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## **HOME RULE POWERS: Why we need them**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

On July 17, 2014 the Board of Trustees of the Village of Crestwood voted by resolution to submit a proposition to the voters of the Village of Crestwood as to whether the Village should become a home rule unit. The Illinois Constitution allows home rule units to exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, unless specifically prohibited by the Constitution or State statute. Crestwood is currently not a home rule unit because it has a population under 25,000 and has not previously adopted home rule powers.

### **WHAT IS HOME RULE?:**

Home rule gives local governments power to act autonomously. Very simply stated, a non-home rule municipality must show a specific grant of authority by state statute in order to exercise a power. A home rule unit may enact any ordinance it finds to be in furtherance of the health, safety and welfare of its citizens unless such action is specifically prohibited or preempted from the home rule unit's exercising of such power.

### **HOW CAN CRESTWOOD BECOME A HOME RULE COMMUNITY?:**

On November 4<sup>th</sup> a proposition will appear on the ballot in the Village of Crestwood asking the voters to approve by referendum home rule powers for the Village of Crestwood.

### **WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES?:**

The advantages of home rule power for a municipality are many. A home rule unit may regulate differential and price between self-service and full-service gasoline stations. A home rule unit may adopt regulations relating to contracts between landlords and tenants. A home rule unit has expanded powers with regard to the consumption of liquor. A home rule unit has expanded powers to regulate building, zoning, sanitation, and nuisances. A home rule unit may extend the period of probation for its employees. A home rule unit can adopt procedures, different from state statute, with regard to the discipline, discharge, and promotion of personnel. A home rule unit may regulate other governmental bodies in the Village, including park districts, sanitary districts, and counties. A home rule unit has broadened powers in order to generate revenue with regard to taxing various businesses and sales. In general, where non-home rule communities have the authority to address only those matters they are permitted to address under state law, home rule communities can, generally, respond to new issues and circumstances without such constraints.

### **WILL HOME RULE RAISE MY TAXES?:**

There is a common criticism of the use of home rule powers that taxes increase under home rule. Academic studies have indicated that there is no evidence that home rule municipalities have a higher or faster growing property tax rate than comparable non-home rule municipalities. Home rule is often used, however, to shift the tax burden from property taxes to other revenue sources, such as licensing fees, restaurant taxes, and sales taxes to help either maintain or reduce property taxes.

**YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED ON NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> TO GIVE  
THE VILLAGE OF CRESTWOOD HOME RULE POWERS**