

VILLAGE OF CLIFTON HOME RULE REFERENDUM

APRIL 4, 2023 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What is Home Rule?

A: By law, Illinois communities are classified as either Home Rule or Non-Home Rule. Currently, there are 221 Illinois home rule communities. While Non-Home Rule communities are subject to all state legislation and mandates (unfunded ones included), Home Rule communities may be more flexible in finding local solutions to local issues and are not as burdened by state-imposed mandates and regulations. More decisions are made by your local officials—your friends and neighbors — and not by the state.

Q: How does a community become Home Rule?

A: Municipalities with populations over 25,000 are automatically granted Home Rule status, while smaller communities can put the question on a ballot and let voters decide. As the Village of Clifton's population is less than 25,000, it must become Home Rule through referendum.

Q: Why is Clifton considering Home Rule?

A: Home Rule gives us the tools to make more of the things you care about possible.

Q: What are some benefits of Home Rule?

A: There are many benefits to becoming Home Rule, including:

- **State Mandates:** While Non-Home Rule communities are subject to all state legislation and mandates, Home Rule communities are subject to state legislation and mandates only when Home Rule has been preempted by a supermajority vote of the state legislature.
- **Budget Savings:** Home Rule communities have more cost-savings potential by having the authority to enter into multi-year contracts, while Non-Home Rule communities may not enter into multi-year contracts, with only a few exceptions. Home Rule communities generally obtain higher bond ratings, which provides greater potential to securing financing at a lower interest rate as well as cost savings to taxpayers.
- **Safer Community:** Home Rule communities may adopt and enforce their own "crime free" rental housing ordinances.
- **Diversified Revenue Base:** Becoming a Home Rule community would allow the Village to have a more diversified revenue base paid into by non-Village residents who come to town that will allow more revenue for infrastructure used by all.
- **Infrastructure & Beautification:** Additional revenue would enhance the Village's ability to complete infrastructure projects, oversee property maintenance, and maintain beautification efforts throughout the Village.
- **Property Taxes:** As a reminder, the Village only receives a small percentage of the property taxes you pay. Home Rule communities have a high degree of flexibility to raise or lower

property taxes. Home Rule communities generally have lower property tax rates.

Q: What will the Village do with any additional revenues derived from Home Rule?

A: The Village Board intends to direct additional dollars that it may receive to projects that improve the quality of life in Clifton which mean the most to you, including a timelier road improvement program, public community spaces and Village beautification.

Q: Does Home Rule Affect Taxes on Real Estate Transactions?

A: A Home Rule community cannot automatically introduce a tax on real estate transfers. A tax on a real estate transfer must be voted on in a separate referendum, even when a community is Home Rule.

Q: Will Home Rule increase my property taxes?

A: As a tax capped non-home rule community, Clifton currently raises the tax rate each year by CPI or 5% whichever is less. As a Home Rule community, Clifton can raise or lower the tax rate based on other available revenue sources.

Q: If I vote for Home Rule, is the change permanent?

A: No. The community has the ability to seek a referendum to return to non-home rule status.

Q: How will Home Rule revenue be spent?

A: Much of it will be used to improve roads, sidewalks and quality of life improvements.

Q: Is it common for communities to become Home Rule by referendum?

A: 68% of existing home rule communities are a result of voter election. The rest were automatic due to population.

Q: How should I vote?

A: You must decide after evaluating the facts.