



What is *HOME RULE*?

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It gives each city the flexibility to craft its laws specifically to its unique needs. Voters put Home Rule powers in the Florida Constitution more than 50 years ago. These powers state that any city can adopt laws as long as the law doesn't conflict with state or federal law. An easy way to understand it is: Local Voices Making Local Choices.

Why should I care about Home Rule?

Home Rule means local decision-making. If a city wants to install a stoplight, add a traffic sign, build a holding pond to prevent flooding or hold a parade, it doesn't need to ask the Legislature for permission. As long as it doesn't violate state law, cities have the flexibility and independence to serve their citizens' needs and preferences. We trust our local leaders to enforce laws "at home" and to make necessary changes as a city grows.

Home Rule makes a lot of sense, so why is it under attack by legislators?

The simple answer: because some legislators think they know your community better than the local officials you elected. Our legislators continue to try to pass preemption bills. These are one size fits all bills, whether you are a large metropolitan area or a small town. They circumvent local decision-making and trample on the individuality of each city, town and village. In the past three legislative sessions alone, more than 100 preemption bills were filed.

How can I get involved in the mission to protect and promote Home Rule?

Make your voice heard! Pledge your support to protect local self-government. Tell your legislators to focus on statewide issues and leave the local ones to the officials you elected. Get in touch with your state legislators and tell them, "We need local voices making local choices!" Share this message on social media. The Florida League of Cities has resources available for you to use to learn more and get engaged. Find them at buildingstrongercities.com.