

Seeking water from the City of Marinette and the associated annexation process is being driven by interested residents in the PWSA. Neighbors have been reaching out to us as well and asking for help on some questions related to the process. We wanted to support those neighbors and provide accurate information related to the questions that have been raised.

## **FAQs**

### **City of Marinette Water that requires Annexation**

**Q: Who needs to approve annexation?**

*A: An Annexation Petition is initiated by residents. Some neighbors have recently launched such a petition process. (Annexation can also be achieved through a referendum, but that is not the process underway now.) Once a valid Annexation Petition is presented to the City of Marinette, it will require a 2/3 vote to approve by Marinette Common Council. The Council has 60 days to accept a Petition once it is presented.*

**Q: What is required to submit an annexation petition?**

*A: Petition needs to be signed by:*

- Electors, who total at least 51% of the number of people who voted in the last gubernatorial election, AND*
- Property Owners, who represent either 50% of the total property value in the proposed area, OR 50% of the acreage in the proposed area.*
- Note that an individual need not to have voted in the last gubernatorial election to sign a petition.*

**Q: How long do I have to decide whether I want to sign the petition?**

*A: Petition needs be submitted to the City of Marinette within 6 months of it being noticed in local papers. In this case, the petition was noticed at the end of September and, therefore, the petition needs to be signed by the requisite number of electors and property owners by the end of March.*

**Q: How is an elector defined?**

*A: "Electors" means every U.S. citizen aged 18 or older who is a Wisconsin resident, not merely registered or actual voters.*

*All U.S. citizens, age 18 and over, who reside in the area proposed for annexation can be allowed to sign the petition as "Electors," regardless of whether they are a registered voter or if they voted in the last gubernatorial election.*

*A renter can sign the petition as an elector. Renters may want to notify their landlords.*

*State law provides that "the residence of a person is the place where the person's habitation is fixed, without any present intent to move, and to which, when absent, the person intends to*

return.” Wis. Stat. §6.10. [Additional guidance can be found at the Wisconsin Election Commission website at <https://elections.wi.gov/>]

**Q: What about kids away at college?**

**A:** *A student attending school in another municipality would still be able to sign the petition if they continue to be a resident in the Town of Peshtigo in the area proposed for annexation. [The Wisconsin Election Commission has prepared a guide to determine residency for students, which is available at <https://elections.wi.gov/resources/brochures/student-residency-guide.>]*

**Q: Who is considered a property owner?**

**A:** *Owners of property do not need to be registered voters in Wisconsin for the acreage or value count. Everyone on the title of a property must sign the petition for the acreage and value to count, regardless of where they all live. The petition is drafted so that people identify in what capacity(ies) they are signing.*

**Q: Can I still have a well in an annexed area?**

**A:** *No, City of Marinette ordinances provide that if the City provides water and/or sewer service in your area, you must connect. You could not also have a deep water well.*

**Q: If I get municipal water – will I have to seal my well?**

*City ordinances require abandonment of all wells located on the property within a year of the hookup to City water. If annexation occurs, Tyco will cover the cost of abandoning existing wells.*

**Q: What if annexation is not successful, can I still get a deep well?**

**A:** *If for any reason annexation is not pursued, the deep well option will still be available for residents in this area.*

**Q: What costs will Tyco be covering?**

**A:** *Tyco has said since 2019 that it is committed to paying for the design and construction of a permanent clean drinking water solution for the properties in the PWSA – this includes a municipal waterline or individual deep wells.*

*In May 2020, Tyco offered to pay new/future costs incurred by property owners due to the long-term water solution. For annexation, Tyco offered an upfront payment of the net present value of 20 years of tax increases and water bills, including estimated annual increases.*

**Q: Why can't we get City of Marinette water without annexation?**

**A:** *Currently, the City of Marinette has an ordinance that requires annexation for access to city services.*

If you have any additional questions or need more information, **you can contact Tyco at 715-582-7100 or via the Contact Us form on [www.tycomarinette.com](http://www.tycomarinette.com).**