

Chapter 2 County Consolidations and Annexations

Part 1 Consolidation of Counties

17-2-101 Title.

- (1) This chapter is known as "County Consolidations and Annexations."
- (2) This part is known as "Consolidation of Counties."

Enacted by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-102 Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Consolidating county" means the county to which another county is joined or is proposed to be joined by consolidation under this part.
- (2) "Legal voter" means an individual who is registered to vote in Utah.
- (3) "Originating county" means the county that is joined or proposed to be joined to another county by consolidation under this part.

Amended by Chapter 116, 2023 General Session

17-2-103 Consolidation of counties -- Petition -- Certification of petition signatures -- Removal of signature -- Election -- Ballot.

- (1) If a majority of the legal voters of any county desire to have the county joined to and consolidated with an adjoining county, they may petition the county legislative body of the county in which they reside and the county legislative body of the adjoining county.
- (2) Each petition under Subsection (1) shall be presented before the first Monday in June of any year.
- (3)
 - (a) Within three business days after the day on which a county legislative body receives a petition under Subsection (1), the county legislative body shall provide the petition to the county clerk.
 - (b) Within 14 days after the day on which a county clerk receives a petition from the county legislative body under Subsection (3)(a), the county clerk shall:
 - (i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of Subsection (1);
 - (ii) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a registered voter in the county; and
 - (iii) deliver the certified petition to the county legislative body.
- (4)
 - (a) A voter who signs a petition under this section may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the county legislative body provides the petition to the county clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
 - (b) A statement described in Subsection (4)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

- (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- (5)
 - (a) If a petition under Subsection (1) is presented in a year during which a regular general election is held, the county legislative body of the originating county and the county legislative body of the consolidating county shall cause the proposition to be submitted to the legal voters of their respective counties at the next regular general election.
 - (b) If a petition under Subsection (1) is presented during a year in which there is no regular general election, the county legislative body of the originating county and the county legislative body of the consolidating county shall:
 - (i) call a special election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November following the presentation of the petition; and
 - (ii) cause the proposition to be submitted to the legal voters of the respective counties on that day.
 - (c) Except as otherwise provided in this part, an election under this Subsection (5) shall be held, the results canvassed, and returns made under the provisions of the general election laws of the state.
 - (d) The ballot to be used at an election under this Subsection (5) shall be:
 - For combining ____ county with ____ county.
 - Against combining ____ county with ____ county.

Amended by Chapter 116, 2023 General Session

17-2-104 Certification of election result to governor.

If it appears from the certified report that the lieutenant governor receives under Section 20A-4-304 that a majority of the voters in each of the counties have voted in favor of consolidation, the lieutenant governor shall certify the result of the vote to the governor.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-105 Governor's proclamation -- Notice and plat to lieutenant governor -- Recording requirements -- Effective date.

- (1) Upon receipt of the election result from the lieutenant governor under Section 17-2-104, the governor shall issue a proclamation, stating the result of the vote in each of the counties, and that the consolidation of the one county with the other will take effect as provided in Subsection (3).
- (2) The legislative body of the consolidating county shall:
 - (a) within 30 days after the issuance of the governor's proclamation under Subsection (1), send to the lieutenant governor:
 - (i) a copy of a notice of an impending boundary action, as defined in Section 67-1a-6.5, that meets the requirements of Subsection 67-1a-6.5(3); and
 - (ii) a copy of an approved final local entity plat, as defined in Section 67-1a-6.5; and
 - (b) upon the lieutenant governor's issuance of a certificate of consolidation under Section 67-1a-6.5, submit to the recorder of the consolidating county:
 - (i) the original notice of an impending boundary action;
 - (ii) the original certificate of consolidation;
 - (iii) the original approved final local entity plat; and

- (iv) a certified copy of the governor's proclamation under Subsection (1).
- (3)
 - (a) A consolidation of counties approved at an election under Section 17-2-103 takes effect on January 1 of the year immediately following the lieutenant governor's issuance of a certificate of consolidation under Section 67-1a-6.5.
 - (b)
 - (i) The effective date of a consolidation of counties for purposes of assessing property within the consolidating county is governed by Section 59-2-305.5.
 - (ii) Until the documents listed in Subsection (2)(b) are recorded in the office of the recorder of the county in which the property is located, a consolidating county may not:
 - (A) levy or collect a property tax on property in the consolidating county that used to be in the originating county;
 - (B) levy or collect an assessment on property in the consolidating county that used to be in the originating county; or
 - (C) charge or collect a fee for service provided to property within the consolidating county that used to be in the originating county.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-106 Effect of consolidation.

