

Do You Like More Taxes?

We Don't Either...

Dear Neighbors of Bethlehem,

As you may know, there is a movement to incorporate our town, which poses significant risks to our community. Please consider the following points before signing any petitions and understand how this will effect **YOU**:

1. Increased Taxes and Fees:

Incorporating Bethlehem will lead to new property taxes of at least **5%**. Our community already faces high tax burdens, and neighboring towns often charge three to four times this amount. **5%** is grossly unrealistic to what it will actually cost.

2. Zoning Control:

The primary motive behind incorporation is control over zoning laws, allowing a select few to impose changes, such as increasing side-by-side setbacks from **5 feet to 10 feet**. This minor adjustment would reduce housing capacity by a mere **15%**, making little difference to real estate investors either way.

3. Bureaucracy and Delays:

Incorporation adds layers of bureaucracy, slowing responses to community needs. Remaining unincorporated allows us to maintain control over local decisions without unnecessary red tape.

4. Historical Context:

Attempts to incorporate in the early **1980s** failed due to the high costs of essential services like trash pickup and police. The financial burden remains unchanged and worse today with county taxes that are already extremely high.

5. Disregarding Democracy:

The group that is trying to incorporate only needs 1,200 signatures to proceed. This is less than 15% of Bethlehem's residents. This is such a small group of citizens making a huge decision.

6. Misleading Claims:

Some may falsely claim incorporation is necessary for community protection. We can manage growth without sacrificing our autonomy or facing higher taxes.

Please Join Us in Protecting Bethlehem

We urge you to educate others about the implications of incorporation. Together, we can ensure our voices are heard and continue to grow organically, free from unnecessary controls and financial burdens.

Think twice before signing any petition for incorporation.

Your signature could impact us all. Together, we can protect what makes Bethlehem a great place to live!