



JUNE 5, 2017

# TOWN OF IGNACIO HOME RULE INFO

**Dear Resident of Ignacio**

**The Ignacio Town Board is seeking your input on whether the Town should move forward with a Home Rule initiative. The initiative would entail an election to approve the formation of a Home Rule Charter Commission and the election of Charter Commissioners who will be tasked with writing a new Home Rule Charter. The Town Board will have a public meeting to discuss this initiative and to hear from you on this matter. The public meeting is scheduled for June 19th at 6:30 pm at the Ignacio Town Hall. Please plan to attend, or submit written comments to Town Hall before 5:00 pm on the date of the hearing. Thank you.**

**Below and on the back page is information and FAQ about Home Rule**

## Arguments Against Home Rule:

- If a restrictive charter is adopted, the potential flexibility offered by Home Rule may be diminished and unfavorable.
- A Home Rule municipality has the potential to exercise more governmental powers than are available to statutory municipalities, and some citizens may see this as a disadvantage.
- The Town of Ignacio currently functions as a statutory town. If it is not broken, don't fix it.

## Arguments For Home Rule:

- Home Rule enhances local control and instills pride in our municipal government.
- Home Rule is the embodiment of the principle that the best government is the one that is the closest to the people.
- Home Rule is about enabling local government to operate in a more efficient manner that best suits the needs of the community.

## Fast Facts

*The Town of Ignacio is a statutory town, which means of governing is limited by statewide statutes defined in the Colorado Constitution and by laws passed by the Colorado legislature.*

## Fast Facts

*If Ignacio becomes a Home Rule town, it will be able to create its governmental form and administrative structure, including the size of the governing body, the powers of elected and appointed officials, and terms of office.*

## Fast Facts

*A Vote for Home Rule is NOT a vote for higher taxes. Home Rule in no way overrides the provisions of Amendment 1 (TABOR), which requires that all new taxes require voter approval.*

## Town of Ignacio—Home Rule Info (cont.)

### **WHY SHOULD THE TOWN OF IGNACIO CHANGE TO HOME RULE NOW?**

Although there are currently no pressing matters that would be influenced by this change, now is an opportune time for considering the Home Rule initiative. Formation of a Charter Commission and the drafting of a new Charter may create a governmental framework that ensures the Town can operate efficiently and grow in a proper manner. A Home Rule Charter can provide for more revenue generating opportunities and more local control, which all can be beneficial in the long term.

#### **Fast Facts**

*Home Rule Municipalities operate under a charter written by local citizens elected to a Charter Commission and approved by a majority of registered Town voters.*

#### **Fast Facts**

*More than 91% of Colorado residents live in a Home Rule municipality. Neighboring communities that are Home Rule include Durango, Pagosa Springs and Cortez.*

### **WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHARTER COMMISSION AND WRITING A NEW CHARTER?**

There are several things to be aware of as the Charter Commission:

- Candidates for the Charter Commission are eligible for placement on the election ballot upon submittal of a petition signed by at least 25 registered voters within 30 days after the election notice.
- The Charter Commission is comprised of nine commissioners who are elected, and the Town Board will appoint any vacancies.
- Trustees are allowed to run for the Commission.
- Charter Commissioners are elected by having the highest number of votes.
- Charter Commissions usually begin drafting a new charter with the use of other charters that provide a document framework and language that may pertain to the town.

Visit the Town of Ignacio website for information on Home Rule, and be sure to read other municipal charters, and information on upcoming Home Rule activities.

<https://www.colorado.gov/ignacio>

