

Glencoe: What is Home Rule?



Illinois Constitution Art. VII § 6:

...A home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs including, but not limited to, ***the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare; to license; to tax; and to incur debt.***

*Municipalities with more than 25,000 residents automatically become home rule.
Communities with fewer than 25,000 residents can become home rule by passing a local referendum.*

Illinois home rule empowers local governments with broad self-governing authority, allowing them to:

- Legislate local taxes and regulate many issues without needing state permission.
- Manage local affairs like public services and land use.

However, there are limits:

- **Taxation restrictions:** Can't tax income or earnings.
- **Criminal penalties:** Can't impose jail terms over six months.
- **State override:** The state can reclaim specific powers, except for core local functions or taxes.

What supporters say

Supporters of home rule say it will give Glencoe:

- More authority and flexibility to address local problems.
- Lessened dependence upon the state legislature.
- More freedom from legislative mandates.
- More flexibility on community development.
- The potential to shift local tax burdens to non-residents through sales and use taxes.

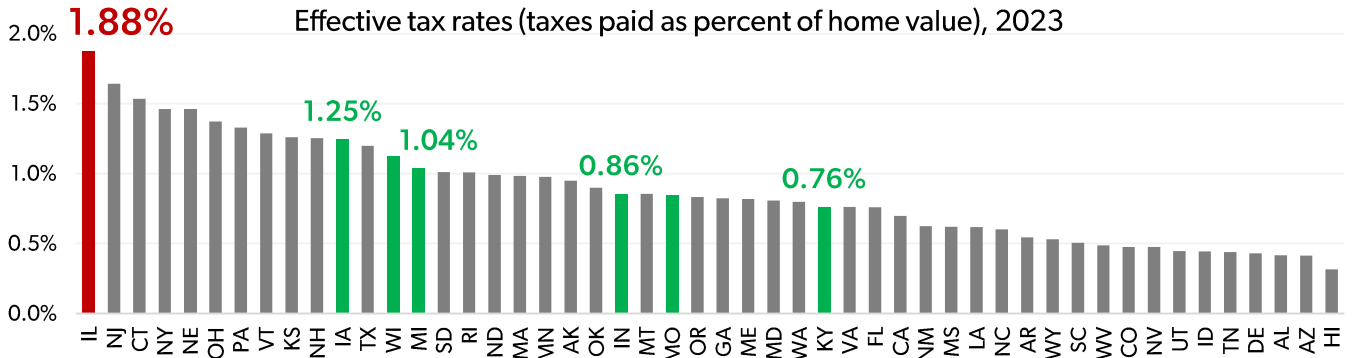
What opponents say

Opponents of home rule warn it could allow Glencoe to:

- Hike taxes without voter approval. Illinoisans already pay some of the nation's highest taxes.
- Fund pet projects, leading to mismanagement, corruption and favoritism.
- Impose more red-tape and social micromangement.
- Make a bad situation worse – overlapping governments don't coordinate their spending/tax hikes.
- Add taxes/regulations with little oversight. Only 13% of Glencoe residents vote in local elections.

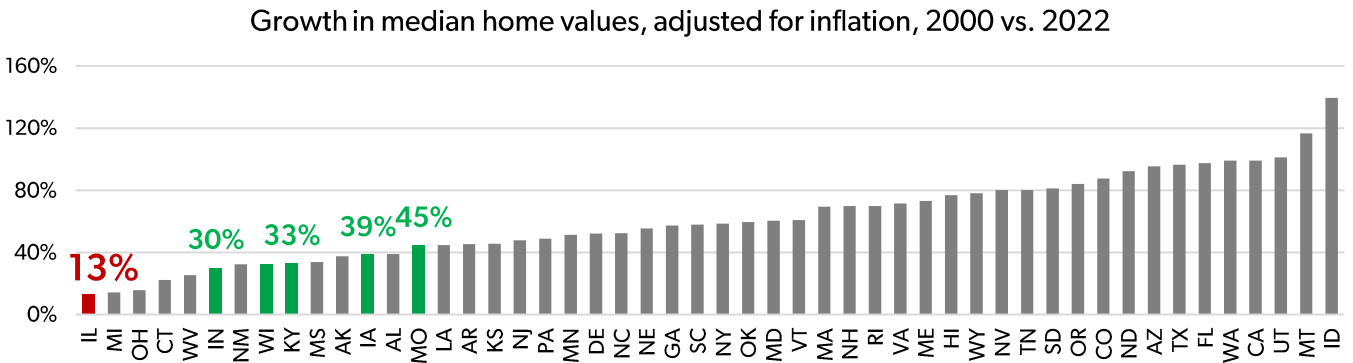
Three key Illinois facts

Illinoisans pay nation's highest property taxes



Source: ATTOM Data Solutions

Growth in real Illinois home values since 2000 are nation's worst



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Illinois has lost a net 1.6 M people to other states since 2000



Source: Internal Revenue Service - SOI migration data