

Notice of Annexation

| Current Tennessee Law | Proposed Changes | Other States' Laws |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Annexation by ordinance— Notice of the annexation must be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least seven days in advance of the public hearing on the ordinance.</p> <p>Annexation by referendum—Notice must be mailed to the affected property owners 14 days prior to the public hearing. Notice must also be posted in at least three public places in the territory to be annexed and in a like number of public places in the city. In addition, the notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation.</p> | <p>Senate Bill 1381 by Bowling, House Bill 1319 by Van Huss would require cities to mail notice to property owners 90 days prior to the date of a proposed annexation. House Bill 590 by Van Huss, Senate Bill 869 by Crowe would require notice be sent 90 days prior to the date of annexation. House Amendment 422 would require the notice to be sent 180 days in advance.</p> | <p>The minimum notice requirement for intent to annex ranges between 14 to 30 days.</p> <p>The minimum notice requirement before a public hearing ranges between 7 and 60 days.</p> <p>The minimum public notice requirement before an election is 7 to 60 days.</p> |

Other States' Laws on Notice

| State | Newspaper notice of intent | Property owners and/or residents must be notified of annexation by mail | Newspaper notice public hearing | Property owners and/or residents must be notified of public hearing by mail | Newspaper notice election | Property owners and/or residents must be notified of election by mail |
|-------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Alabama | | | | | 20-40 days | |
| Alaska | | | 15 days | | | |
| Arizona | | | 15 days | 15 days | | |
| Arkansas | | | | | 10-20 days | |
| California | | | | 21 days | not specified | |
| Colorado | | | 30 days | | 4 weeks | |
| Connecticut | All territory in the state is incorporated. | | | | | |
| Delaware | | | | | 2 weeks | |
| Florida | | | | 10 days | 2 weeks | |
| Georgia | | | 3 weeks | | 3 weeks | |
| Hawaii | There are no municipalities in Hawaii. | | | | | |
| Idaho | | | 28 days | 28 days | | |
| Illinois | | | 15-30 days | | 4-20 days | |
| Indiana | | | 20 days | 60 days | | |
| Iowa | | 14 days | 2 weeks | | 4-20 days | |

| State | Newspaper notice of intent | Property owners and/or residents must be notified of annexation by mail | Newspaper notice public hearing | Property owners and/or residents must be notified of public hearing by mail | Newspaper notice election | Property owners and/or residents must be notified of election by mail |
|----------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Kansas | | | 1-2 weeks | 10 days | | |
| Kentucky | | | | 14 days | | |
| Louisiana | | | 10 days | | 10 days | |
| Maine | Annexation not authorized by constitution or general law. | | | | | |
| Maryland | | | 2-4 weeks | | 2 weeks | |
| Massachusetts | Annexation not authorized by constitution or general law. | | | | | |
| Michigan | | | | | 4 weeks | |
| Minnesota | | 30 days | 2 weeks | 2 weeks | | |
| Mississippi | | | 30 days | | | |
| Missouri | | | 30-60 days | 30-60 days | 1 week | |
| Montana | | not specified | | | 4 weeks | |
| Nebraska | | | 10 days | | | |
| Nevada | | | 20 days | | | |
| New Hampshire | The state constitution and statutes do not address annexation. | | | | | |
| New Jersey | No unincorporated land in the state. The only annexation that takes place is between cities. | | | | | |
| New Mexico | | | | | 50-60 days | |
| New York | | | 20 days | 20 days | 2 weeks | |
| North Carolina | 2 weeks | 2 weeks | 2 weeks | 2 weeks | not specified | |
| North Dakota | | | 1 week | 1 week | | |
| Ohio | | | 10 days | 10 days | | |
| Oklahoma | 14-30 days | 14-30 days | 14-30 days | | | |
| Oregon | | | | | | |
| Pennsylvania | | | | | | |
| Rhode Island | Municipal boundaries are locked in by statute. Rhode Island does not have functioning county governments. | | | | | |
| South Carolina | | | 14 days | | 30 days | |
| South Dakota | | | | 10-20 days | 2 weeks | |
| Tennessee | | 14 days (referendum) | 7 days | | not specified | not specified |
| Texas | | | 10-20 days | | 10-30 days | |
| Utah | | not specified | 2 weeks | 1 week | | |
| Vermont | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 30 days | | | | | |
| Washington | | | 2 weeks | | 2 weeks | |
| West Virginia | | | | | 2 weeks | |
| Wisconsin | not specified | not specified | | | 1 week | |
| Wyoming | | | 15 days | | | |

