



# Public Information Session



# Why is Home Rule Being Considered Now?

Our commitment to the Village’s long-term sustainability is key within our mission statement. As part of our budget planning processes, we are looking at a long-term revenue shortfall, especially as it relates to maintaining infrastructure.

## Wauconda is a full-service Village providing:

-  Police
-  Road maintenance
-  Snowplowing
-  Wastewater treatment
-  Water delivery
-  Community development
-  Code enforcement
-  Lake management
-  Community events

## Infrastructure includes:

-  54 miles of local roads
-  Sidewalks
-  Bangs Lake
-  Water infrastructure
-  Wastewater services
-  Stormwater management
-  Village buildings
-  Technology
-  Vehicles

# How Do We Pay for Our Services?

Only **13%** of your property tax bill pays for Wauconda's services!



# What Does the Village Do to Cut Costs?

Outsource or share services like legal services, payroll, engineering, mowing, infrastructure repairs, building maintenance, tree removal, some plan reviews and inspections, IT, fleet maintenance

Reduce staffing over time – from 68 in 2012 to 54 now

Use part-time or seasonal employees instead of hiring full-time

# What Does “Home Rule” Mean?

Home Rule offers greater authority to make decisions affecting local governance, as long as the local policy is not already prohibited or pre-empted by state or federal law.

If Wauconda’s voters approve Home Rule via a referendum on April 4, 2023, the Village’s elected officials will take back some local control from Springfield, transferring those decisions to our Village Board.

# Who Qualifies for Home Rule?

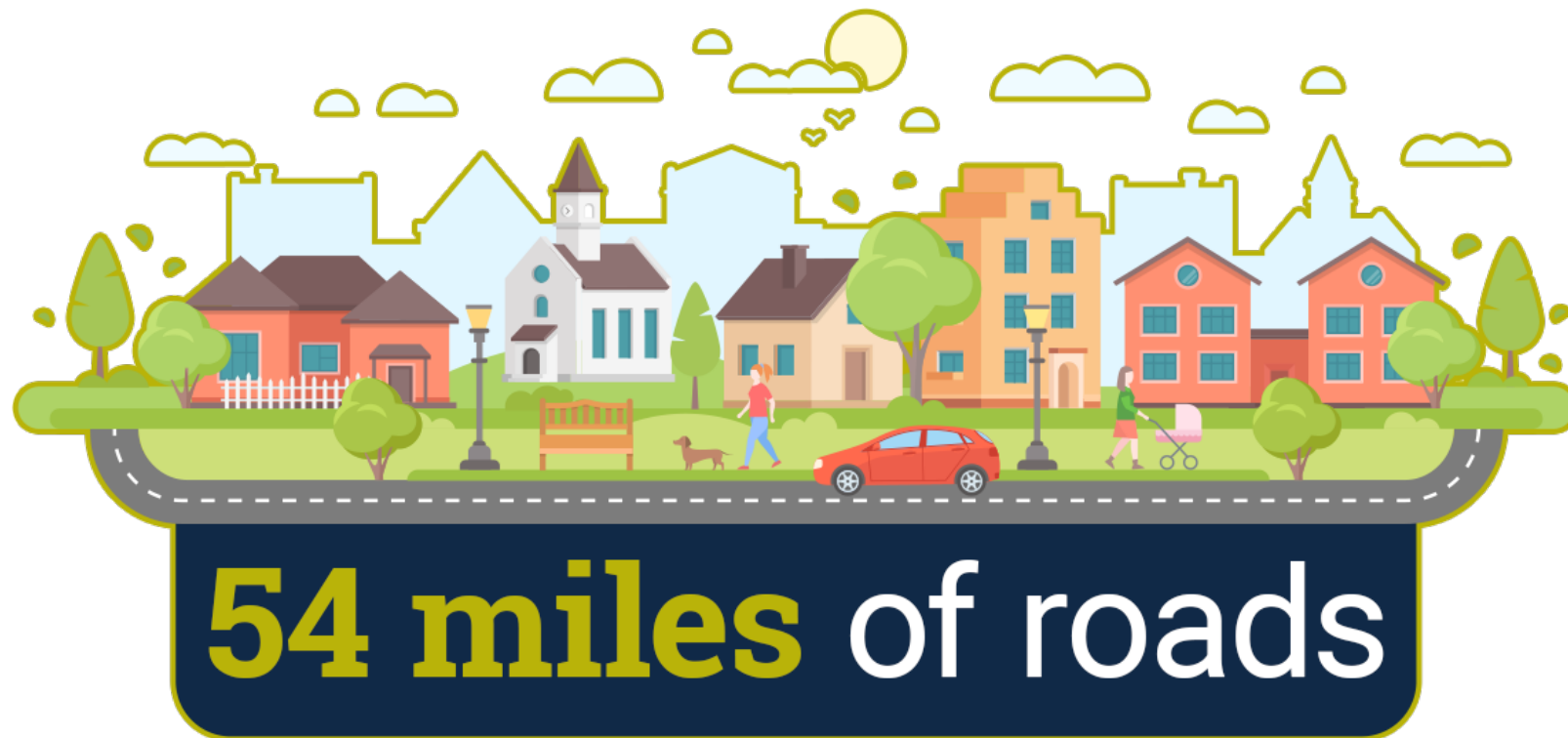
In 1971, Illinois granted Home Rule authority to municipalities with **over 25,000** people in the state constitution.

