



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

PREPARE IN ADVANCE

Familiarize yourself with the concept of Home Rule and how it relates to the Let Cities Work campaign. 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 them for their 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. We choose to live there.

We want to make decisions locally.

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

My local officials do not focus on ideological or partisan differences. Instead, they focus on creating better public policy for all our residents.

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, my city has a unique bond with its citizens.

My city takes action to respond to the needs of their citizens. [Insert local example of a recent problem your city solved.]

City leaders want to partner with state leaders to protect our ability to control our own destiny. I urge you to work with them, not against them.

What I'm asking is to Let Cities Work. Let my city work to develop innovative responses to problems affecting my community. Problems like [insert local issues such as sober homes, aging infrastructure, responding to natural disasters].

- Let cities work to deliver the services our citizens depend on.
- Let cities work to create an environment for economic development and prosperity.
- Let cities work preserve the unique qualities that make our communities special.
- Let cities work to serve and protect every resident and valued visitor.

Let cities work because local problems deserve local solutions.