Public Hearings and Informational Meetings

| Current Tennessee Law | Proposed Changes | Other States' |
|--|---|---|
| Current law requires one public hearing prior to an annexation by ordinance or referendum. | Senate Bill 1381 by Bowling, House Bill 1319 by Van Huss would require three informational meetings be held in addition to the public hearing before a city could annex by ordinance. House Amendment 423 would have reduced the number of informational meetings to one. | Of the forty-nine states other than Tennessee, twenty-nine require at least one public hearing before land is annexed. Four states—Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, Texas—require at least two public hearings, but no state requires more than two. Only one state, North Carolina, requires a public information meeting in addition to a public hearing. |

Other States' Laws on Public Hearings and Informational Meetings

| State | Number of Informational Meetings Required | Number of Public Hearings Required |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Alabama | 0 | 0 |
| Alaska | 0 | 1 |
| Arizona | 0 | 1 |
| Arkansas | 0 | 0 |
| California | 0 | 1 |
| Colorado | 0 | 1 |
| Connecticut | All territory in the state is incorporated. | |
| Delaware | 0 | 1 |
| Florida | 0 | 2 |
| Georgia | 0 | 1 |
| Hawaii | There are no cities in Hawaii. | |
| Idaho | 0 | 1 |
| Illinois | 0 | 1 |
| Indiana | 0 | 1 |
| Iowa | 0 | 2 |
| Kansas | 0 | 1 |
| Kentucky | 0 | 1 |
| Louisiana | 0 | 1 if initiated by city |
| Maine | Not authorized by constitution or general law. | |
| Maryland | 0 | 1 |
| Massachusetts | Not authorized by constitution or general law. | |
| Michigan | 0 | 0 |

| State | Number of Informational Meetings Required | Number of Public Hearings Required |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Minnesota | 0 | 1 |
| Mississippi | 0 | 1 |
| Missouri | 0 | 1 |
| Montana | 0 | 0 |
| Nebraska | 0 | 1 |
| Nevada | 0 | 1 |
| New Hampshire | Not authorized by constitution or general law. | |
| New Jersey | No unincorporated land in the state. The only annexation that takes place is between cities. | |
| New Mexico | 0 | 1 |
| New York | 0 | 1 |
| North Carolina | 1 | 2 |
| North Dakota | 0 | 1 |
| Ohio | 0 | 1 |
| Oklahoma | 0 | 1 |
| Oregon | 0 | 1 if annexed for public safety |
| Pennsylvania | No unincorporated land in the state. The only annexation that takes place is between cities. | |
| Rhode Island | Municipal boundaries are locked in by statute. | |
| South Carolina | 0 | 1 |
| South Dakota | 0 | 1 |
| Tennessee | 0 | 1 |
| Texas | 0 | 2 |
| Utah | 0 | 1 |
| Vermont | 0 | 1 |
| Virginia | 0 | 0 |
| Washington | 0 | 1 |
| West Virginia | 0 | 0 |
| Wisconsin | 0 | 1 if initiated by city |
| Wyoming | 0 | 1 |

| Plan of Services | | |
|---|---|---|
| Current Tennessee Law | | Other States' Laws |
| Tennessee's cities are required to provide a plan of services prior to annexing territory by referendum or by ordinance. The plan of services must include but not be limited to police protection, fire protection, water services, electrical services, sanitary sewer services, solid waste collection, street construction and repair, recreation facilities and programs, street lighting, and zoning services. Also a reasonable implementation schedule for the provision of the services is required. | Senate Bill 1054 by Kelsey, House Bill 1263 by Carr was amended prior to being passed. Sections 5 and 6 were taken out of the bill before it passed. These sections would have added some requirements for the plan of services including requirements that the plan show the standards for delivering the services to the territory proposed to be annexed and information on the financial ability of the city to provide services to the territory proposed to be annexed. | <p>Twenty-four states require the city to create a plan of service before an annexation can take place.</p> <p>Twenty states have a required timeline for implementation of services.</p> <p>Fifteen states require budget/financial information be provided in the plan of services.</p> |