In addition, municipalities with populations **under 25,000** residents can choose Home Rule by voter referendum.

Six Illinois communities dropped **under 25,000** last year, but voters in each place decided to **RETAIN Home Rule**.

# What Kind of Local Challenges Do We Face?

Paying for maintenance of local roads is a particular challenge. Each year we have to resurface a portion of our 54 miles of Village roads and we need about \$1.5 million in additional funding on an annual basis to do so.



# What's an Example of a Local Solution?

For instance, 84% of visitors to Liberty Square, our largest shopping center, are non-residents who don't pay our property taxes. We know this because our economic development efforts track the locations of shoppers' mobile phone data.

Home Rule would allow us to collect a new 1% sales tax capturing much of our deficit from these visitors to our Village and thereby reducing pressure on local property taxes.

Note that groceries, prescriptions, and vehicle sales would be exempt.





# What Will Be Taxed?

## TAXABLE VS. EXEMPT

TAXABLE		EXEMPT	
 Clothing	 Restaurant / Takeout	 Prescriptions & OTC Medicine	 Produce
 Home Goods	 Cosmetics	 Baking Goods	 Recreation Vehicles
 Supplies	 Candy & Softdrinks	 Bread	 Eggs
 Alcohol	 Laundry Detergent	 Meats	 Frozen Foods
 Cleaning Supplies	 Vehicles	 Dairy Products	

# How Much is a 1% Sales Tax?



Current Taxed Price



Pre-Tax Price



Home Rule Tax Price

## Top Zip Codes

CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	% OF CUSTOMERS
Wauconda	IL	60084	15.98
Round Lake	IL	60073	8.83
Island Lake	IL	60042	8.50
Barrington	IL	60010	7.79
McHenry	IL	60051	5.20
Lake Zurich	IL	60047	3.72
McHenry	IL	60050	2.33
Cary	IL	60013	2.28
Grayslake	IL	60030	1.47
Mundelein	IL	60060	1.44
Crystal Lake	IL	60014	1.26
Crystal Lake	IL	60012	1.17
Palatine	IL	60074	1.10
Lake Villa	IL	60046	1.06
Fox Lake	IL	60020	1.01
Ingleside	IL	60041	0.89
Woodstock	IL	60098	0.83
Waukegan	IL	60085	0.67
Lake in the Hills	IL	60156	0.65
Arlington Heights	IL	60004	0.60
Wheeling	IL	60090	0.57
Spring Grove	IL	60081	0.54
Vernon Hills	IL	60061	0.53
Carpentersville	IL	60110	0.50
Wonder Lake	IL	60097	0.48

CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	% OF CUSTOMERS
Algonquin	IL	60102	0.47
Chicago	IL	60640	0.45
Huntley	IL	60142	0.41
Antioch	IL	60002	0.41
Schaumburg	IL	60193	0.40
Libertyville	IL	60048	0.40
Fox River Grove	IL	60021	0.39
Buffalo Grove	IL	60089	0.37
Elgin	IL	60123	0.35
Palatine	IL	60067	0.33
Mount Prospect	IL	60056	0.33
Chicago	IL	60631	0.31
Gurnee	IL	60031	0.28
Lake Forest	IL	60045	0.27
Hanover Park	IL	60133	0.25
Waukegan	IL	60087	0.25
Roselle	IL	60172	0.25
Chicago	IL	60647	0.24
Rolling Meadows	IL	60008	0.23
Chicago	IL	60634	0.23
Elgin	IL	60120	0.23

CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	% OF CUSTOMERS
Bartlett	IL	60103	0.22
Hoffman Estates	IL	60169	0.22
East Saint Louis	IL	62201	0.22
Schaumburg	IL	60194	0.21
Belvidere	IL	61008	0.20
Bensenville	IL	60106	0.20
Chicago	IL	60660	0.20
Park Ridge	IL	60068	0.20
Niles	IL	60714	0.19
Bolingbrook	IL	60440	0.19
Lake Bluff	IL	60044	0.18
Chicago	IL	60613	0.18
Lincolnshire	IL	60069	0.18
Schaumburg	IL	60173	0.17
Los Angeles	CA	90028	0.17
Chicago	IL	60610	0.16
Arlington Heights	IL	60005	0.16
Marengo	IL	60152	0.16
Hoffman Estates	IL	60192	0.15
Addison	IL	60101	0.15
Bellingham	WA	98225	0.15
Rockford	IL	61109	0.14
Genoa City	WI	53128	0.14
Chicago	IL	60644	0.14



# Will Home Rule Increase my Property Taxes?

**No.**

In fact, our Village Board has passed an ordinance to abide by our current property tax limitations.

