The new City of Spokane Valley is bounded on the west by the City of Spokane and on the east by the newly formed City of Liberty Lake. The proposed city’s current estimated population is 80,700 and is projected to grow to a population of 89,425 in ten years. The new city boundary encompasses about thirty-eight square miles and its boundary is shown on the map below.

The new city has a mix of urban land uses as well as rural and suburban uses. There are 420 miles of roads in the new city with approximately 60 percent of the new city sewered. It was approved by the voters for incorporation on May 21, 2002.

The next steps for the new city are critical to its long-term success: services must be provided; staff must be hired; an “interim” and first-year budget must be prepared; operating and fiscal policies must be adopted; and a working relationship with special purpose districts, other cities, and Spokane County must be developed. Open public meeting laws apply to the interim city council.

This fact sheet is one resource designed to help facilitate the transition from unincorporated Spokane County to the new City of Spokane Valley.
New City Guide

A new city must be organized, staffed, and funded to begin official operation between 180 and 360 days after voter approval of the incorporation.

Transition Period

Even before the new city council is elected, a well-organized and representative transition team can provide much of the groundwork for many of these decisions. To facilitate this process, the Boundary Review Board Office will work with Spokane Valley residents to coordinate a series of forums describing the different aspects of setting up and running a new city.

Interim Period

The “interim period” refers to the time period between the date of the certification of the results of the election at which the council is chosen and the official date of incorporation, a date which the council will choose. After the date of incorporation, this same council serves as the “interim city council” until council members elected in the next municipal general election in November 2005 take office.

Powers of the Interim Period City Council

Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions
Adoption of Contracts and Agreements
Adoption of SEPA Policies and Procedures
Borrowing Power
  • issue tax or revenue anticipation notes or warrants
  • borrow from the federal, state, and other governments
Adoption of Property Tax Levy
Acquisition of City Facilities, Equipment, and Insurance
Hiring of Staff
Ballot Propositions to Authorize Taxes
Fire Protection and/or Library District Annexation
Adoption of Development Moratoria
Adoption of Budgets

Official Date of Incorporation

Choosing the official date of incorporation is basically a process of considering which revenues the new city will receive, and when these will become available. For the City of Spokane Valley, the optimum date appears to be either February 28, 2003 or March 31, 2003. These dates take full advantage of the revenue streams that flow to the new city, allowing time for the adoption of the city’s property tax ordinance, while ensuring County road maintenance responsibility for the maximum time possible after incorporation.

For more information, please contact the Boundary Review Board Office at 477-4237 or brb@spokanecounty.org or check the BRB website: www.spokanecounty.org/boundary