



Seattle City Council

Divided Report for Resolution 31283

Establishing a deadline for the City Council to determine whether to hold an annexation election in North Highline

On March 18, 2011, the Regional Development and Sustainability Committee voted 2-1 in favor of passage of Resolution 31283. This resolution, which is a substitute, would commit the City Council to making a decision on whether to hold an annexation election in North Highline by February 28, 2012. Councilmembers Conlin and O'Brien voted in favor. Councilmember Godden voted against.

Report by Majority (Conlin, O'Brien)

We voted to recommend passage of Resolution 31283 for the following reasons:

- We support the annexation of North Highline by Seattle. We believe it is a good fit for Seattle and that Seattle can, in fact, afford to provide services in the area. Unfortunately, we understand our colleagues are concerned about the cost of annexation and need more time to make a decision. This resolution would provide additional time for the City but would commit us to making a decision no later than February 28, 2012.
- The City of Tukwila has designated a PAA in its comprehensive plan that overlaps with a portion of Seattle's North Highline PAA. It would be helpful to work out any conflicts with Tukwila over the area in question prior to Seattle passing a Notice of Intent to Annex resolution.
- We are also concerned about Seattle's fiscal situation and hope that the City will have greater certainty in early 2012 about the City's future financial health.

Report by Minority (Godden)

The City Council has actively considered this issue on and off for years. For many of those years, I supported keeping Seattle's options open regarding the potential annexation of North Highline. Unfortunately, I don't think that, at this time, Seattle can afford to annex the area without compromising current City service levels. Therefore, I voted against a substitute resolution that delays a Council decision on this issue as I don't envision Seattle's budget will dramatically improve in the interim. I oppose further stalling for the following reasons:

- The City Council committed to making a decision in 2011 and, I believe, should stick with its commitment. The 2011 deadline to make a decision is consistent with an understanding between Seattle and Burien that was never formally approved but has been followed "in good faith." This resolution would violate the good faith aspect of our informal agreement with Burien.

City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2, PO Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025
(206) 684-8888, Fax: (206) 684-8587, TTY: (206) 233-0025,

E-Mail Address: council@seattle.gov Internet Address: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/council>
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- It's wrong to continue to keep residents of North Highline in limbo and it's unfair to pretend it is okay to block anyone else from making progress on this issue simply because we cannot make up our minds. The residents of North Highline deserve better. Postponing a decision indefinitely is not a fair course of action.
- State statutes allow either Seattle or Burien to access \$5 million in sales tax revenue to help pay for annexation costs, but this offer is only good until 2015. By further delaying our decision, we risk losing the tax credit, not only for Seattle but for Burien as well.
- The City Council has amassed much of the information it needs to make a decision. We know annexation will cost millions of dollars. We can disagree over the order of magnitude and quibble over the exact bottom line, but we will never have irrefutable information on costs and we must make a decision based on the best available estimates. It is unlikely additional information will surface between now and February or that our budget situation will dramatically improve in that time frame.
- If, after years of study, we are still unable to commit, we need to get out of the way and clear the path for a potential annexation by the City of Burien. An annexation by the City of Burien may make more sense for the people of North Highline. The City of Burien currently shares many of the same Special Service Districts with North Highline, it has the same school district and library district, and transition to Burien may prove less disruptive than if Seattle tried to annex the area.

Because we have had this gentle person's agreement with Burien, that city has faithfully kept hands off until now. At this point, I would see no reason for Burien not to step up and take steps to annex North Highline as they best see fit.

Green
RD 31283
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RESOLUTION _____

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A RESOLUTION stating the intent of the City of Seattle to make a decision by February 2012 whether to call for the annexation, by election, of contiguous unincorporated territory to the City of Seattle, referenced as the North Highline Annexation Area, and stating the City's intent to withdraw its designation of this area as a Potential Annexation Area in the City's Comprehensive Plan if a decision is made not to hold an annexation election in 2012.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act and the King County Countywide Planning Policies encourage transition of unincorporated urban and urbanized areas within Potential Annexation Areas from county governance to city governance; and

WHEREAS, the North Highline Annexation Area is within the City of Seattle's Potential Annexation Area adopted pursuant to Seattle City Council Ordinance 122313; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that, based on current information, it may be in the best interest and general welfare of the City of Seattle and the North Highline Annexation Area to annex certain unincorporated territory lying generally south of the existing City of Seattle corporate boundary, referenced as the North Highline Annexation Area and shown on Exhibit A to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tukwila has requested the City of Seattle meet to discuss its overlapping Potential Annexation Area with Tukwila, which may impact Seattle's ability to adhere to the necessary timeline for a November 2011 annexation election; and

