



Good Evening!

Home Rule Referendum

November's General Election

The Village Board has placed a referendum measure on the ballot to allow Homer Glen residents to continue, or not to continue, the Village's current home rule status.

VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN

HOME RULE

REFERENDUM QUESTION

ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

***SHALL THE VILLAGE
OF HOMER GLEN
CONTINUE TO BE A
HOME RULE UNIT OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT***

YES

NO

Yes = Retaining Home Rule & Local, Homer Glen Control!

No = Losing Home Rule & Springfield Control!



For more
information
www.homerglen.org

The Village Board cannot advocate for, or against, the home rule referendum question. However, we can tell you the facts as to why we initiated home rule.

Mayor Jim Daley

Home Rule

- Home Rule power was granted to Illinois municipalities through the 1970 revision of the Illinois Constitution.
- “...a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, including, but not limited to, the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare; to license; to tax; and to incur debt.”

What is Home Rule?

- Home Rule authority shifts decision making:

Springfield

or

Homer Glen

Home Rule allows communities to find local solutions to local issues.

How Does a Community Become Home Rule?

- By Population...

- Communities in Illinois with a population greater than 25,000 automatically have Home Rule authority. This is how Homer Glen became Home Rule in 2008.

- By Referendum...

- Communities with a population of less than 25,000 can adopt Home Rule by voter approval of a referendum. This is the question that is on the General Election ballot.

How Many Communities are Home Rule?

Home Rule is a common form of government

- Approximately 209 Illinois communities are Home Rule.
- The majority of these attained Home Rule status by referendum.
- Over 60% of Illinois' citizens live in Home Rule communities.

What are the arguments for Home Rule?

Maintains community character

Reduces regulation from State of Illinois mandates.

- Returns control over zoning issues to the local community (State of Illinois cannot intercede as a super zoning authority.)
- Allows the community to develop local solutions to local issues.

What are the arguments for Home Rule (continued)?

Allows for greater financial flexibility

- Reduces or eliminates reliance on property tax. Broader ability to tax non-residents (daytime non-resident population).
 - Makes new funding sources available (e.g. home rule sales tax, prepared food and beverage tax and hotel tax).
- Often results in reduced interest rates and better bond ratings.

What are the arguments for Home Rule (continued)?

Local versus Springfield Control

- Local voters have greater access to decision-makers and therefore, there is greater accountability.
- Less dependence on the State of Illinois legislature.
- Greater local control.

What are the arguments against Home Rule?

Allows for greater local control

- Local government has more discretion to generate revenue.
- Property tax caps do not apply. (The Village of Homer Glen levys no property property tax.)
- Potential for abuse of broad powers.

Home Rule Misperceptions?

Home Rule Misperception # 1

- Home Rule communities will raise taxes at a faster rate than non-home rule communities.

Home Rule Misperceptions

Property Tax Increases

- Dr. James M. Banovetz – Emeritus Professor and Senior Fellow at the Center on Government Studies, NIU:
 - 1. On average, home rule communities derive a smaller portion of their revenue from property taxes than do communities without home rule. **Homer Glen levys no municipal property tax.**
 - 2. There is no evidence supporting the contention that home rule communities increase property tax at a faster rate than non-home rule communities.
 - 3. The opposite appears to be true. Non-home rule communities have increased property taxes at a faster rate than home rule communities.

Home Rule

Misperception # 2

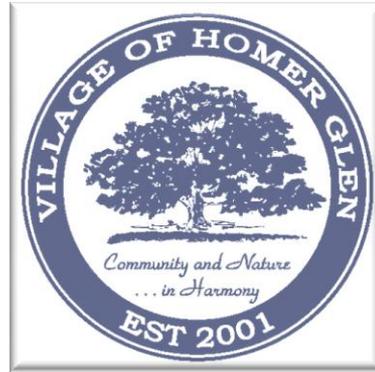
- Home Rule extends broad powers to local governments which creates the potential for abuse of those powers.
- Illinois courts have usually been disinclined to interfere with or reverse the exercise of Home Rule power.
- The Illinois Supreme Court has rarely found abuse (Home Rule powers upheld in 80% of the cases heard).

Questions to Ponder?

- Do individuals operating at the local level do a better job of managing their affairs than Springfield?
- Do you value that Home Rule powers provide the flexibility needed to respond to local problems and conditions?

Questions to Ponder?

- Do you value the fact that the 1% Home Rule Sales Tax allows people from outside Homer Glen (the daytime population) to help pay for community expenses?
- Do you value the longstanding practice of the 1% Home Rule Sales Tax allowing the Village to continue its practice of not levying a general municipal property tax, while at the same time maintaining service and infrastructure improvements?



Springfield?
or
Homer Glen?



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Thank you...

Questions?