

Dear Neighbor:

The Village cannot by law advocate for, or against, the home rule referendum question. However, we can tell you the facts as to why we initiated home rule. The Village of Homer Glen currently does not assess a municipal property tax, and the Village Board and I seek to keep it that way. Home rule status has allowed the Village of Homer Glen to maintain a 1% home rule sales tax—rather than using a municipal property tax levy—to fund important Village services and infrastructure improvements. A significant percentage of the 1% home rule sales tax is paid by persons who shop in Homer Glen but who live outside of our community.

The Village seeks to maintain a no-property-tax practice.

The Village Board has placed a measure on the November 6, 2012 ballot to allow the residents of Homer Glen to continue, or not continue, home rule status. The Board has pledged not to tax the residents with a municipal property tax if home rule status is maintained which allows for:

- Decision making at the local level and not the state level;
- Prevention of the state interceding as a super-zoning authority; and
- The Village to address state mandates in an appropriate manner for our community.

Why is Homer Glen's home rule status in jeopardy?

Communities in Illinois, with a population greater than 25,000 people, automatically have home rule authority. This is how Homer Glen achieved home rule status in 2008. However, based on the most recent census, the Village's population dropped slightly below 25,000. This is why the Village must seek voter input as to home rule status.

More than 60% of Illinois citizens live in home rule communities.

There are 209 Illinois communities that have home rule status. A majority of these communities obtained home rule status through voter approval.

Those opposed to home rule are concerned about broadening the powers of local government.

Those who oppose home rule typically believe that it provides local governments with powers that are too broad. Research has shown that home rule communities derive a smaller portion of their revenue from property taxes than do communities without home rule. **Homer Glen remains one of the few Illinois communities that does not levy a municipal property tax.**

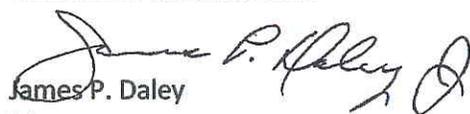
Safeguards are in place at local and state levels to help prevent misuse of home rule powers.

There are a number of safeguards that help protect taxpayers from any misuse of home rule powers. Home rule status can be reversed through the same referendum process. Also, half of the Village Board members stand for election every two years. There is also state preemption authority, judicial review, and State of Illinois constitutional prohibitions.

Where should we go from here? We value your input.

The Village Board and I would greatly appreciate your thoughts and recommendations as we move forward on this critical issue. For more information go to www.homerglen.org. Please direct any questions you may have about home rule to the village at village@homerglen.org

Respectfully,
VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN


James P. Daley
Mayor