WHEREAS, the City is faced with significant financial challenges and it is difficult for the City to commit to providing the appropriate level of services for the North Highline Annexation Area if the City proceeds with annexation at this time; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is not intended to block or obstruct the City of Burien from pursuing annexation of that portion of the North Highline Area designated by Burien as a Potential Annexation Area, should the City of Burien decide to do so at any time; and

WHEREAS, the City has an obligation to the people in the North Highline Annexation Area to reduce the uncertainty about their future and it is committed to making a decision in February 2012; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

RESOLUTION

1
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3 whether to call for the annexation, by election, of contiguous unincorporated territory to
4 the City of Seattle, referenced as the North Highline Annexation Area, and stating the
5 City's intent to withdraw its designation of this area as a Potential Annexation Area in the
6 City's Comprehensive Plan if a decision is made not to hold an annexation election in
7 2012.

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19 Potential Annexation Area with Tukwila, which may impact Seattle's ability to adhere to
20 the necessary timeline for a November 2011 annexation election; and

21 WHEREAS, the City is faced with significant financial challenges and it is difficult for the City
22 to commit to providing the appropriate level of services for the North Highline
23 Annexation Area if the City proceeds with annexation at this time; and

24 WHEREAS, the City has an obligation to the people in the North Highline Annexation Area to
25 reduce the uncertainty about their future and it is committed to making a decision in
26 February 2012; NOW, THEREFORE,

27 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
28 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

Section 1. The best interest and general welfare of the City of Seattle may be served by
the annexation of contiguous unincorporated territory to the City of Seattle, referenced as the
North Highline Annexation Area and shown on Exhibit A to this resolution.

1 Section 2. The City of Seattle shall meet with the City of Tukwila to discuss its
2 overlapping Potential Annexation Area.

3 Section 3. The City Council requests the Executive to verify its financial projections and
4 submit an updated financial report on providing services to the North Highline Annexation Area
5 by December 31, 2011. The City Council will provide a list of questions regarding the
6 Executive's report submitted on January 18, 2011, *Analysis of the Potential Annexation of North*
7 *Highline into the City of Seattle* by April 30, 2011.
8

9 Section 4. The City Council commits to making a final decision as to whether to proceed
10 with an annexation election by February 28, 2012 and to withdraw its Potential Annexation Area
11 designation if it decides not to proceed with an annexation election in the North Highline
12 Annexation Area in 2012.
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14 Section 5. If the City of Burien chooses to sponsor an annexation election in
15 2011, it is the intent of the City Council that the City will not object or stand in the way.

16 Section 6. If the City of Burien does not sponsor a 2011 election or is not
17 successful in a 2011 election, it is the intent of the City Council that the City of Seattle will
18 consult with the City of Burien to coordinate activities in 2012.
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Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2011, and
signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
of _____, 2011.

President _____ of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

City Clerk

(Seal)

Exhibit A: Map of North Highline Annexation Area

#3

Valles, C
Anne Decision
March 18, 2011
Version #2

RESOLUTION 31283

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WHEREAS, the City has an obligation to the people in the North Highline Annexation Area to reduce the uncertainty about their future and it is committed to making a decision in February 2012; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

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9 Section 4. The City Council commits to making a final decision as to whether to proceed
10 with an annexation election by February 28, 2012 and to withdraw its Potential Annexation Area
11 designation if it decides not to proceed with an annexation election in the North Highline
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13
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15 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
16 of _____, 2011.

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18 _____
19 President _____ of the City Council

20 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

21 _____
22 Michael McGinn, Mayor

23 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

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25 _____
26 City Clerk

27 (Seal)

28 Exhibit A: Map of North Highline Annexation Area

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Christa Valles/45336	

Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION stating the intent of the City of Seattle to make a decision by February 2012 whether to call for the annexation, by election, of contiguous unincorporated territory to the City of Seattle, referenced as the North Highline Annexation Area, and stating the City's intent to withdraw its designation of this area as a Potential Annexation Area in the City's Comprehensive Plan if a decision is made not to hold an annexation election in 2012.

Summary of the Legislation:

This resolution would delay a decision on whether to hold an annexation election in North Highline until February 2012.

Background: Seattle designated North Highline a potential annexation area in 2006, along with the City of Burien. Burien annexed the southern portion of North Highline in 2010 but agreed to allow Seattle to pursue annexation of the northern portion, without interference from Burien, through the end of 2011. The City of Seattle, by approving this resolution, will be delaying its decision until February 2012.

X This legislation does not have financial implications.

This resolution does not have fiscal implications.

