

Home Rule Charter  
Government Study  
Commission Question  
“Will this work for Aliquippa?”

DCED and the  
Act 47 Team

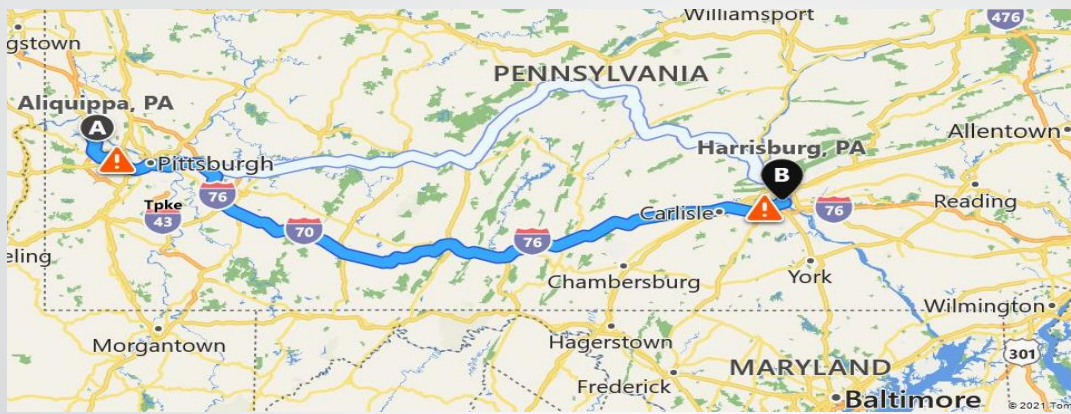
# HOME RULE IS AN ACT 47 EXIT PLAN INITIATIVE ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

The *Exit Plan* requires the City to address changes to the form of government that will contribute to and support objectives that lead to a more stable and resilient City organization. The City Council is required to adopt an ordinance for a Home Rule Charter government study commission, specifying the question, and designating the number of members to be elected to the commission. Within five (5) days of the adoption of the ordinance, a copy of the signed and certified ordinance with the appropriate question must be delivered to the Beaver County Board of Elections to be included for the next election not less than 13 Tuesdays before the date of the election.

Pursuant to the Exit Plan, the Option for Home Rule Charter in Aliquippa is possible through the enactment of an Ordinance passed by the City Council of Aliquippa.

The Ordinance passed by Council authorizes a question to the Voters for the November 8 Election:

“Shall a government study commission of seven members be elected to study the existing form of government of the municipality, to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter and, if advisable, to draft and to recommend a home rule charter?”



Currently, the PA General Assembly make laws that local municipalities must follow – Decisions are made in Harrisburg not in the City of Aliquippa

State Mandates

Third Class City Code



# Home Rule is Government by the People

## Over 100 counties and municipalities have adopted Home Rule Charters

### Examples of Cities with Home Rule Charters

Allentown

Hermitage

Altoona

Johnstown

Beaver Falls

McKeesport

Clairton

New Castle

Dubois

Pittsburgh

Farrell

Philadelphia

Franklin

Reading

Greensburg

Sharon

Harrisburg


Warren



# Home Rule Charter

## What is it?

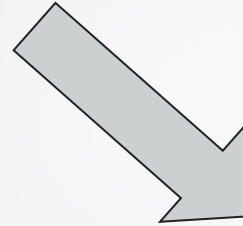
- Transfers authority from state to local government control
- Gives local government ability to pass laws based on local needs
- Gives local government flexibility in setting tax rates



# What will Home Rule do for Aliquippa?

- More freedom for self-governing
- Exit from Act 47
- Laws that better suit the needs of Aliquippa residents
- More efficient government structure
- More citizen input
- More transparency

# Home rule can move property tax burden to wage earners





# EQUITY IN TAXATION

Property tax is not based on the homeowner's ability to pay and in many cases the middle and lower earners pay a far higher percentage of their income than do higher wage earners.



# What Home Rule Can't do.

Make laws contrary to the United States Constitution , the Pennsylvania Constitution, state laws, and laws "uniform and applicable" in every part of the Commonwealth. Even under Home Rule, municipalities must still follow state laws such as:

Labor Laws

Environmental Laws ( Stormwater Management Act.)

