



## Incorporation Process

### Update 15

**Date:** May 1, 2026

**Item:** Next Steps After Village Petition Dismissal by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA)

Today, the WDOA formally filed their determination to dismiss the petition for a portion of the Town to become a Village. The determination can be found at this link:

[https://doa.wi.gov/DIR/2026\\_Washington\\_WI\\_Determination.pdf](https://doa.wi.gov/DIR/2026_Washington_WI_Determination.pdf)

The Town of Washington's Board of Supervisors with strong input from its residents, is resolved to protect the future of the Town, and believes that incorporating a portion of the Town as a Village is an important component of ensuring our community can continue to thrive. The Board is now considering all options to determine next steps towards this goal. While we're disappointed that we did not receive a favorable decision from the WDOA, most village incorporation processes take more than one attempt. We knew that when we started this process and will move forward towards success for our community.

One common question to address in the meantime: Since the city said they were willing to annex the whole territory to be incorporated, can they do that now? **The City cannot take action to annex the territory in total as the City's resolution seems to imply.** They must adhere to the statutory annexation methods that have been in place; that is, the City can approve a unanimous annexation petition from a single landowner (commonly utilized) or the controversial one-half approval style annexation.

Unfortunately, we anticipate this will happen to some degree and have been advised of potential purchases/annexations of land within the Town. We would ask all Town landowners to be patient and remain committed to a successful future in Washington!