



Limited Home Rule FAQs

Q What is Limited Home Rule?

A Limited Home Rule is a form of government created by statute that permits a township to adopt legislation not specifically prohibited by the Ohio Revised Code.

Q What qualifies a township for adopting a Limited Home Rule government?

A Townships are eligible for adopting Limited Home Rule governments if they have a population of at least 2,500 residents.

Q Why is Copley Township pursuing Limited Home Rule?

A Limited Home Rule would enable Copley Township to pass certain resolutions that have not previously been allowed as a response to the needs of urban areas and to make decisions based on local need.

Q How is Limited Home Rule decided upon and implemented?

A For a township with more than 15,000 residents, the board of trustees may unanimously vote to adopt this form of government. The Copley Township Board of Trustees, however, has chosen to place the issue on the local election ballot. If a majority of the votes cast are in favor of Limited Home Rule government, it is adopted as the township's government on the first day of January, immediately following the election.

Q What limitations exist for Limited Home Rule?

A You can find the limitations on this QR Code.



Q If enacted, when would Limited Home Rule go into effect?

A Limited Home Rule would be effective January 1, 2023.

Q If enacted, what does Limited Home Rule allow Copley Township to do that it can't do today?

A Limited Home Rule does allow townships to:

- Pass resolutions addressing urban areas' needs and issue citations for violating a resolution.
- Formalize passing resolutions requiring separate readings, except for emergency measures.
- Extend financing periods for equipment.
- Regulate adult entertainment establishments and residency of sex or child-victim offenders.
- Impose civil fines up to \$1,000 for any Property Maintenance Code violation.

Q If enacted, what does Limited Home Rule not allow Copley Township to do?

A Limited Home Rule does not allow townships to:

- Exercise any power in conflict with general laws.
- Enact any taxes other than those authorized by general law.
- Change, alter, combine, eliminate or modify form or structure of existing government.
- Establish or revise:
 - Subdivision regulations.
 - Road construction standards.
 - Stormwater and drainage regulation or building standards.
 - Hunting, trapping or fishing regulations, and the possession, use or sale of firearms.

Q If enacted, how long will the Limited Home Rule be in effect for Copley Township?

A Limited Home Rule would remain in effect for a minimum of three years. At that time, if the Board of Trustees determines that Limited Home Rule is not in the best interests of the township, it may adopt a resolution causing the board of elections to place the question of whether the township should continue that form of government. The electors of the township may propose at any time, by initiative petition, a resolution to place the question on the ballot in a local election.

Limited Home Rule FAQs continued

Q What if, once implemented, this form of government is found to not be in the best interests of Copley Township?

A Limited Home Rule can be terminated via petition of the electors and a subsequent vote, or via the board of township trustees and a subsequent vote of the electors.

1. Voters may petition the board of township trustees, signed by 10% of the electors of the township, at any time. The Board of Township Trustees must then certify a resolution to the board of elections for the question of adopting Limited Home Rule government. The question is put to vote at the next general election, which must occur at least 90 days after certification to the Board of Elections.
2. Once in effect for three years, if the Board of Township Trustees determines Limited Home Rule is not in the township's best interests, a resolution can be adopted to propose its termination. The question is voted on in the next general election, at least 90 days after it has been certified to the board of elections.

Q Who makes up the Board of Trustees for Copley Township under Limited Home Rule?

A Per the Ohio Revised Code, townships are authorized to be governed by three trustees: two elected at the general election in an odd-numbered year and one elected on the alternate odd year, with each serving a four-year term. Trustees are responsible for both the legislative and administrative duties of the township and are not authorized to terminate Limited Home Rule in private.

Copley Township's trustees are:

- Jim Schulte, Chairperson
- Scott Dressler, Vice-Chairperson
- Bruce Koellner, Trustee

Q Do any other townships in Northeast Ohio utilize Limited Home Rule?

A Yes. Carlisle Township, Howland Township, Liberty Township, West Chester Township, Boardman Township, Jackson Township, Perry Township and Plain Township all currently operate under Limited Home Rule governments.

Q How will Limited Home Rule resolutions be enforced?

A Limited Home Rule townships may adopt and enforce resolutions, though generally cannot create criminal offenses or impose criminal penalties. Limited Home Rule townships must also provide police services to enforce resolutions and issue citations for violations.

Q What happens if township resolutions (e.g., a property maintenance code) resulting from the implementation of Limited Home Rule are violated?

A Limited Home Rule townships may enforce resolutions by requiring civil fines up to \$1,000.

Q Can resolutions be revised or amended?

A Yes. However, all resolutions will require two readings before they are approved and effective, providing more transparency of township business.

For more information about Limited Home Rule, visit:

copley.oh.us

