

Home Rule in Michigan

The doctrine of self-determination, more commonly referred to as "Home Rule" may be defined as the constitutionally-granted prerogative of political subdivisions of the State to have control over and to have full responsibility for governmental matters of purely local concern without interference by the State.

The people of the State of Michigan through the Constitutional Convention of 1908, have conferred such powers on the cities and villages of Michigan. The 45th Legislature of the State of Michigan, and subsequent legislatures, in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution, have adopted enabling legislation which has made possible the practical application of "Home Rule." The Constitution of 1963 reaffirms and strengthens the principle of home rule for cities and villages.

Cities and villages of Michigan have fully accepted the responsibilities under such grant of power, and the existence of the doctrine of self-determination has been the largest single factor in bringing about the high standards which prevail today in municipal government in Michigan.

*Excerpt from Statement of Policy on Home Rule in Michigan, Michigan Municipal League, 1972-73.