

Home Rule Charter

Local Issues. Local Voices. Local Governance.



Counties that have their own Home Rule Charter are granted greater local control and authority and exemptions from some state laws.

On March 25, the Board of Douglas County Commissioners initiated the nine-step process for Douglas County to develop its own Home Rule Charter. Ultimately, Douglas County voters will decide.

Unlike a statutory form of government, which adheres to state-imposed rules and limitations, a Home Rule Charter provides the flexibility to address local challenges more effectively and innovatively. Some examples could include bag fees, public health regulations (mask mandates), sanctuary community policies and more. During two elections, Douglas County voters will ultimately decide if Douglas County should have its own Home Rule Charter.

9 Steps to Become a Home Rule Charter County

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| <p>Step 1</p> <p>Initiate:
The Board of County Commissioners initiated this process by resolution on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.</p> | <p>Step 2</p> <p>Division of County:
The Board must divide the County into three districts. Included with the Resolution on March 25, the Commissioners decided to use existing Commissioner districts.</p> | <p>Step 3</p> <p>First Election:
June 24, 2025
Voters will be asked:
1. Whether to form a Charter Commission
AND
2. To select 21 Charter Commission Members</p> |
| <p>Step 4</p> <p>First Charter Commission Meeting
must be held within 30 days of the first election.</p> | <p>Step 5</p> <p>Charter Commission Working Meetings
will be held to draft the Charter.</p> | <p>Step 6</p> <p>Public Comment:
Three public meetings will be held.</p> |
| <p>Step 7</p> <p>The Charter Commission will accept the final draft proposed charter.</p> | <p>Step 8</p> <p>Second Election:
Nov. 4, 2025
Voters will be asked whether to approve the Home Rule Charter drafted by the Charter Commission.</p> | <p>Step 9</p> <p>If approved by voters, the Charter will become effective on Jan. 1, 2026.</p> |

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Your Input Matters

Charter Commission Meetings will be open to the public. There will be three additional meetings specifically for public comment. To be notified about these meetings, sign up for email notifications by scanning the QR code or entering the website address and choosing “Home Rule.”



qrco.de/DCHomeRule

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there other counties in Colorado that have their own Home Rule Charter?

Yes. Broomfield, Denver, Pitkin and Weld counties.

How does Home Rule grant greater local control?

According to State Statute, Home Rule status grants greater local control and authority by two means:

1. Explicit statutory authority and statutory exemptions such as public health and safety, collective bargaining, structure of government, opting out of state property tax reductions, local fees and licenses, animals and zoning.
2. Implied exemptions and discretionary authority including local control and local issues.

What will it cost the County to implement this?

There is a cost for the special election on June 24, which could cost as much as \$500,000. Because the Nov. 4 Coordinated Election is already scheduled, there is no additional cost to the County.

Which of the municipalities in Douglas County are home rule municipalities?

All cities and towns in Douglas County are home rule municipalities, including the City of Castle Pines, City of Lone Tree, Town of Castle Rock, Town of Larkspur, and Town of Parker. Highlands Ranch is a metro district located in unincorporated Douglas County.

