

Limited Home Rule (LHR) FAQs

Why is Butler Township considering home rule (LHR)?

As a statutory township, Butler Township has very little flexibility to address the concerns of residents and businesses. Over the past year, trustees have been researching and discussing LHR and ways that the township could benefit from it. Limited Home Rule provides the ability for townships to make decisions based on local need, rather than leaving those decisions solely up to the State.

What can the township do under LHR that it cannot do now?

As an LHR township, Butler Township could have the ability to:

- Regulate the activities of transient dealers, solicitors and street vendors
- Set curfew restrictions for minors
- Pass nuisance and public safety resolutions
- Prohibit the storage of abandoned junk vehicles
- Enact legislation to control noise and lighting

What is the township prohibited from doing under LHR?

No resolution adopted by the trustees may conflict with the laws of the state of Ohio. This means that the Township **MAY NOT**:

- Establish regulations regarding hunting, trapping, fishing, or the possession, use or sale of firearms
- Impose new taxes unless voted upon by the general population
- Modify the structure of the township government
- Change regulations related to agricultural uses
- Create criminal offenses or impose criminal penalties
- Revise subdivision regulations, road construction standards, storm water regulations or building code requirements

Would LHR lead to a duplication of services?

LHR does not mean duplication of services or duties for Butler Township. The township already has its own police department, zoning resolution, and outside legal counsel that assists in matters, when necessary, which are all requirements of LHR under section 504 of the Ohio Revised Code.

How does the process of adopting LHR work?

Residents will decide whether to adopt LHR. Should the trustees decide to pursue LHR, the issue will be on the ballot in November 2024. That means residents will be the ones to ultimately decide whether the township adopts LHR by voting yes or no in November. If the measure passes, LHR would be instituted on January 1, 2025.

Would my taxes increase? Adopting LHR does not mean higher taxes. LHR townships cannot enact any taxes other than those authorized by a vote of the electors.

How many townships in Ohio have adopted LHR? Of the 1,308 townships in Ohio, more than 30 have adopted LHR.

What townships in Montgomery County are Home Rule? Miami Township and Washington Township are Home Rule townships.