



Should Erie Go

DRAFT HOME RULE?

As communities along the Front Range grow and as more residents call Erie home, Erie recognizes it has a responsibility to provide the best possible quality of life for residents while ensuring strategic growth and fiscal responsibility. With this growth, many of our neighboring communities have chosen to “go Home Rule.” The Town of Erie has discussed this option for years among Town leadership and residents, with no final decision. The Board of Trustees believes now is an opportune time for Erie’s residents to assess its governing structure and explore whether it should remain a statutory town or if it should become a home rule town.

To determine if Home Rule is 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?

With this shared understanding, The Board of Trustees would like to put Home Rule on the ballot in November so that all Erie residents can help decide the future of their town.



PHOTO CREDIT: David Besnette

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 affords citizens of cities and 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 citizens rather than state government. Home Rule is based upon the theory that the citizens of a municipality should have the right to decide how their local problems should be solved.

But there are many details to understand about how that might work . . . keep reading on the flip side.



WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES OF GOING HOME RULE?

1. The possibility of a restrictive charter that could make Town business cumbersome
2. Adopting a Home Rule charter can be costly and burdensome
3. Some may see the ability of a Home Rule charter to provide more municipal authority over certain matters as a disadvantages

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR GOING HOME RULE?

Insert Home Rule Infographic “Map”

DRAFT

HOME RULE WOULD AFFECT:

Finance and Taxation

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



Land Use

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



Elections

- Establishes a new process and dates for municipal elections
- Establishes new procedures for initiative, referendum, and recall
- 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.
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