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## OVERVIEW OF STUDY

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of the Spokane Valley Incorporation Study is two-fold: 1) to provide the Boundary Review Board with an analysis of factors required to be considered and objectives required to be met in making its decision on the proposal; and 2) to provide the citizens of the Spokane Valley with clear and factual information upon which to base their vote on the incorporation issue. To accomplish this, the Study includes:

- A description of each of the factors identified in RCW 36.93.180 required to be considered by the Boundary Review Board in making its decision (i.e. population and territory, municipal services, and the impact of the proposal on other governments).
- An assessment of the objectives the Board shall attempt to achieve as identified in RCW 36.93.170 (i.e. preservation of neighborhoods and communities, logical services areas, and inclusion of areas urban in character).
- An analysis of service delivery options for the new city including contracting with existing service providers, establishing new city departments, and contracting with other entities.
- A financial analysis of the proposal and possible modification areas including an estimate of revenues collected in the new city boundaries and an estimate of expenses for its first full year of operation.
- A description of other governance options available for the Spokane Valley.

The information in this Study was based on interviews and research as of July 1, 2001. The Boundary Review Board will receive additional testimony, both written and oral, during the public review period for this Study and during the public hearing process. The final decision of the Boundary Review Board will be based upon any additions or changes to the information in this Study.

### ***Study Team***

An Incorporation Study team was formed to prepare, research, and analyze the incorporation proposal. The team was composed of Susan Winchell, AICP, Director, and Michael Basinger, Planner, Boundary Review Board Office; Peter Fortin, consultant to the Boundary Review Board, who provided information on the municipal services and prepared the revenue and expenditure analysis; and Mary Jane Honegger who contributed the history of the Spokane Valley. Michael Basinger, using a GIS application, developed population figures and land use analysis for the proposal and as well as preparing the maps and graphics for the Study.

### ***Study Organization***

The “incorporation area” as referred to in this Study is the proposed incorporation boundaries within Spokane County’s Urban Growth Area (Map 2). Except where noted, population, land use, revenues, and expenses have been based on this boundary.

The Incorporation Study describes the proposed City of Spokane Valley and discusses pertinent information about the criteria that the Boundary Review Board is required to consider in making its decision. It is divided as follows:

**Part I: Incorporation Proposal** provides a background of the incorporation proposal, a description of the government proposed for the new City of Spokane Valley, an overview of the incorporation process, criteria of the Boundary Review Board, and existing conditions including population, land use by sub-areas, topography and environment.

**Part II: Spokane Valley Community** is a portrait of the Spokane Valley community including a history of development in the Valley and results of a survey of residents.

**Part III: Municipal Service Analysis** is an analysis of municipal services currently available in the Spokane Valley and anticipated if a new city is formed. In addition, the existing cost of providing services, options for service providers, and the impacts of incorporation for each service is described.

**Part IV: Revenue and Expenditure Analysis** addresses the fiscal aspects of the incorporation. This includes a proposed budget for the first full year of operation for the City of Spokane Valley and an estimate of available revenues.

**Part V: Alternatives to Incorporation** includes both governance alternatives to incorporation and modifications to the incorporation proposal.

**Part VI: Maps** includes maps of the incorporation area showing physical features, service boundaries and plans for the area.