| Other States' Laws on Plan of Services | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|-------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| State | Plan Required | Used as factor in determining whether to annex | Required Services | | | | Timeline | Budget / Financial Information |
| | | | Police / Fire | Water / Sewer | Streets | Other | | |
| Alabama | | | | | | | | |
| Alaska | | | | | | | | |
| Arizona | X | | | | | within 10 years | | |
| Arkansas | | | | | | | | |
| California | | X | | | | | | |
| Colorado | X | | | X | X | X | | |
| Connecticut | | | | | | | | |

| State | Plan Required | Used as factor in determining whether to annex | Required Services | | | | Timeline | Budget / Financial Information |
|---------------|---------------|--|-------------------|---------------|---------|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| | | | Police / Fire | Water / Sewer | Streets | Other | | |
| Delaware | X | | | | | | X | |
| Florida | X | | | X | | required but set by city | X | |
| Georgia | X | | X | X | X | water and sewer installed within 1 year | | |
| Hawaii | | | | | | | | |
| Idaho | | | | | | | | |
| Illinois | | | | | | | | |
| Indiana | X | | X | X | X | police, fire and other services provided within 1 year; Street lighting, sewers, etc within 3 years | X | |
| Iowa | X | | | | | within 3 years of July 1 of FY in which city taxes are collected against property in the annexed territory | | |
| Kansas | X | | | | | plan shall state those services which shall be provided immediately upon annexation and those services which may be provided upon petition of the landowners to create a benefit district | X | |
| Kentucky | X | | X | X | X | required but set by city | X | |
| Louisiana | | | | | | | | |
| Maine | | | | | | | | |
| Maryland | X | | X | X | | required but set by city | X | |
| Massachusetts | | | | | | | | |

| State | Plan Required | Used as factor in determining whether to annex | Required Services | | | | Timeline | Budget / Financial Information |
|----------------|---------------|--|-------------------|---------------|---------|-------|---|--------------------------------|
| | | | Police / Fire | Water / Sewer | Streets | Other | | |
| Michigan | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota | | X | | | | | | |
| Mississippi | | | | | | | | |
| Missouri | X | X | X | X | X | X | plan to provide within 3 years | X |
| Montana | X | | X | X | X | X | must show anticipated development for next 5 years minimum | X |
| Nebraska | X | | | | | | required but set by city | X |
| Nevada | X | | X | X | X | X | | X |
| New Hampshire | | | | | | | | |
| New Jersey | | | | | | | | |
| New Mexico | | | | | | | | |
| New York | | | | | | | | |
| North Carolina | X | | X | X | X | X | water must be extended within 3.5 years | X |
| North Dakota | | | | | | | | |
| Ohio | X | | | | | | required but set by city | |
| Oklahoma | X | | X | X | | | extension must be completed within 120 months if there is no capital improvement plan | X |
| Oregon | X | | | | | | required but set by city | |
| Pennsylvania | | | | | | | | |
| Rhode Island | | | | | | | | |
| South Carolina | X | | | | | | required but set by city | |
| South Dakota | X | | | | X | | required but set by city | X |

| State | Plan Required | Used as factor in determining whether to annex | Required Services | | | | Timeline | Budget / Financial Information |
|---------------|---------------|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|--|--------------------------------|
| | | | Police / Fire | Water / Sewer | Streets | Other | | |
| Tennessee | X | | X | X | X | X | reasonable implementation schedule | |
| Texas | X | | X | X | X | X | must extend services within 2.5 years or 4.5 years if city can show that certain services cannot reasonably be provided in 2.5 years | |
| Utah | X | | | | | | | X |
| Vermont | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | | | | | | | | |
| Washington | | | | | | | | |
| West Virginia | X | | | | | | | |
| Wisconsin | | | | | | | | |
| Wyoming | X | | | | | | required but set by city | X |
| Total | 25 | 3 | 11 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 20 | 15 |

