Municipal Annexation in Texas: Is it Really that Complicated?

Scott Houston General Counsel Texas Municipal League



What we'll Learn

- How we got where we are now
- The three questions
- Miscellaneous issues



How did we get where we are now?

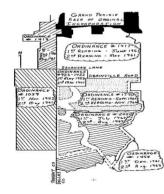
- 1836 Special law cities
- 1858 General law cities
- 1912 Home rule cities
- 1963 Municipal Annexation Act
- 1999 Senate Bill 89
- 2007 Non-annexation offers



The Three Questions

- •Why?
- •Authority?
- Procedures?





Why? Control Development Why? Money and IGR in Texas

- NOT a property rights issue
- IS a money and IGR issue
 - City services
 - State funding
 - Annexation power in lieu of state funding
 - "Reverse Intergovernmental Aid"
- Election Bills 2005, 2007, and 2011
- Perryman Group Study



Annexation Authority

- Home Rule Cities
 - Local Government Code
 - Charter Provisions

General Law Cities

- Local Government Code
- Unilateral / Petition
- ETJ
- Authority v. Procedures
- Non-annexation offer



Procedures – Annexation Plan

• Every city should adopt

- Type of area that must be included in plan
- Exemptions
- Notice of inclusion Web site posting
- Penalty for removal from plan

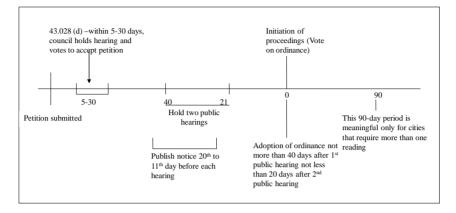


Procedures – Exempt

- Non-annexation agreement
- Subchapter C-1
 - Service plan
 - Notice and two public hearings
 - Ordinance adoption



Procedures – Exempt





Procedures – Plan (3 Year Process)

- Non-annexation agreement
- Subchapter C
 - Inventory
 - Preliminary service plan
 - · Notice and two public hearings
 - Negotiations/Arbitration
 - Ordinance Adoption



Miscellaneous Issues

- Challenges
 - Targeted legislation
 - Quo warranto
- Provision of services
- Post annexation notices



Comprehensive paper available at: www.tml.org

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