



Item No. 46

MEMO

To: Mayor Haila and Members of City Council
From: Mark O. Lambert, City Attorney
Date: October 14, 2025
Subject: Assigning annexed territories to Wards/Precincts for election purposes

BACKGROUND:

Following an annexation, the Council needs to assign any newly annexed territories to the appropriate wards and precincts for election purposes, as required by *Code of Iowa* Section 49.8(2). State law specifies that the territories are to be assigned to a contiguous ward and precinct.

Three recent annexations need to be assigned to a ward and precinct. Those annexations are:

1. The “Borgmeyer (Greenbriar) and Other Properties Along George W. Carver and Hyde Avenues Annexation,” approved by Council Resolution #25-301 on June 10, 2025.
2. The “57258 220th Street Annexation (JT Logistics),” approved by Council Resolution #25-338 on June 25, 2025.
3. “The Iowa State Research Park Annexation,” approved by the Council Resolution #25-388 on July 22, 2025.

The Borgmeyer and 220th Street annexations were just approved by the state City Development Board on September 9, 2025, and became final as of October 10, 2025. The ISU Research Park annexation did not have to go to the City Development Board for approval. There are no residences in either the 220th Street or ISU Research Park annexations. The Borgmeyer annexation includes several residences.

The attached ordinance assigns JT Logistics/52758 220th annexation to Ward 1, Precinct 3, and the ISU Research Park annexation to Ward 1, Precinct 4.

Normally, an annexation is assigned to one ward/precinct. However, in this case, with the layout of the Borgmeyer annexation, it made sense to divide that annexation between two precincts, which is allowed by Iowa law. The attached ordinance assigns the western half of the annexation to Ward 2, Precinct 12, and the eastern half to Ward 2, Precinct 7.

Staff requests that Council suspend the rules to adopt the ordinance at one Council meeting to assure that the territories will be assigned to wards and precincts as soon as possible in advance of the upcoming City election on November 4, and so the County Auditor can timely notify the residents affected of their ward and precinct numbers and polling places prior to the election.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

State law requires that a territory annexed by the City needs to be assigned by ordinance to the appropriate ward and precinct. There is little to no discretion in the assignments since the wards and precincts must be contiguous to the newly annexed area.

These assignments need to be finalized in time for the County Auditor to notify residents of their ward/precinct numbers for the November 4, 2025, election. **Therefore, staff recommends that the Council adopt the ordinance on first reading and suspend the rules to complete all three readings at one meeting.**

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ordinance \(Wards-Precincts\).PDF](#)

[Borgmeyer Map.pdf](#)

[JT Map.pdf](#)

[ISURP Map.pdf](#)

[AmesVote.pdf](#)