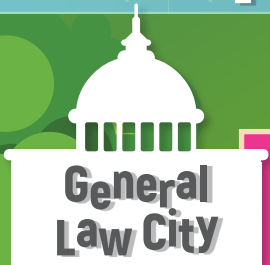


Steps to **H O M E R U L E C I T Y** From A General Law City



General Law City

1 Township board assumes responsibility of general law city



The Woodlands residents gain:

- Roadway rights transfer to The Woodlands
- Become eligible for additional state, federal and grant funds (disaster mitigation funding)
- Ordinances – (examples: noise, fireworks, barking dogs, addresses unenforceable covenants)
- Law enforcement authority
- Becoming voting members of Houston-Galveston Area Council (Federal, state and regional funding board)
- Ability to freeze city taxes for residents 65 years and older and the disabled
- Additional revenue sources as a city (example: municipal court system, fines related to ordinances, traffic tickets and others)
- Permanently removes annexation from Houston and Conroe

2 Elect initial city council/ mayor



3 Home rule charter committee is formed and led by residents



Write home rule charter

4 Public forum to review home rule charter



5 Residents vote to approve home rule charter

NO

YES

General Law city

Has no authority to act unless the state legislature gives them the specific authority to do so.

Home Rule City

Derives its authority via a charter approved by the residents and has authority to act on any matters unless specifically restricted by state constitution or state statute.



Home Rule City

Noted Concerns

- Potential for higher voter approved tax rate
- Potential limitations on use of hotel tax
- Future costs not captured in study

