

ANNEXATION BILL—SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Proposition No. 1 Mada Park District

Proposition No. 2 Vermont Hills District

Proposition No. 3 Cambridge Village District

Proposition No. 8 Sandberg's Addition, Blocks 2 to 6 inc.

Proposition No. 9 Fred Meyer District

Proposition No. 10 Sandberg's Addition, Block 7

To the Board of Governors of the City Club of Portland:

Your committee was instructed to study the proposed ordinances authorizing the annexation to the city of Portland of

(a) four areas, the residents of which voted on April 4, 1950 in favor of annexation and

(b) two areas, the residents of which have presented petitions to the City Council 100% in favor of annexation.

These areas are described as follows:

Proposition No. 1 — Mada Park District. This is an area of 42 acres adjoining the southwest district of the city, which lies immediately west of the area that was annexed in 1948. The vote in this area was 50 for and 13 against annexation.

Proposition No. 2 — Cambridge Village District. This area, comprising 190 acres, adjoins the Mada Park District on the south. The vote in this district was 73 for and 69 against annexation.

Proposition No. 3 — Vermont Hills District. This is an area of 208 acres bordering the western boundary of the Cambridge Village area and extending westward almost to the Washington County line. The vote in this district was 172 for and 53 against annexation.

Proposition No. 8 — Sandberg's Addition, Blocks 2 to 6, inclusive. This area, 42 acres in extent, adjoins the southeastern part of the city and lies between S. E. 92nd and S. E. 96th Avenues and between S. E. Washington and S. E. Salmon Streets. The vote in this district was 63 for and 12 against annexation.

Proposition No. 9 — The Fred Meyer District is an area of 34 acres in the Somerset Addition adjoining the southwestern boundary of the city. This proposition was placed on the ballot by the City Council following the presentation of a 100% petition for annexation by the three owners of the area.

Proposition No. 10 — Sandberg's Addition, Block 7. This district, 2.4 acres in area, lies between S. E. 92nd and S. E. 96th Avenues and immediately south of the area referred to above as Proposition No. 8. This proposition was placed on the ballot by the City Council following the presentation of a 100% petition for annexation by the residents of the area.

The total area of the six districts seeking annexation to the city is 518.4 acres, or 0.8 of a square mile. The total vote in the four areas in which elections were held was 358 for and 147 against annexation.

History

The area of Portland at the time of its incorporation January 23, 1851, was approximately 2 square miles. The present area is 67.44 square miles. The most recent annexation was that of the Bertha Water District in 1948. Of the 21 measures for annexation of areas presented to the electorate of Portland over a period of 59 years, a favorable vote was recorded in every election.

Investigation

Your committee interviewed city officials of Portland, State and County health authorities, representatives of mass transportation companies, insurance companies, and civic organizations. Records of the hearings before the City Council as reported in the press were reviewed. Residents of the areas were interviewed, but your committee has made its investigation and study from the standpoint of Portland only, since the decision with respect to the residents of the areas under consideration has already been made.

Arguments Against Annexation

Your committee was unable to find any authoritative objections to annexation. However, it is generally admitted that the initial outlay required to conform the annexed areas to the city pattern with respect to public utilities, health, roads and streets, fire protection, parks, etc., will be in excess of the amounts received in taxes from the areas in question.

Arguments in Favor of Annexation

(1) Bringing these areas into the city will broaden the tax base of the city and bring in the residences of a large number of people who now work in the metropolitan area and use municipal facilities, but do not pay any part of the cost of these facilities.

2. All the areas seeking annexation have a population density of over 1000 per square mile, according to the recent study of the Portland Housing Survey. This, according to former studies of the Bureau of Municipal Research and the City Club of Portland, indicates the need for urban control of the districts in the matters of zoning, planning, recreational facilities, and, in general, directing the suburban growth to avoid the deterioration of uncontrolled development.

Discussion

The investigation brought forth considerable interest on the part of the committee on the desirability of the City also acquiring park properties in the southwest district available to these communities if annexed. However, the committee feels that this is outside its assigned task and takes no action in the matter.

Conclusion

Annexation of other areas in the past has inured to the general welfare of the City of Portland and goes hand in hand with healthy growth, development, and the welfare of all its citizens.

Recommendation

Your committee recommends that the City Club go on record as favoring the annexation of the six areas which will appear on the ballot at the Special Municipal Election of the City of Portland, May 19, 1950.

Respectfully submitted,

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FRANKLIN L. DAVIS, *Chairman*

Approved by Allan Hart, *Section Chairman*, Legislation and Elections, April 28, 1950, for transmittal to the Board of Governors. Received by the Board of Governors, May 1, 1950, and ordered printed and submitted to the membership for discussion and action.