

# FACT SHEET

# LEARN ABOUT HOME RULE



## WHAT IS HOME RULE?

Established by the adoption of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Home Rule is a system that shifts greater responsibility and authority for local government decision-making from the state level to the local level. Home Rule will allow more flexibility in addressing "Bigger Village" matters such as financial, commercial, industrial issues and what sources they can tap, to provided the services demanded by their residents.

## WHY IS HOME RULE NEEDED?

Home Rule is granted to municipalities of 25,000 populations or greater. Home Rule authority is also available by referendum to smaller communities. While Matteson's population is only 19,000, we have to function like a much larger community in order to meet the expectations of our residents and businesses. Home Rule will provide Matteson with more flexibility to pass ordinances on various subjects, and can do so without long delays, unless the State specifically prohibit.

## WHY DOES THE VILLAGE WANT TO BE A HOME RULE COMMUNITY?

Home Rule will provide the Village access to additional tools and flexibility to address the quality of life and nuisance issues that may arise which can help reduce reliance on property taxes. Primary reason why the Village of Matteson can benefit from Home Rule is to obtain additional funding for example (hotel/motel tax fund) to ensure adequate funding for roads, water system and other infrastructures. The Village intends to impose a Home Rule sales tax that would be devoted to roads, water systems and other infrastructures. Home Rule also allow the Village to increase bonding authority/Home Rule sales tax on large distribution centers.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFIT OF BECOMING HOME RULE?

The following is a list of benefits that would arise from a decision to become Home Rule. These benefits would assist Matteson to reach the community needs:

1. Greater ability to improve growth for the Village.
2. Increase Village's ability to protect property values by streamlining procedures for property maintenance concerns:
  - Provide a new toolbox to create strategies for preserving resources in the "Historic Matteson" District.
  - Greater ability to purchase blighted and vacant properties to renovate and sell.
  - Allows the Board to consider ordinances to protect residents from unreasonable rent increases and unfair housing practices.
3. Enhance hiring procedures to employ open positions for Police & Fire Department to accomplish goals for achieving diversity within the ranks.
4. Increasing the Village bond rating which will reduce the Village's interest rate, thereby saving taxpayer dollars.
5. Strengthen Matteson's ability to attract and maintain economic development, such as redevelopment of the former Lincoln Mall (Market Square Crossing).