Municipal Planning Code

Crimes Code

Vehicle Code

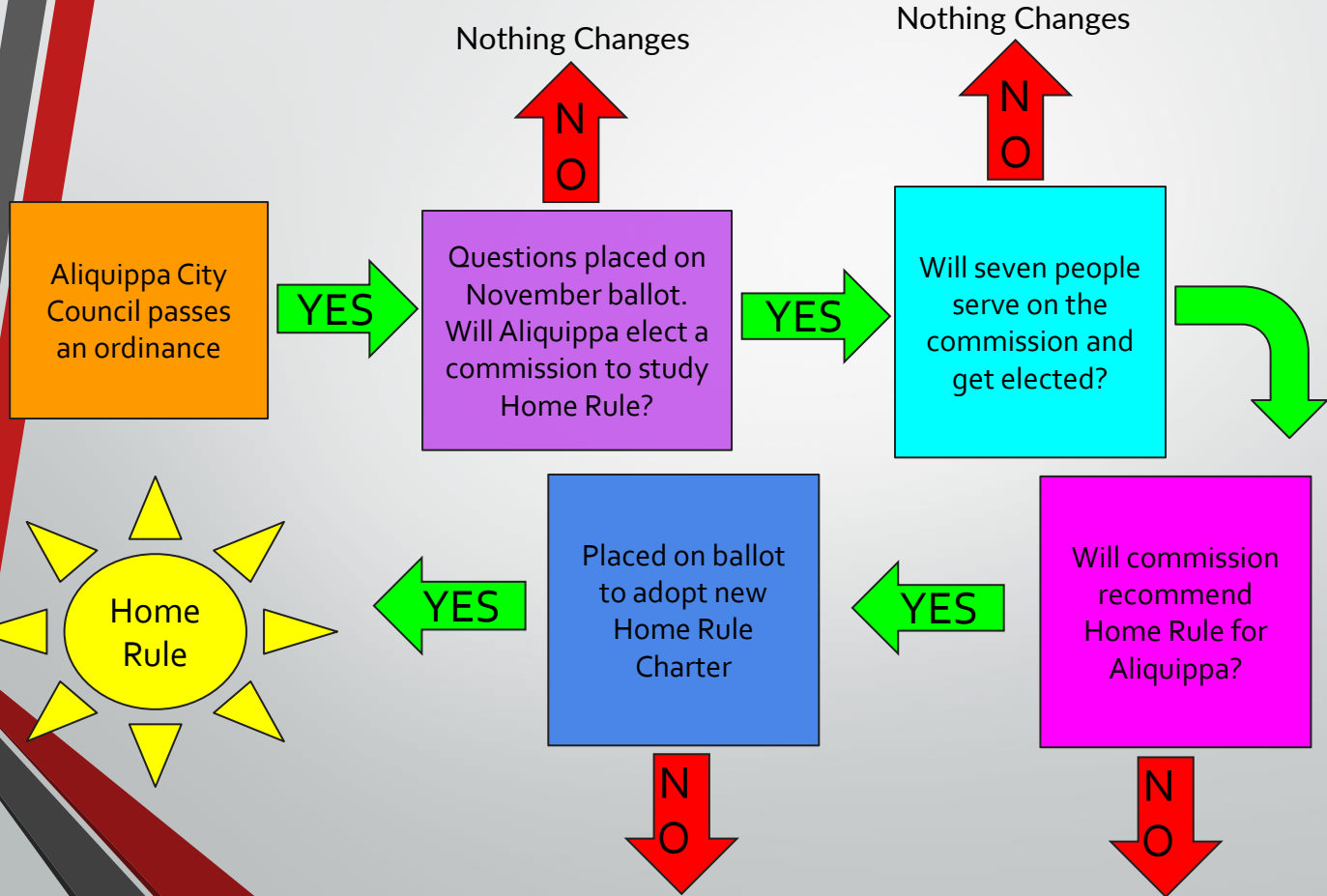
And the Sunshine Law.



## **SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS (53 PA.C.S., § 2962)**

- Boundary Change
- Elections
- Subjects of taxation
- Non-resident taxation
- Eminent Domain
- Regulation of business
- Public Schools

# STEPS FOR ADOPTION OF HOME RULE CHARTER:



# QUESTION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Shall a government study commission of seven members be elected to study the existing form of government of the municipality, to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter and, if advisable, to draft and to recommend a home rule charter?

# FIND 7 PEOPLE WILLING TO SERVE ON THE STUDY COMMISSION

- Resident of Aliquippa
- Circulate a nominating petition and obtain 75 signatures
- Submit an Ethics Form with Petition
- Be elected November 8, 2022
- Term could last 18 months
- Must Study current form of government
- Make recommendation:
  - Stay with current form of government
  - OR**
  - Adopt Home Rule Charter that will strengthen the City, provide accountability and transparency to the residences
- Hold public hearings and public forums
- Report findings within 9 months of being elected
- Draft a Home Rule Charter



# Questions and Comments about Home Rule May be Submitted to:

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