

Home Rule or Statutory?

There are two forms of municipal town government in Colorado- home rule and statutory. In a statutory municipality, local government is completely bound by the limits of state law. A statutory municipality has little to no flexibility in what a town can decide for itself. A home rule municipality, however, gives control to the local government and the voters to make local decisions. In fact, home rule ordinances addressing local matters supersede state law.

Home rule municipalities are dependent on a town charter, approved by the voters, which defines the town and provides a structure for the new government. Once approved, the Town of Keystone would have the power to legislate and regulate all municipal activities and needs including, but not limited to:

- creating a government form and structure,
- determining powers of elected officials and term limitations,
- creating new tax sources to meet financial needs (within certain limits),
- establishing town debt limitations,
- extending broader and more flexible land use, zoning and planning powers,
- determining procedures for adopting ordinances and resolutions, and establishing codes,
- allowing the town to opt out of many state statutes which statutory towns must comply with.

There are many more decisions a home rule community can make, but without a home rule charter, local governments are strictly subject to the laws of the state and voter power and proximity to their government dwindles.

The bottom line: home rule empowers local governments and statutory restricts and controls. The only choice for Keystone is home rule.