Annexation of Agricultural Land

| Current Tennessee Law | Proposed Changes | Other States' Laws |
|---|--|---|
| Public Chapter 441, Acts of 2013, imposes a 13-month moratorium on annexing property by the cities' initiative used for residential or agricultural purposes. Prior to this moratorium, cities were allowed to annex property used for agricultural purposes. | Senate Bill 1316 by Bowling, House Bill 1249 by Van Huss, as sent to the Commission for study, prohibits municipalities from annexing any land within its urban growth boundary that is zoned for agricultural use until there is a change in use triggered by a request for a non-agricultural zoning designation or by sale of the territory for use other than agricultural purposes. | <p>Currently, the majority of states do not have limits on annexing agricultural land.</p> <p>Nine states limit the annexation of lands being used for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>Idaho and Ohio allow owners of agricultural land to petition the court for deannexation.</p> |

Other States' Laws on Annexation of Agricultural Land

| State | Restrictions |
|----------------|--|
| Arkansas | Land shall not be annexed if its highest and best use is agriculture. Other lands used exclusively for agriculture shall continue to be used and assessed as agricultural land after annexation. |
| Colorado | Agricultural use is a factor for prohibiting annexations. Land may not be annexed where two out of three factors are present: (1) one half or more of the land is used for agriculture and the landowner intends to keep using it for agriculture, (2) less than half of the adult residents make use of the annexing city's facilities and less than 25% work in the annexing city, or (3) it is not physically practicable to extend services provided by the annexing city in the same way as they are provided to the annexing city. |
| Florida | Only land that is used for urban purposes may be annexed. |
| Idaho | The owners of land 5 acres or greater in size may petition the court for deannexation if the lands are used exclusively for agricultural purposes. |
| Kansas | No portion of any unplatted tract of land 21 acres or more in size that is devoted to agricultural use shall be annexed by any municipality without the written consent of the owner. |
| Nebraska | Agricultural lands that are rural in nature may not be annexed by ordinance. |
| North Carolina | Property that is being used for bona fide farm purposes on the date of the resolution of intent to consider annexation may not be annexed without the written consent of the property owner(s). |
| Ohio | After annexation, the owner of unplatted farmlands may petition the court for deannexation. |
| Oregon | Lands may not be annexed where they are used only for purposes of agriculture or horticulture, and are valuable on account of such use. |

| State | Restrictions |
|----------------|--|
| South Carolina | Any property owner that owns agricultural real property in the area to be annexed shall receive written notice of the proposed annexation by certified mail. If the property owner files a written notice objecting to the inclusion of his or her property in the area to be annexed with the municipal clerk at least ten days before the election, the property must be excluded from the area to be annexed. |
| Virginia | The court will consider the adverse impact on agricultural operations when determining whether or not to grant an annexation. |

Deannexation

| Current Tennessee Law | Proposed Changes | Other States' Laws |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Cities may deannex land. Only cities have the authority to initiate deannexation not the residents or property owners. A city can deannex property if it is approved by 3/4 of voters in an election. A city can also deannex on its own initiative by ordinance, but residents may object to the deannexation by submitting a petition signed 10% of the voters residing in the territory. An election will then be held and a majority of those voting must approve the deannexation.</p> | <p>Public Chapter 441 directed the Commission to study the issue of annexation as part of a comprehensive review and evaluation of the efficacy of state policies set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated Title 6, Chapters 51 (Change of Municipal Boundaries) and 58 (Comprehensive Growth Plan). The laws governing deannexation are in Title 6, Chapter 51.</p> | <p>Twenty-seven states authorize property owners to initiate a deannexation; twenty-four authorize cities to initiate deannexation.</p> <p>Fourteen states authorize both cities and property owners to initiate deannexation.</p> <p>A majority of states require a referendum or other form of consent before finalizing a deannexation.</p> |

