



Topic 6: Why Form a Charter Commission and become a Home Rule Town?

Becoming a Home Rule Town (versus a State Statutory Town) would give Keystone's Citizens control over the town government and the ability to shape solutions for local problems to fit Keystone's needs.

- The **first step** in becoming a Home Rule town is to **elect a Charter Commission of 9 people** to work within state statutes, listen to the needs of the community to tailor a draft "constitution" or Charter for the town.
- Drafting of the Charter will be open for review and input by all members of the Keystone Community.
- The Charter would be **ultimately approved in an election by Keystone's voters.**
- After Charter approval, a Town Council and mayor are elected to govern the town and approve town ordinances.

A Home Rule Town's government is under control of local citizens rather than the State. The Town's power and authority are derived from the Town's Charter and Ordinances and generally are not limited by State Statute. Home Rule would allow the Town of Keystone flexibility to:

- Meet the unique needs of the community. As a resort community, a **"one size fits all" State approach to municipal government doesn't address the unique needs of Keystone and would limit its future.** If no State statute exists regarding a unique problem or issues, the town's hands would be tied and could not resolve the problem.
- Tailor land use, zoning, and planning powers to meet the needs of the community. **Keystone would have more authority to guide and control growth and zoning.**
- A Town Council could refer a lift ticket tax and/or tailored lodging taxes to meet community needs to Keystone voters for approval. Currently Keystone's total tax on lodging is 8.35%, and Dillon's is 19.875%. If Keystone incorporates, the Keystone's tax rate on lodging drops to 6.35%.
- Create its own form of government and powers of elected and appointed officials. **The Keystone community would determine the structure of government--not the State.**
- **Establish procedures** by which ordinances and resolutions may be adopted **increasing transparency and reducing costs.**
- **Decide when elections will occur and who can vote.**

The towns of Dillon, Silverthorne and Breckenridge are Home Rule Towns. Making Keystone a Home Rule Town would place it on equal footing with our Neighbors. **Keystone would have more authority to shape solutions to town problems than Summit County currently has under State Statute.**

Becoming a Home Rule Town would give Keystone's Citizens control over the town government and the ability to shape solutions for local problems to fit Keystone's needs.