- (1) All territory included within the boundaries of the originating county becomes, upon consolidation, the territory of the consolidating county.
- (2) The precincts and school districts existing in the originating county continue and become precincts and school districts in the consolidating county and remain as then organized until changed in the manner provided by law, and the officers of those precincts and school districts hold their respective offices until the expiration of the applicable terms.
- (3) The ownership of all property, both real and personal, held and owned by the originating county at the time of consolidation is vested in the consolidating county.
- (4) The terms of all county officers in the originating county terminate and cease on the day the consolidation takes effect, and those officers shall immediately deliver to the corresponding officers of the consolidating county all books, records, and papers of the originating county.
- (5) Any person who is confined under lawful commitment in the county jail of the originating county, or otherwise lawfully held to answer for alleged violation of any of the criminal laws of this state, shall be immediately delivered to the sheriff of the consolidating county, and such person shall be confined in its county jail for the unexpired term of the sentence or held as specified in the commitment.
- (6)
 - (a) All criminal proceedings pending in the originating county shall be prosecuted to judgment and execution in the consolidating county.
 - (b) All offenses committed in the originating county before consolidation that have not been prosecuted shall be prosecuted in the consolidating county.
- (7) All actions, proceedings, and matters pending in:
 - (a) the district court of the originating county may be proceeded with in the district court of the consolidating county; and
 - (b) the juvenile court of the originating county may be proceeded with in the juvenile court of the consolidating county.

- (8) All indebtedness of the originating county are transferred to and become the indebtedness of the consolidating county with the same effect as if it had been incurred by the consolidating county.

Amended by Chapter 158, 2024 General Session

Part 2 County Annexation

17-2-201 Title.

This part is known as "County Annexation."

Enacted by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-202 Definitions.

As used in this part:

- (1) "Annexing county" means the county to which a portion of an adjoining county is annexed or proposed to be annexed as provided in this part.
- (2) "Initiating county" means the county, from which a portion is annexed or proposed to be annexed to an adjoining county.
- (3) "Legal voter" means an individual who is registered to vote in Utah.

Amended by Chapter 116, 2023 General Session

17-2-203 Annexation of portion of county to adjoining county -- Petition -- Certification of petition signatures -- Removal of signature -- Election -- Ballot.

- (1)
 - (a) Except as provided in Section 17-2-209, if a majority of the legal voters of any portion of any county, in number equal to a majority of the votes cast at the preceding general election within that portion of the county, desire to have the territory within which they reside included within the boundaries of an adjoining county, they may petition the county legislative body of the county in which they reside and the county legislative body of the adjoining county.
 - (b) Each petition under Subsection (1)(a) shall be presented before the first Monday in June of a year during which a general election is held.
 - (c) If a petition is presented under Subsection (1)(a), at the ensuing regular general election:
 - (i) the legislative body of the initiating county shall cause the proposition to be submitted to the legal voters residing in the initiating county; and
 - (ii) the legislative body of the annexing county shall cause the proposition to be submitted to the legal voters of the annexing county.
- (2)
 - (a) Within three business days after the day on which a county legislative body receives a petition under Subsection (1), the county legislative body shall provide the petition to the county clerk.
 - (b) Within 14 days after the day on which a county clerk receives a petition from the county legislative body under Subsection (2)(a), the county clerk shall:
 - (i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements of Subsection (1);

- (ii) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a registered voter in the county; and
 - (iii) deliver the certified petition to the county legislative body.
- (3)
- (a) A voter who signs a petition under this section may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after the day on which the county legislative body provides the petition to the county clerk, submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.
 - (b) A statement described in Subsection (3)(a) shall comply with the requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).
 - (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature.
- (4)
- (a) Except as otherwise provided, the election provided in Subsection (1) shall be held, the results canvassed, and returns made under the provisions of the general election laws of the state.
 - (b) The ballot to be used shall be:
 - For annexing a portion of ____ county to ____ county.
 - Against annexing a portion of ____ county to ____ county.

