the property, sales, and utility tax you pay.

City Property Tax

As a City of Battle Ground resident, only a portion (18% in 2019) of the total property tax you pay is distributed to the city to pay for city services. See details at www.cityofbg.org/tax-info.

Fire/EMS Property Tax

Unlike other cities, Battle Ground does not have its own Fire Department, nor do citizens reside in a fire district. City of Battle Ground residents do not pay a fire/EMS property tax. The city provides fire/EMS services through a contract that is paid out of the general fund - the same fund obligated to pay for other city services.

Utility Tax

City of Battle Ground residents pay a 22% tax on city utilities. Other cities have their own specific rates - some more, some less. 100% of the utility tax you pay is allocated to the city's general fund to support city services.

Sales Tax

Each city in Clark County uses sales tax revenue to pay for services. Only 10% of the sales tax collected is distributed back to the city where it was paid. Sales tax is not included in this comparison because each city collects the same rate, and because residents often shop beyond the city in which they reside.

Transportation Benefit District

City of Battle Ground residents also pay an annual $20 TBD fee per vehicle. The TBD fee is not included in this comparison because the revenue is dedicated to transportation infrastructure projects only and cannot be used for other city services such as police or fire/EMS. Annual TBD revenue is approximately $270,000 a year.

To learn more about the taxes you pay visit: **www.cityofbg.org/tax-info**.

The Taxes

The graph and table below illustrate the type and level of taxes paid by residents of various Clark County cities for like services.

Each city/jurisdiction uses its own individual tax model and rates to collect revenue that pay for services. To provide a valid apples-to-apples tax comparison, we look at the *combined* taxes a resident pays in each city/jurisdiction.

The Services

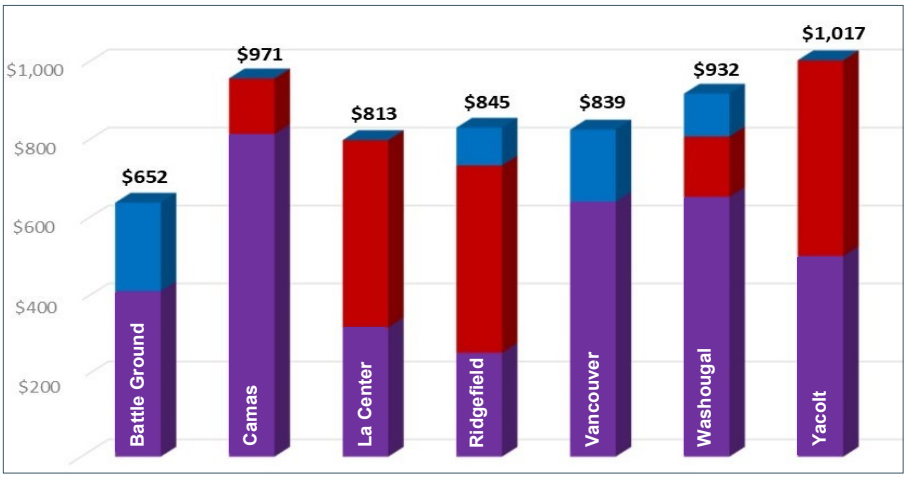
- **Police**
- **Fire/EMS**
- **Parks & Recreation**
- **Community Development**
  Planning | Building | Code Compliance
- **Public Works**
  Streets | Engineering | Facilities

The Resident Profile

We've used a specific resident profile, but any profile can be applied.

- **Homeowner with property assessed at $310,000**
  (per Clark County Assessor's Office)
- **Average User of City Utilities**
  (Water-8 units; Sewer-6 units; Stormwater Drainage)

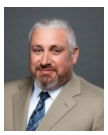
The Comparison

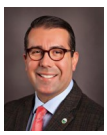


CITY Jurisdiction	CITY Property Tax		FIRE/EMS Property Tax		CITY-OWNED UTILITY TAX water, sewer, stormwater drainage			ANNUAL TOTAL
⇩	Levy Rate	Total Annual Tax	Levy Rate	Total Annual Tax	Annual Cost of Utilities	Utility Tax Rate	Total Annual Tax	⇩
Battle Ground	1.37	$425	0	$0	$1,031	22%	$227	$652
Camas	2.67	$828	.46	$143	$1,043	0	$0	$971
La Center	1.07	$332	1.55	$481	$1,138	0	$0	$813
Ridgefield	.86	$267	1.55	$481	$1,153	8% Water 10% Sewer	$97	$845
Vancouver	2.11	$654	0	$0	$677	27.3%	$185	$839
Washougal	2.15	$667	.50	$155	$1,341	10% Water 9.23% Sewer	$110	$932
Yacolt	1.66	$515	1.62	$502	N/A—Town of Yacolt does not provide utilities			$1,017

Sources: City & Fire/ EMS property taxes: *https://www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/treasurer/tax-levies/levy-rates-2019.pdf* | City Utility Taxes: *individual cities' municipal codes*


Mayor Dalesandro
mike.dalesandro@cityofbg.org


Deputy Mayor Bowman
shane.bowman@cityofbg.org


Councilor Cortes
adrian.cortes@cityofbg.org


Councilor DesRochers
cherish.desrochers@cityofbg.org


Councilor Johnson
philip.johnson@cityofbg.org


Councilor Munson
brian.munson@cityofbg.org


Councilor Phelps
steven.phelps@cityofbg.org

The City of Battle Ground complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and related statues in programs and activities provided. For more information, visit www.cityofbg.org/66/Administrative-Services-City-Clerk.