TOWN OF ERIE
1874

Should Erie Go HOME RULE?

As growth in communities across the Front Range continues exploding, the Town of Erie recognizes its responsibility to provide the best possible quality of life while also ensuring thoughtful growth and fiscal responsibility. 93% of Colorado cities and towns are governed by Home Rule. Erie's Board of Trustees believes now is the time for residents to assess the Town's statutory governing structure and explore becoming a Home Rule town.

To determine if Home Rule is right for Erie, the Board of Trustees would like to make sure the community and its leadership have a shared understanding of:

1. What Home Rule could look like for the Town of Erie?
2. What opportunities and challenges come with a governing change?
3. What steps would need to be taken to shift Erie's government structure?



WHAT IS HOME RULE?

"In Colorado, municipal 'home rule' is a form of government under the control of local citizens rather than state government, with powers and authority derived from the municipality's locally enacted charter and ordinances, rather than state statutes. It afford citizens of cities an towns who adopt a local charter freedom from the need for state enabling legislation and protection from state interference in 'local and municipal matters'."

Colorado Municipal League, Home Rule Handbook for colorado's Cities & Towns (January 2017)

IN SIMPLER TERMS...

Home Rule is a form of government under the control of local residents rather than state statute.

Home Rule is based upon the theory that the residents of a municipality should have the right to decide how their local problems are solved.

There are many details to help you understand how this might work...keep reading on the flip side.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR GOING HOME RULE?

- **In June 2022** the Board of Trustees reviews community feedback and votes whether to add Home Rule and the creation of a Charter Commission for the November 2022 election.
- Those interested in being on the Charter Commission complete a nomination petition and submit to appear on the ballot 30 days of the Trustee vote.
- **If ballot passes**, the Charter Commission meets and begins creating the Charter and submits to the Town Board.
- **November 2023** General Municipal Election includes enacting the proposed Charter.

WHAT IS A CHARTER?

A Charter establishes the Town's form of government and specifies certain rights and responsibilities. As an independent body, the Charter Commission represents residents' viewpoints and considers and recommends appropriate revisions to the Charter, balancing the interests of the Town government and citizens.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES OF GOING HOME RULE?

1. The possibility of a restrictive Charter could lose the flexibility offered by Home Rule.
2. Adopting a Home Rule Charter involves some costs, which can be burdensome to the Town.
3. Some may see the ability of a Home Rule charter to provide more municipal authority as a disadvantage.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

To learn more, visit the Erie Home Rule website and join the community conversations

www.erieco.us/home-rule-charter

HOME RULE COULD IMPACT:

Finance & Taxation

- Allows for broader taxing powers.
- Establishes a separate tax base.
- Revises budget and adoption procedures.
- Establishes debt limitations.
- Establishes municipal bond repayment limitations.

Land Use

- Allows for greater control over zoning.
- Modifies the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment.

Elections

- Established a new process and dates for municipal elections.
- Establishes new procedures for initiative, referendum, and recall elections.
- Modified process for filling elected office vacancies.
- Allows Erie to specify the minimum age for elected officials.

Administration/Governance

- Allows Erie to determine its form of government.
- Enables Erie to establish its own ordinances and resolutions.
- Establishes procedures for regular/special meetings and executive sessions.
- Determines municipal court jurisdiction.
- Establishes Town procedures for the sale of public property and awarding contracts.
- Determines Town qualifications of municipal officers and employees.
- Establishes maximum terms for public utility franchises.