

Home Rule Frequently Asked Questions

What is Home Rule?

Home rule would allow a local government like Prospect Heights to have more local control over how it operates. It can reduce the extent of influence of Cook County (which is a Home Rule County) or the State of Illinois has making important decisions for Prospect Heights residents.

How do local governments get Home Rule?

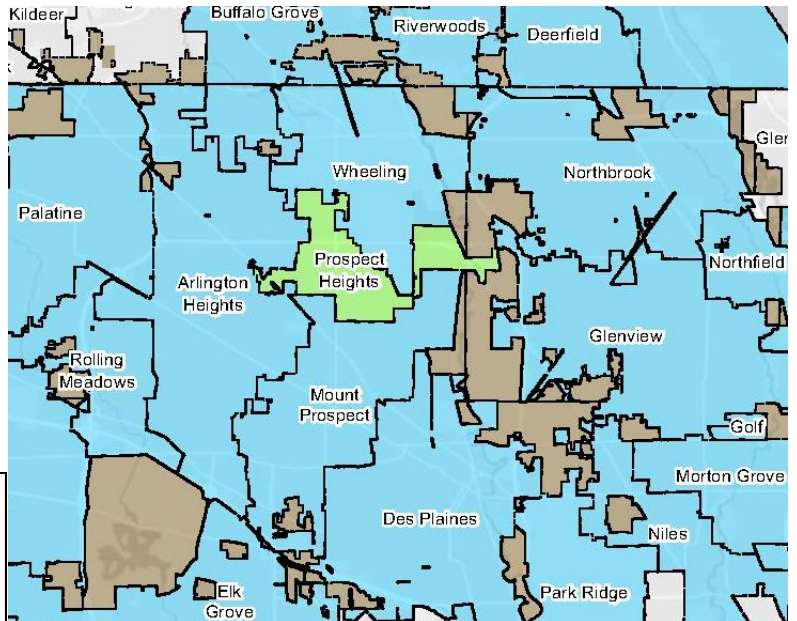
The Illinois Constitution automatically makes any municipality which has a population of more than 25,000 a home rule unit of government, or the municipal residents may elect by referendum to become a home rule unit of government.

What other communities have Home Rule?

Most of our surrounding neighbors are Home Rule communities. Please refer to the map and chart.

Surrounding Home Rule Communities	
Arlington Heights	Northbrook
Buffalo Grove	Northfield
Deerfield	Palatine
Des Plaines	Riverwoods
Elk Grove Village	Rolling Meadows
Evanston	Schaumburg
Glenview	Wheeling
Mount Prospect	Wilmette

Map Legend
Prospect Heights in green
Home Rule Communities in blue
Unincorporated areas in brown



What effect does Home Rule have on my property tax?

There is no general fund property tax in Prospect Heights because the city maintains a balanced budget with revenue from state income taxes, state and local sales taxes and local fees for vehicle and pet licenses, permits, inspections, and fines. Home Rule will not automatically change any taxes.

What are some changes that may come with Home Rule?

Home Rule provides the City Council the authority to utilize all hotel/motel taxes for general fund purposes, such as Police or Public Works, without restricting these monies specifically for hotel/motel marketing or Tourism District landscaping. Other possible Home Rule revenue sources, which typically come from non-residents, are video gaming fees and gasoline tax.

Does Home Rule give unlimited power to the local government?

No. Municipalities in Illinois are restricted by state statutes that prevent a municipality from enacting specific laws that are reserved for the state to legislate.