

The History of our

INCORPORATION

Rancho Cordova is 10 years old on July 1st 2013. How was cityhood accomplished? Following is a summary and timeline that spells out Rancho Cordova's 40-year endeavor to become California's 478th incorporated city.



1960 & 1961 Our first incorporation drive occurred when “modern day” Rancho Cordova homes were under construction to house people from Mather Field and Aerojet. Civic leaders funded a study which found that a new city in this part of Sacramento County would be financially viable. A small booklet was published but nothing was done with the information.

1978 The Community Council and Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce conducted a feasibility study. Proposition 13 passed but it didn't include any language that allowed property tax to be transferred to new cities—it took two years for legislation to be passed that addressed this issue.

1982 After researching a variety of governments that were described in “Choices for the Unincorporated Community,” a book by Dr. Alvin Sokolov, a decision was made to pursue the writing of a Sphere of Influence (SOI) for Rancho Cordova. It was approved by LAFCo (Local Agency Formation Commission) and remained the only SOI ever written for an unincorporated community in California until Rancho Cordova's incorporation replaced the document.

1983 We started an actual incorporation committee. We held public meetings, raised funds, set boundaries, and were able to show that Rancho Cordova had the revenue to become a city.

1985 Sacramento County sponsored a bill (AB672) that stated it was up to the County to decide “how much, if any property tax would be transferred to the new city.” We met with a County Supervisor to discuss incorporation. Also at the meeting were representatives from Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, and Elverta/Rio Linda that were all working towards incorporation. We followed AB672 and fought it for two years—it was finally changed because of our efforts.

1986–1994 We updated boundary and revenue information to show we could still be a viable city. We wrote a petition and officially began the Rancho Cordova incorporation drive by gathering signatures on July 4th at Hagan Park but were unable to get enough valid signatures. In late 1987, we began gathering signatures again but stopped in early 1988 because of the litigation between Citrus Heights, Sacramento County, and LAFCo.

While their six years of litigation continued, we continued updating our committee with the Secretary of State, State Board of Equalization, Assessor's Office, Registrar of Voters, etc.

1995 After the U.S. Supreme Court allowed Citrus Heights to put “cityhood” on the ballot, new people joined our nine-year-old committee. A well-organized and focused petition drive and signature gathering campaign resulted in the required number of signatures with a 97% accuracy rate. Four years of concentrated effort successfully negotiated an incorporation deal with Sacramento County. Boundaries were revised and the revenue neutrality agreement resulted in a one-sided benefit for the County.

Financing: \$5 Month Club funded the effort for three to four years. Fundraisers included a Reception Gala, Wine Tastings, an Art Auction, and other events. Neighboring cities provided financial support—Citrus Heights and Elk Grove each gave \$35,000, Folsom gave \$25,000, and Galt gave \$5,000.

2002 In November, Rancho Cordova cityhood was on the ballot and passed. Twenty years of hard work resulted in 78% of voters approving cityhood, an almost unprecedented number in California.

2003 We officially became an independent city on July 1, 2003 with hundreds of people attending a grand celebration at Mills Station.