

## Home Rule Examples to Discuss in Florida

### Urban and Suburban Chickens:

- Some cities permit single-family homes to have chicken coops in yards with fences. The number of chickens is based upon the size of the yard and size of the neighborhood (the density of the population). This usually does not include roosters because of the noise.
- It also does not apply to apartments (no yards) or townhomes (houses too close together – noise and smell concerns) or to inner-city dwelling for the same reasons.
- Discuss how this might impact your neighborhood

### Parking in Downtown Areas:

- When narrow streets have parking on both sides of the street, it can be difficult for cars to park, then move without accidents. Visibility is also tough for the drivers and for pedestrians. Businesses, restaurants and stores in a downtown will want ample parking, but that can come with safety concerns. City leaders often discuss these options:
  - Parking on only one side of a street
  - Parking in garages (with a fee to help pay for the garage or not)
  - Parking on the street with meters to discourage too many cars from parking
  - Discuss what you and your family have experienced when trying to park in a congested area

### Active and Passive Parks:

City leaders know that recreation options are very important to residents and visitors. Active parks include facilities for team and individual sports or other activities. A passive park usually has trails for walking, but no facilities for active sports that would be used by teams. A city budget has finite (limited) resources; choosing between active and passive parks can often come down to what a city can afford. There can also be discussions about actual demand for facilities – will enough people use an active park if it is built? Over time, a city might convert an active park to a passive park as its population ages or tastes change with sports and activities.

- Your class can discuss these park issues:
  - Golf courses nationally are declining in use – should a city government plan on building a new golf course?
  - If a city's population includes a large percentage of people under age 25, how should they plan for parks in the next 5 years or 10 years?
  - If a city's population has a large percentage over age 40, how should they plan for parks in the next 5 and 10 years?