

Key Benefits of Cityhood for El Dorado Hills

- **What does “cityhood” mean? It means:**
 - Local control: All five members of our city council will be fellow residents elected only by us.
 - No new taxes. Reallocation of existing taxes will fully fund our city.
 - Dedicated police force with officers serving only El Dorado Hills.
 - We will control zoning, planning and permitting.
 - Revenue growth from sales and hotel taxes will go to the city.
 - We will have access to additional local, state and federal funding and grants.
 - ***EDH will no longer be an “unincorporated area” subservient to the county.***
- **How would it benefit El Dorado Hills?**
 - ***More of your money will stay in El Dorado Hills*** to improve our services, with no new taxes.
 - Your elected city council will be making decisions instead of the county Board of Supervisors (with only one of its five members living in EDH).
 - Better law enforcement coverage and response times, under local control.
 - Improved roads with additional funding dedicated to only our roads.
 - Improved parks, sports facilities and recreation services with no new taxes.
 - Better cooperation between city and EDHFD on wildfire risk and insurability issues.
 - Spending priorities determined by us, based on preferences of EDH residents.
 - More nimble and focused operations to deliver services faster, cheaper and better.
 - Determine our own future through local zoning, planning and permitting.
 - City services provided from El Dorado Hills, not Placerville.
 - As a city we will have a seat at the table to directly negotiate low-income housing mandates.
 - ***End the county’s use of EDH as its “cash cow” to fund projects and services outside EDH.***
- **Why now? I like El Dorado Hills just as it is. Timing is important because:**
 - This is a long process. Starting now means a vote on the November 2026 ballot and city formation in 2027.
 - Future revenue growth from increased sales taxes (e.g., Costco) and hotel taxes from proposed hotels would benefit the city much more if the city/county revenue splits are determined before they begin operation.
 - ***Control of future development begins with cityhood.*** If the county approves projects before cityhood, we are stuck with those decisions. Better to have this control now rather than later. ***It could soon be too late.***

PLEASE ATTEND THE CSD MEETING MARCH 13, 2025 AT 6:30PM

AND EMAIL YOUR SUPPORT TO: clerkoftheboard@edhcsd.org and cc each director: stephenferry@edhcsd.org, heidihannaman@edhcsd.org, michaelmartinelli@edhcsd.org, noellemattock@edhcsd.org

Potential Concerns from Naysayers

- **You won't really be able to do it without new taxes.**
 - Third-party preliminary study showed that our city is viable and will operate at a surplus without new taxes.
 - The next step is to do a comprehensive fiscal analysis. If it shows that the city is not viable without new taxes, then cityhood would fail before reaching voters.
 - The county is collecting far more from EDH than it spends on EDH. ***The money is there.***
- **Even if the city is viable initially, future events will require the city to increase taxes.**
 - The future is uncertain, but a city would not increase uncertainty. The state and/or the county could also face financial crises causing them to seek new taxes or cut services.
 - EDH voters will decide: ***The city will not be able to raise taxes without a vote of EDH residents.***
- **A city would add another duplicative layer of government.**
 - Incorporation would consolidate and streamline municipal services from two government agencies – El Dorado County and the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) – to one El Dorado Hills city government serving our community.
 - There will be ***no duplication of services, only a consolidation of government services.***
- **I moved to EDH to escape another city. I don't want to live in a city.**
 - "City" is just a word that means "local control."
 - The real-world ***impact of cityhood will depend on actions of our City Council***, which will be elected by local residents only, instead of 5 County Board of Supervisors operating from Placerville.
- **I heard that becoming a city will require more low income housing in EDH. I don't want that.**
 - Currently, El Dorado County is in control of placement of affordable housing in EDH.
 - Incorporation does not increase the overall regional low-income housing allocation.
 - ***As a city, we will have a seat at the table and have local control over how and where to plan for affordable housing instead of the County.***
- **Cityhood means more growth. I don't like growth.**
 - The opponents of cityhood in 2005 made this argument. Under county control, EDH has grown a lot since 2005. Growth more than doubled from 18,000 residents in 2000 to 42,000 in 2010. The current population is approximately 50,000.
 - Cityhood puts local residents in charge of land use decisions impacting growth. ***There would be no future re-zones without city approval.***

Let's do the work and let voters decide