



## TOWN OF WASHINGTON FILES PETITION TO INCORPORATE AS A VILLAGE

Town of Washington, Eau Claire County, WI – September 18, 2024 – The Town of Washington today filed a petition to incorporate part of the town as a village. 625 residents in the proposed village territory signed the petition in one week after the Town began collecting signatures on September 6, 2024. The petition requires 50 signatures to file.

625 signatures – twelve and a half times the number required – is one of the highest number of resident signatures ever submitted on a petition to incorporate by a town in Wisconsin. Only land-owners and residents who are US citizens and 18 years or older are electors qualified to sign the petition for incorporation.

In addition, 53 Town residents outside the village territory or not eligible to sign the petition signed a document of support for the petition.

Incorporating as a village will ensure the Town has the ability to control and determine its own land use, plan for its future, and act on behalf of its residents to preserve the landscape, character, and community its residents have built together since 1866.

The petition filing starts a [process](#) that, if successful, ultimately leads to a referendum vote in the Town. In addition, annexation in the proposed territory is stopped until the incorporation matter is decided.

### Support for Petition

“Support for incorporation is enthusiastic throughout the Town, even from people who do not reside within the proposed Village territory,” said Robert “Bob” Solberg, Chair of the Town of Washington’s Board of Supervisors. “Our residents want to ensure that we have direct control over how we grow our community and use our land to preserve and advance our unique character and landscape.”

In addition, the neighboring Towns of Brunswick, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, and Union, and the Village of Lake Hallie have each provided strong letters of support for the Town of Washington’s petition. The City of Altoona has also provided an agreement for the Town’s petition.

### Village and Town

The Wisconsin Department of Administration’s requirements for incorporation prevent the Town of Washington incorporating the entire town territory. If successful, the Village of

Washington and the “new” Town of Washington would operate “separately but together,” with shared resources and services, allocating assets and expenses by collaborative agreement much like the Village of Lake Hallie and the Town of Hallie do today, after its successful incorporation process in 2004.

The proposed village [area](#) is bounded by the Town’s most southern and eastern boundaries, the City of Eau Claire to the north and Interstate 94 to the east. The population of the village would be approximately 5,240 people, over double the number required by the State of Wisconsin, and would cover approximately 19.45 square miles, almost five times the area required for incorporation.

The “new” Town of Washington would have a population of approximately 2,518 over 37 square miles, bounded by the towns of Pleasant Valley, Clear Creek, Lincoln, and Seymour, and the cities of Eau Claire and Altoona.

The Town expects the process to take 18-24 months.

More information can be found on the Town’s [website](#).

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