Amended by Chapter 116, 2023 General Session

17-2-204 Certification of election result to governor.

In an election held under Subsection 17-2-203(1), if it appears from the certified report that the lieutenant governor receives under Section 20A-4-304 that a majority of those voting in each county have voted in favor of the annexation, the lieutenant governor shall certify the result of the vote to the governor.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-205 Governor's proclamation -- Notice to lieutenant governor -- Recording requirements -- Effective date.

- (1) Upon receipt of the lieutenant governor's certification under Section 17-2-204, the governor shall issue a proclamation, stating the result of the vote in each county, and that the annexation of the territory to the annexing county will take effect as provided in Subsection (3).
- (2) The legislative body of the annexing county shall:
 - (a) within 30 days after the issuance of the governor's proclamation under Subsection (1), send to the lieutenant governor:
 - (i) a copy of a notice of an impending boundary action, as defined in Section 67-1a-6.5, that meets the requirements of Subsection 67-1a-6.5(3); and
 - (ii) a copy of an approved final local entity plat, as defined in Section 67-1a-6.5; and
 - (b) upon the lieutenant governor's issuance of a certificate of annexation under Section 67-1a-6.5, submit to the recorder of the annexing county:
 - (i) the original notice of an impending boundary action;
 - (ii) the original certificate of consolidation;
 - (iii) the original approved final local entity plat; and
 - (iv) a certified copy of the governor's proclamation under Subsection (1).
- (3)

- (a) An annexation approved at an election under Section 17-2-203 takes effect on January 1 of the year immediately following the lieutenant governor's issuance of a certificate of annexation under Section 67-1a-6.5.
- (b)
 - (i) The effective date of a county annexation for purposes of assessing property within the annexing county is governed by Section 59-2-305.5.
 - (ii) Until the documents listed in Subsection (2)(b) are recorded in the office of the recorder of the county in which the property is located, an annexing county may not:
 - (A) levy or collect a property tax on property in the annexing county that used to be in the initiating county;
 - (B) levy or collect an assessment on property in the annexing county that used to be in the initiating county; or
 - (C) charge or collect a fee for service provided to property within the annexing county that used to be in the initiating county.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-206 Territory becomes part of annexing county -- Division of revenues.

- (1) Upon the effective date of the annexation, all the area proposed to be annexed shall become part of the annexing county.
- (2)
 - (a) The legislative body of the initiating county shall:
 - (i) until the date of annexation, continue:
 - (A) to levy and collect ad valorem property tax and other revenues from or pertaining to the area; and
 - (B) except as otherwise agreed with the annexing county, to provide the same services to the area proposed to be annexed as the initiating county provided before the commencement of the annexation proceedings; and
 - (ii) after annexation, share pro rata with the annexing county the taxes and service charges or fees levied and collected by the initiating county during the year of the annexation if and to the extent that the annexing county provides, by itself or by contract, the same services for which the initiating county levied and collected the taxes and service charges or fees.
 - (b) The pro rata allocation of taxes under Subsection (2)(a)(ii) shall be based on the date of annexation, and the pro rata allocation of service charges and fees shall be based on the proportion of services related to the service charges and fees that remain to be rendered after annexation.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-207 Effect on precincts and school districts.

- (1) The precincts and school districts in the annexed territory:
 - (a) continue;
 - (b) become precincts and school districts in the annexing county; and
 - (c) remain as then organized until changed in the manner provided by law.
- (2) The officers of those precincts and school districts hold their respective offices until the expiration of their terms.
- (3) If a precinct or school district is divided because of a county annexation under this part:

- (a) the precinct or school district is disorganized, and the property and territory embraced in the precinct or school district is subject to the action of the county legislative body of the respective counties; and
- (b) any bonded or other indebtedness of a school district attaches to and becomes the obligation of the district that is created out of the territory that retains the buildings and other property of the original district.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-208 Pending criminal proceedings.

