



Incorporation Process

Update 12

Date: January 12, 2026

Item: DOA Incorporation Review Board Public Hearing and Next Steps

On December 17th the Wisconsin Incorporation Review Board (IRB) held a public hearing for a portion of the Town to become a Village. Many residents, business owners, and neighboring communities appeared in support of the Petition. State Representative Karen Hurd and former State Representative Warren Petryk also appeared in support. Washington residents expressed that they are proud of the community they call home, identify with that community, are satisfied with the current level of services, and desire full autonomy over land-use and development decisions in the future. Only one neighboring community, the City of Eau Claire, appeared in opposition to the Petition.

A video of the hearing can be viewed from the following link

<https://youtu.be/u4Wkql8iYYE?si=2-zut1pT10VVMaiu>

We have provided supplemental information to the IRB since the public hearing. The City of Eau Claire has also submitted a written response to the IRB. Both items should be posted soon on the WI DOA website.

<https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/MunicipalBoundaryReviewNews.aspx>

The IRB will continue its review and make their determination by Monday, May 4th, 2026. The Department will then submit its decision to the Eau Claire County Circuit Court. If approved, the court will then order a referendum vote by those in the proposed village territory.