



A Resident's Guide for Talking about Home Rule to State Lawmakers

PREPARE IN ADVANCE

Familiarize yourself with the concept of Home Rule. Review the talking points below. Choose the points that feel most natural, and customize your message with personal examples. It is important to share real-world scenarios to localize the impact.

Work with your city officials and staff to obtain specific statistics about your city so you feel prepared and supported.

- ▼ When was your city incorporated?
- ▼ What form of government does your city operate (e.g., council-manager, strong mayor, etc.)?
- ▼ What basic services does your city provide (police, fire, EMS, wastewater, utilities, parks and rec, etc.)?
- ▼ How many businesses operate in your city?

NOTE: This document is not intended to be read or shared as-is.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Always open with your name and what city you live in. Be specific. Include your neighborhood.

Begin by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to meet with the lawmaker and/or thanking him/her for his/her public service.

Make eye contact. Be energetic. Be positive. You are a concerned citizen. You are an ally.

EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR HOME RULE/LOCAL CONTROL/LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

In Florida, local self-government is not a gift of the state legislature ... It is the expressed will of the people. People like me.

Our state Constitution clearly declares that cities shall have power "to conduct municipal government."

Intrusion on Home Rule by the state government undermines this constitutional right of citizens to govern themselves.

My city was incorporated in [insert year]. We have [insert number] businesses operating and over [insert number] people living within our municipal boundaries. It's our choice.

We work local, we eat local, we live local... so we should *decide* local.

I support Home Rule because it keeps control of my community in the hands of citizens like myself and the local leaders we elect.

We do not focus on ideological or partisan differences. Instead, we focus on creating better public policy for all of us.

Partisan politics has no place in municipal government. There's no Democratic or Republican way to fix a pothole.

As the government closest to the people, I am a part of my city... and I'm proud of it.



CONNECT HOME RULE TO LOCAL EXAMPLES

We are solving problems unique to my community. That's the beauty of Home Rule. We can take action immediately in response to our direct needs and allow you, the state, to use your time to tackle state issues. For example, [\[insert hyper-local example of a recent problem your city solved\]](#).

We cannot revert back to the days when every little solution had to come before the state legislature. We would never get anything done!

I know my city leaders want to partner with you to do what's right for all residents. But lately, special interests seem to be more important to state lawmakers than my local interests. That's not how it is at City Hall.

I urge you to work with us, not against us.

ADDRESS THE ISSUE IMPACTING HOME RULE

Cities work. If you let us do what we are designed to do, we will create the innovative solutions unique to our local issues.

Let us decide how to address [\[insert issue being considered by legislative body\]](#). Remember, what might work in [\[insert name of distant city\]](#) might not work in *my* neighborhood.

"One size fits all" solutions simply don't fit us.

My community is unique, and that's what makes us thrive.

Please protect my ability to solve problems locally.

[\[Insert specific ask.\]](#)