All criminal proceedings and actions pending in the annexed territory at the time of annexation shall be prosecuted to judgment and execution in the annexed territory as part of the annexing county. All offenses committed in the annexed territory before annexation that have not been prosecuted may be prosecuted to judgment and execution in the annexed territory or any part of the annexing county.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 350, 2009 General Session

17-2-209 Minor adjustments to county boundaries authorized -- Public hearing -- Joint resolution of county legislative bodies -- Notice and plat to lieutenant governor -- Recording requirements -- Effective date.

- (1)
 - (a) Counties sharing a common boundary may, in accordance with the provisions of Subsection (2) and Article XI, Section 3, of the Utah Constitution and for purposes of real property tax assessment and county record keeping, adjust all or part of the common boundary to move it, subject to Subsection (1)(b), a sufficient distance to reach to, and correspond with, the closest existing property boundary of record.
 - (b) A boundary adjustment under Subsection (1)(a) may not create a boundary line that divides or splits:
 - (i) an existing parcel;
 - (ii) an interest in the property; or
 - (iii) a claim of record in the office of recorder of either county sharing the common boundary.
- (2) The legislative bodies of both counties desiring to adjust a common boundary in accordance with Subsection (1) shall:
 - (a) hold a joint public hearing on the proposed boundary adjustment;
 - (b) at least seven days before the public hearing described in Subsection (2)(a), provide written notice of the proposed adjustment to:
 - (i) each owner of real property whose property, or a portion of whose property, may change counties as the result of the proposed adjustment; and
 - (ii) any of the following whose territory, or a portion of whose territory, may change counties as the result of the proposed boundary adjustment, or whose boundary is aligned with any portion of the existing county boundary that is being proposed for adjustment:
 - (A) a city;
 - (B) a town;
 - (C) a school district;
 - (D) a special district governed by Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Special Districts;
 - (E) a special service district governed by Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act;

- (F) an interlocal entity governed by Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act;
 - (G) a community reinvestment agency governed by Title 17C, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Community Reinvestment Agency Act;
 - (H) a local building authority governed by Title 17D, Chapter 2, Local Building Authority Act;
and
 - (I) a conservation district governed by Title 17D, Chapter 3, Conservation District Act; and
- (c) adopt a joint resolution approved by both county legislative bodies approving the proposed boundary adjustment.
- (3) The legislative bodies of both counties adopting a joint resolution under Subsection (2)(c) shall:
- (a) within 15 days after adopting the joint resolution, jointly send to the lieutenant governor:
 - (i) a copy of a notice of an impending boundary action, as defined in Section 67-1a-6.5, that meets the requirements of Subsection 67-1a-6.5(3); and
 - (ii) a copy of an approved final local entity plat, as defined in Section 67-1a-6.5; and
 - (b) upon the lieutenant governor's issuance of a certificate of boundary adjustment under Section 67-1a-6.5, jointly submit to the recorder of the county in which the property is located after the boundary adjustment:
 - (i) the original notice of an impending boundary action;
 - (ii) the original certificate of boundary adjustment;
 - (iii) the original approved final local entity plat; and
 - (iv) a certified copy of the joint resolution approving the boundary adjustment.
- (4)
- (a) As used in this Subsection (4):
 - (i) "Affected area" means an area that, as a result of a boundary adjustment under this section, is moved from within the boundary of one county to within the boundary of another county.
 - (ii) "Receiving county" means a county whose boundary includes an affected area as a result of a boundary adjustment under this section.
 - (b) A boundary adjustment under this section takes effect on the date the lieutenant governor issues a certificate of boundary adjustment under Section 67-1a-6.5.
 - (c)
 - (i) The effective date of a boundary adjustment for purposes of assessing property within an affected area is governed by Section 59-2-305.5.
 - (ii) Until the documents listed in Subsection (3)(b) are recorded in the office of the recorder of the county in which the property is located, a receiving county may not:
 - (A) levy or collect a property tax on property within an affected area;
 - (B) levy or collect an assessment on property within an affected area; or
 - (C) charge or collect a fee for service provided to property within an affected area.
- (5) Upon the effective date of a boundary adjustment under this section:
- (a) all territory designated to be adjusted into another county becomes the territory of the other county; and
 - (b) the provisions of Sections 17-2-207 and 17-2-208 apply in the same manner as with an annexation under this part.

Amended by Chapter 438, 2024 General Session