

# Vote NO to “Home Rule” March 20, 2012



Citizens for Clarendon Hills  
[www.CitizensforCH.com](http://www.CitizensforCH.com)

Your right to vote on future property tax increases and more debt is eliminated under Home Rule.

The Village will feel little pressure to control costs with a Blank Check.

## What is Home Rule?

- **“Home Rule” is a term for a massive shift in local governmental power from current state-mandated limits** to allowing sweeping powers at the local level.
- Under the 1970 Illinois Constitution, communities with a population of 25,000 residents automatically become Home Rule. Communities with less than 25,000 residents can vote to become Home Rule by referendum.
- In Clarendon Hills (“CH”), this would mean granting **unprecedented power to the volunteer Village Board and stripping our citizens of the right to vote** on certain core community issues we’ve had for 88 years.

## What are the powers of Home Rule?

- Home Rule strips citizens of the right to vote on community issues; the Village Board can simply impose new taxes, policies and regulations such as:
  1. **RAISING PROPERTY TAXES WITHOUT OUR APPROVAL.** The current annual property tax increase limit (“PTELL”) or “Tax Cap” of the lesser of the inflation rate or 5% doesn’t apply to Home Rule governments.
  2. **INCURRING DEBT BEYOND PREVIOUS STATUTORY LIMITS.** This could be used to fund major capital expenses, subsidize developers, or large construction projects with almost no input from citizens.
  3. **IMPOSING A LAUNDRY LIST OF NEW TAXES.** Large demolition taxes, real estate transfer taxes, new motor vehicle taxes, increased food and beverage taxes, and retail sales taxes are all fair game, and difficult to unwind once imposed.

## Will my property taxes increase?

- **YOUR PROPERTY TAXES WILL INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY.** The Village has already stated plans to raise Village property taxes by 22% next year if Home Rule is approved. Your Village property taxes could increase by more than 40% in the next five years.
- **YOU WILL LOSE REAL MONEY TO NEW TAXES.** If your current property tax bill is \$10,000, the Village portion of your tax bill could increase at least \$1,500 over the next five years.
- **IF MISUSED, HOME RULE IS A BLANK CHECK.** Home Rule power allows big property tax increases and new taxes without spending accountability.

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Home Rule just doesn't make any sense for CH.

Do you really think CH won't be a fundamentally different place to live with a government like this?

*Paid for by Citizens for Clarendon Hills Oppose Home Rule Ballot Initiative, an Illinois Ballot Initiative Committee. Not affiliated with a political party or candidate.*

## Is Home Rule common?

- **HOME RULE IS NOT VERY COMMON** among Illinois citizens.
- **TYPICALLY LARGE COMMUNITIES** with unique problems use Home Rule - Chicago, Aurora, Joliet, Naperville and Peoria.
- 86% of Illinois' Home Rule residents are home rule solely because they live in a big community (> 25,000 pop.) -- **BUT CH HAS A CHOICE.**
- **MANY NEARBY COMMUNITIES DON'T HAVE HOME RULE** - Hinsdale, Western Springs, LaGrange, Willowbrook, Burr Ridge, Oak Brook, Lisle, and Riverside.

## Why is the Village pursuing Home Rule power?

- **THE VILLAGE WANTS THE POWER, NOT YOUR VOTE,** to unilaterally raise taxes and take on debt without citizen approval.
- **THE VILLAGE WANTS TO ELIMINATE THE CURRENT STATE TAX CAPS** to raise your taxes without referenda.
- **THE VILLAGE SAYS IT "WANTS" TO ELIMINATE SSA TAXES.** But be informed that the Home Rule referendum does not obligate it to do so.
- **THE VILLAGE SAYS ITS FINANCIAL CONDITION WILL DETERIORATE,** that it needs Home Rule power to keep up with spending. But **Village revenues are fine.**

## What is the Village's financial condition?

- **CH remains IN THE BLACK.** It has a "AAA" bond rating, ample cash reserves (40% of annual revenue) and a balanced budget.
- **There is no need for new taxes.**
- **SPENDING SHOULD NEVER INCREASE AT TWO TIMES REVENUE.** The Village's projections used to sell Home Rule show revenue increasing at 2.5% to 3% annually while expenses increase at 5%. Historically average tax (revenue) increases for the past five years have been 4.8%, with average inflation of 2.4%.

## What can YOU do?

- **Get educated. Vote on the facts.**
- **Visit our website [www.CitizensforCH.com](http://www.CitizensforCH.com)** for additional information and to register your email for weekly updates.
- **Contact us by email with any questions: [CitizensforCH@comcast.net](mailto:CitizensforCH@comcast.net)**
- **"Vote NO ` to Home Rule" on March 20.** Encourage friends and neighbors to do the same.