Other States' Laws on Deannexation

| State | Initiation by municipality | Initiation by property owners | Approved by municipal body after petition of property owners | Election required | Petition for election | Other method of property owner approval | Approved by judge |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Alabama | X | | | | X | | |
| Alaska | X | | | X | | | |
| Arizona | X | | | | | X | |
| Arkansas | X | if land is uninhabited | X | X | | | |
| California | X | X | | | X | | |
| Colorado | | X | X | | | | |
| Connecticut | | | | | | | |
| Delaware | X | | | X | | | |
| Florida | X | X | X - must state specific reasons for rejection in report | | X | | |

| State | Initiation by municipality | Initiation by property owners | Approved by municipal body after petition of property owners | Election required | Petition for election | Other method of property owner approval | Approved by judge |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Georgia | | X | X | | | X | |
| Hawaii | | | | | | | |
| Idaho | X | | | | | | |
| Illinois | | X | X | | | | X |
| Indiana | | X | X | | | | |
| Iowa | X | X | X | X | | X | |
| Kansas | X | X | X | | | | |
| Kentucky | X | | | X | | X | |
| Louisiana | X | X | | X | | X | |
| Maine | | | | | | | |
| Maryland | | | | | | | |
| Massachusetts | | | | | | | |
| Michigan | | X | X | X | | | |
| Minnesota | X | X | | | | | X |
| Mississippi | X | X | | | | | X |
| Missouri | X | | | | | | |
| Montana | | X | X | | | X | |
| Nebraska | | X | | | | | X |
| Nevada | X | X | | | | X | |
| New Hampshire | | | | | | | |
| New Jersey | | | | | | | |
| New Mexico | | | | | | | |
| New York | | | | | | | |
| North Carolina | | | | | | | |
| North Dakota | X | X | X | | | | |
| Ohio | | X | | | X | | |
| Oklahoma | X | X | X | | | | |
| Oregon | X | | | | X | | |
| Pennsylvania | | | | | | | |
| Rhode Island | | | | | | | |
| South Carolina | X | X | | | X | | |
| South Dakota | | X | X | | | | |
| Tennessee | X | | | | | | |
| Texas | X | X | | | X | | |
| Utah | | X | X | | | | |
| Vermont | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | X | | | | | | X |

| State | Initiation by municipality | Initiation by property owners | Approved by municipal body after petition of property owners | Election required | Petition for election | Other method of property owner approval | Approved by judge |
|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Washington | | X | | | X | | |
| West Virginia | | X | | X | | | |
| Wisconsin | | X | | | X | | |
| Wyoming | X | X | | | | X | |
| Total | 24 | 27 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 5 |

Mutual Corporate Boundary Adjustments

| Current Tennessee Law | Proposed Changes | Other States' Laws |
|--|--|---|
| Cities with contiguous boundaries may adjust their boundaries by contract in certain situations. | Public Chapter 441 directed the Commission to study the issue of annexation as part of a comprehensive review and evaluation of the efficacy of state policies set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated Title 6, Chapters 51 (Change of Municipal Boundaries) and 58 (Comprehensive Growth Plan). The laws governing mutual adjustment of boundaries is in Title 6, Chapter 51. | Ten states have laws authorizing municipalities to adjust their boundaries by mutual agreement. |

Other States' Laws on Mutual Corporate Boundary Adjustments

| State | Current Law |
|---------------|---|
| Arizona | A municipality may deannex territory and a municipality may simultaneously annex that territory by ordinance. The mutual annexation and deannexation of territory may be stopped if 51% of property owners in the territory protest. |
| Arkansas | A municipality that wants to deannex or annex property is required to pass an ordinance and send it to the other municipality. The other municipality's governing body must approve or deny the request. If approved, the territory is detached from one municipality and annexed by the other municipality. |
| Illinois | Municipalities may detach and annex territory of 60 acres or less by mutual agreement of governing bodies. Electors in the territory to be annexed may petition for referendum with 10% of the area to be detached and annexed. |
| Iowa | Property in a municipality that is contiguous to another municipality may be annexed by agreement with the contiguous city. The property owner must first petition for the annexation. |
| Kentucky | Two municipalities of the 2nd through 6th Class may mutually adjust their boundaries by ordinance supported by a petition signed by 51% of voters in the territory to be transferred. |
| Massachusetts | Before a boundary change takes place, it must be approved by the governing body of each town, the department of highways, and the general court. |
| Minnesota | Property may be concurrently detached/annexed by (1) submitting to the chief administrative law judge resolutions of both municipalities, or (2) submitting to the chief administrative law judge the petition of property owners and the resolution of at least one municipality. The administrative law judge will then make a determination. |
| Missouri | Property may be deannexed by one municipality and annexed by another municipality by an ordinance. |
| Ohio | Any two adjoining municipal corporations may agree to a change in the boundary line separating such municipal corporations by ordinance, provided such change does not involve the transfer of territory inhabited by more than five voters from one to the other or from each to the other. |
| Utah | Boundary adjustment may be accomplished by ordinance passed by both municipalities. Adjustment will be final unless a protest is filed by landowners of 25% of the area to be adjusted and 15% of the total value. |

