



Media Release

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City Council Approves Home Rule Self-Limiting Ordinances at Tonight's Meeting

ROCKFORD, III. – The Rockford City Council tonight approved four ordinances designed to limit the council's power if Home Rule is approved on the March 20 ballot. These are the strongest self-limiting ordinances of any municipality that has Home Rule. The ordinances include:

- Any new property tax increase would be capped at what non home rule communities are allowed by state law.
- Any new sales tax or property tax increase will require a super majority vote by City Council (10 out of 14 votes).
- Any sales or property tax increase would trigger a public notice, a public hearing, and an automatic layover allowing citizens time to understand what is proposed and why.
- The City shall not exceed the debt limitation equal to 20 percent less of what is allowed by non-home rule communities.

The City Council is still actively reviewing one final ordinance that would give voters the ability to recall elected officials. Staff is finalizing a review of best practices across the state and country. The final ordinance is expected to come before council in the coming weeks.

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