

Getting the Most from The City of Columbia

If you are close to the City boundary and in an urban (or urbanizing) area, annexation may help you receive high quality urban services in the most affordable way possible.

Cost Effective + City Services

Many save money when they annex - and our goal is to provide YOU with high quality municipal services, efficiently, effectively, and responsively.

What is Annexation?

Annexation is how the City of Columbia, or any city or town, extends and increases its corporate limits. Individual property owners or communities may petition for annexation if they are contiguous, or adjacent to, the boundaries of the City of Columbia.

How do I Annex?

To request annexation, you simply need to contact the Annexation Coordinator at annexation@columbiasc.gov or (803) 545-3217, who can help you determine if you are eligible for annexation and will work with you to generate a petition for you to sign. If you have neighbors also interested in annexation, ask about a group petition.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions or comments, we encourage you to contact us for specific information

WWW.COLUMBIASC.GOV/ANNEXATION

803.545.3217

ANNEXATION@COLUMBIASC.GOV



Department of

Planning & Development Services

1401 Main Street

P.O. Box 147

Columbia, SC 29217

November 2025



Annexation

City Services + Savings
for your Home

Owner-Occupied Single Family Homes

Will Annexing Change My Schools?

No. School districts are separate legal entities, and their boundaries are unaffected by annexation. Likewise, school attendance zones are set by your school district, not the City of Columbia. There are three school districts within the City of Columbia – Richland One, Richland Two, and Lexington-Richland Five.

Will I have to pay two tax bills if I annex?

No, you pay your property tax bill the same way you always have. The bill will include City taxes along with the other taxes you pay for County-wide services. Also, because the City of Columbia includes garbage, recycling, and yard trash pickup as a basic residential service, you will no longer be charged the \$399.46 per residence annual solid waste fee (2025 tax year) that is included on tax bills in areas outside the City limits – meaning that your tax bill will probably go down.

Will annexation change the zoning of my property?

In most cases, the zoning district of newly annexed land will be similar to the zoning district prior to annexation. However, the City of Columbia, Richland County, and Lexington County all have different Zoning Ordinances, so in this sense all annexations result in a rezoning, also known as a zoning map amendment. If you have specific questions or plans for your property, please contact us for a consultation about zoning and land use classification for your property.



How does annexation save you money?

Homeowners save

\$399

by eliminating the solid waste fee for residential properties



Save on Water and Sewer:

30 - 40%

Approximate bill reduction for residential properties

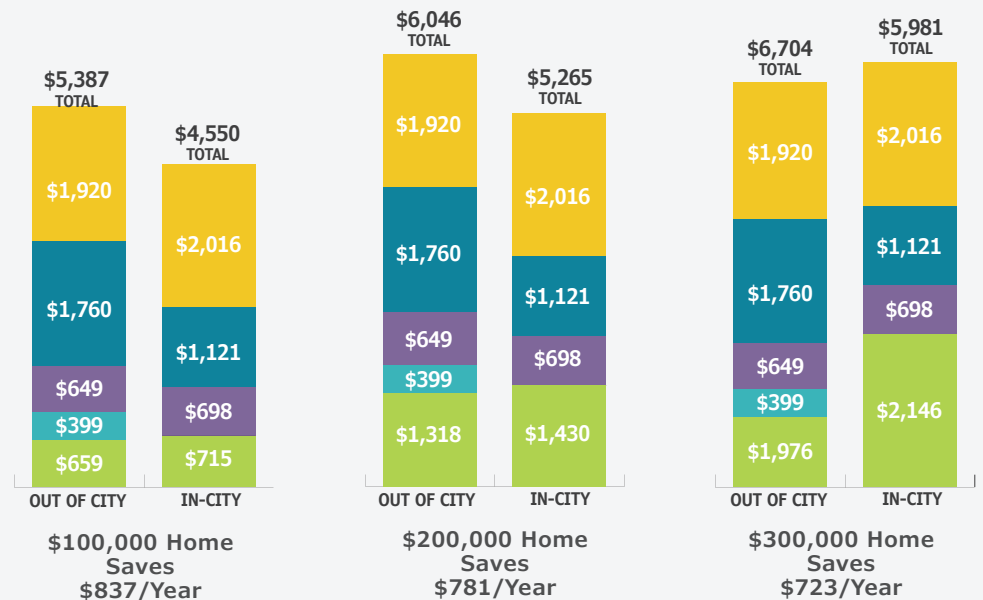
Residential Out-of-City **\$1,760 / Year**

Residential In-City **\$1,121 / Year**

Annual Savings

In-City vs. Out-of-City

- ANNUAL ELECTRIC & GAS BILL
- ANNUAL WATER & SEWER BILL
- VEHICLE TAX
- SOLID WASTE FEE
- REAL ESTATE TAX



The examples above are based upon the most recent tax year (2025) and assumes the average residential water & sewer use (8 units/month), \$25,000 vehicle value, and an average \$160 monthly electric & gas bill. Every homeowner is different - to learn how your unique circumstances would be affected by annexation, contact staff or visit columbiasc.gov/annexation.