Merger of Municipalities

| Current Tennessee Law | Proposed Changes | Other States' Laws |
|---|--|---|
| Two or more contiguous cities located in the same county are authorized to merge into one city. Each of the cities must pass a joint resolution (or ordinance in the case of home rule cities) requesting a referendum in the cities to approve or disapprove the merger. The resolution must be passed by each of the governing bodies by a majority vote. A majority of those voting in each city must approve the merger in order for the cities to be able to merge. Registered voters in each of the cities may petition for a referendum on the merger of cities. | Public Chapter 441 directed the Commission to study the issue of annexation as part of a comprehensive review and evaluation of the efficacy of state policies set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated Title 6, Chapters 51 (Change of Municipal Boundaries) and 58 (Comprehensive Growth Plan). The laws governing city mergers are in Title 6, Chapter 51. | Thirty-eight states have laws authorizing merger of cities. Thirty-five of these states require a referendum before the merger can be finalized. |

Other States' Laws on Merger

| State | Initiation | | Referendum | Approval by 3rd party | Other |
|-------------|---|--------|---|-----------------------|-------|
| | Cities | Voters | | | |
| Alabama | X | X | X | | |
| Alaska | X | | X | | |
| Arizona | X | | X | | |
| Arkansas | | X | X | | |
| California | | | | | |
| Colorado | X | | X | | |
| Connecticut | | | | | |
| Delaware | | | | | |
| Florida | X | X | X | | |
| Georgia | | | | | |
| Hawaii | | | | | |
| Idaho | X | X | X | | |
| Illinois | | X | X | | |
| Indiana | X | | X | | |
| Iowa | | | | | |
| Kansas | X - cities may submit to election or may enact by ordinance | X | X - cities may submit election, voters may protest an ordinance, or voters may petition for consolidation | | |
| Kentucky | X | | X | | |
| Louisiana | X | X | X | | |

| State | Initiation | | Referendum | Approval by 3rd party | Other |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| | Cities | Voters | | | |
| Maine | | | | | |
| Maryland | X | | X - if 20% of landowners petition | | |
| Massachusetts | | | | | |
| Michigan | | X | X | | |
| Minnesota | X | X | X - if initiated by the city or 10% petition | | |
| Mississippi | X | | | chancery court | |
| Missouri | X | | X - if the greater of 100 voters, or 15% of votes cast in the last preceding election, petition | | |
| Montana | X | X | X - unless initiated by more than 50% of landowners or electors | | |
| Nebraska | X | | | | |
| Nevada | | | | | |
| New Hampshire | | | | | |
| New Jersey | X | X | X | consolidation commission | |
| New Mexico | X | | X | | |
| New York | X | X | X - if initiated by the city | | |
| North Carolina | X | | X | | |
| North Dakota | X | X | X | municipal consolidation review commission | |
| Ohio | X | X | X | | |
| Oklahoma | X | X | X | | |
| Oregon | | X | X | | |
| Pennsylvania | X | X | X | | |
| Rhode Island | | | | | |
| South Carolina | X | | | X - optional | X- cities may agree to merge |
| South Dakota | | X - both cities must then approve | X | | |
| Tennessee | X | X | X | | |

| State | Initiation | | Referendum | Approval by 3rd party | Other |
|---------------|------------|---|---|---|-------|
| | Cities | Voters | | | |
| Texas | | X - if at least 100 voters of each municipality petition, the government may call an election. If 15% of voters petition, then the government must call an election | X | | |
| Utah | X | X | X | | |
| Vermont | X | | X | | |
| Virginia | X | X | X - at judge's discretion | approved by judge who may submit to an election | |
| Washington | X | X | X | | |
| West Virginia | | | | | |
| Wisconsin | X | | X | | |
| Wyoming | X | | X - no vote, but cities must get consent signed by majority | | |