

*Would a formal poll by the city or by the subdivisions provide some reality training for the city administration before they proceed?*

At this time a poll would be premature. The July 14, 2011 report examined 30 different areas for annexation and examined multiple scenarios for providing basic City services. Before a meaningful poll can be conducted, the City must first determine the boundaries of the area of annexation interest and what, how, and when municipal services would be offered to residents in that area.

*Why does Muscatine propose annexing north of Highway 61 every few years (other than revenue which, as you said, is not a valid reason)? The city spends city resources and has so far accomplished nothing. Why do they keep coming back?*

As is standard in the State of Iowa, the City of Muscatine's land use planning functions do not stop at the city limits. Land use and development in areas directly adjacent to a city can greatly impact a city. For this reason the City of Muscatine's Comprehensive Plan covers the City of Muscatine and areas that are within two miles of the city limits to ensure the compatibility of land use on both sides of the city limit line. The Comprehensive Plan also calls for the periodic review of annexation options in these areas to see if changing conditions have made annexation the best option for the City to ensure that land use in this area remains beneficial to the City.

*Has the city considered what involuntary annexation would do to the annexed people? Has the city considered what involuntary annexation as presented by Andrew looks like to the annexed residents?*

Annexation is a long process. The initial step is determining if it is in the best interest of the City to pursue annexation. This is the determination that the City of Muscatine is currently working to make. How it would impact residents is also a critical question and one the City Development Board requires an answer for. However, before further City resources are committed to studying annexation, the question of its financial viability must be answered. If there is interest in annexation once this question is answered, the impact of annexation on residents of annexed areas would be one of the next steps taken.

*The city would provide garbage and recycle services ILO the current private providers, city police ILO County and Muscatine Fire and rescue ILO Wilton. As you said, no services for sewers (except possibly sewer mains to the subdivisions), nothing for road maintenance or construction and nothing for snow removal. And, as you said, adding roads and sewers makes your payback time exponentially larger or never.*

The report presented on July 14, 2011 did include all costs for maintaining all public roads in any annexed area. Capital costs associated with the City taking over private streets and the extension of City sewer into existing subdivisions would be significant and would lengthen the amount of time it would take for the City to recover capital costs but would not in all cases lengthen it exponentially or create situations in which capital costs are recovered. If interest is shown in these types of infrastructure improvements, they would be studied in detail.

*I expect that higher taxes and infrastructure costs would reduce home values considerably and make selling difficult or impossible.*

Research on the effect of annexation on the property values of existing residential development indicates that it has a neutral to slightly positive impact on property values.

*Would you repeat what you said about restrictions on what police can do because our roads are private property?*

City police cannot enforce traffic rules, such speed limits, etc. on private roads. They can however use them to respond to a call for service.