Instead, a 1% Home Rule sales tax will spread most of our road maintenance deficit to non-residents who utilize our Village, just like many of our surrounding towns are already doing. This new tax would reduce pressure on property taxes.

# Who Else Already has Home Rule?

221 Illinois municipalities already have Home Rule. Towns over 25,000 in population automatically qualify, but many under 25,000 have voted to approved Home Rule including Volo, Barrington, and Lake Barrington.

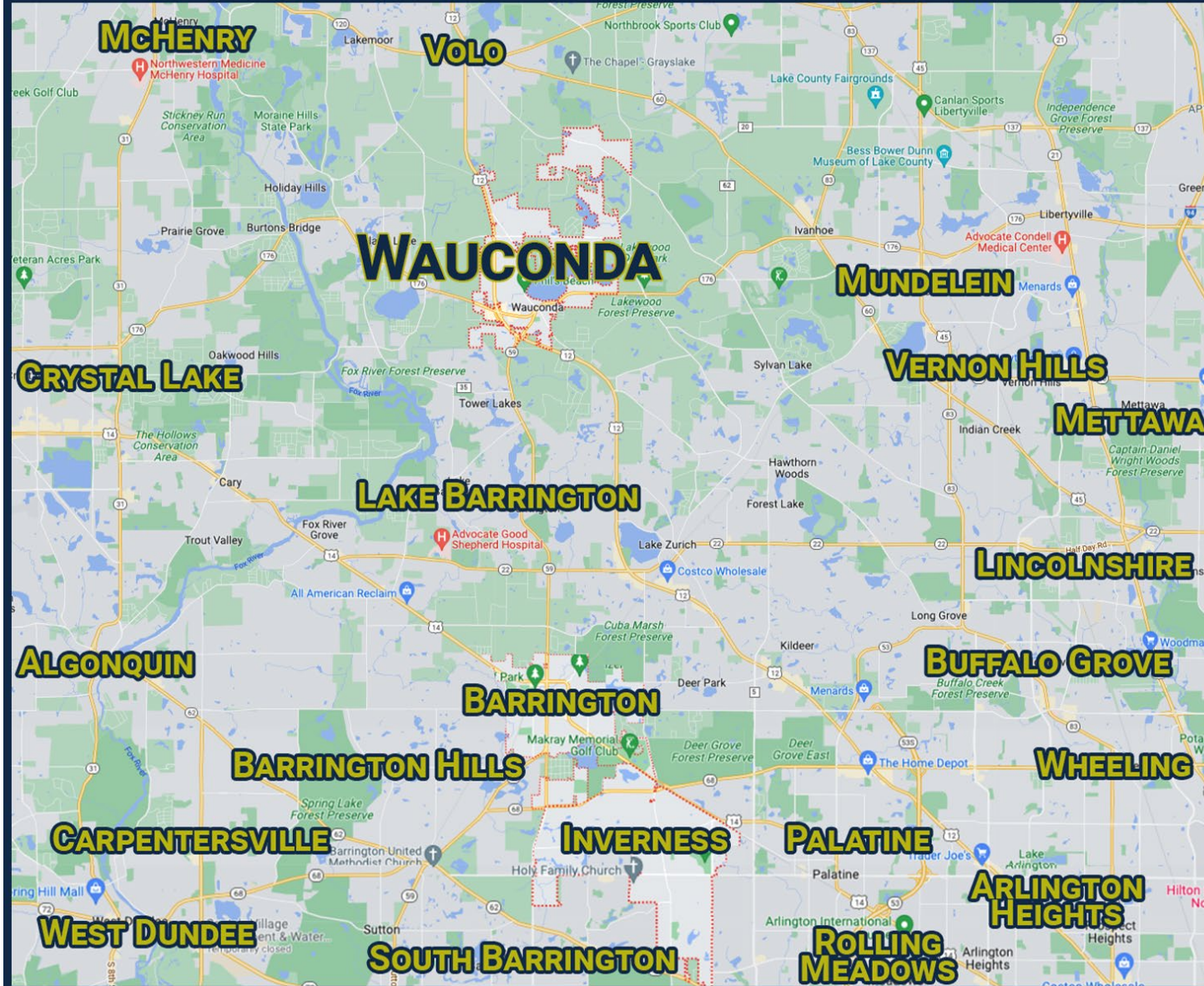


Wauconda population

**14,084**

# Map of Other Home Rule Communities

All yellow towns labeled are already Home Rule communities



**Barrington  
and Volo  
both passed  
Home Rule  
referenda to  
pay for  
infrastructure  
costs**



# Where Can I Find More Information?

[www.WaucondaHomeRule.com](http://www.WaucondaHomeRule.com)

On the site you'll find fact sheets, answers to frequently asked questions, an informational video with Mayor Sode, and more.

Election Day is April 4

**Early voting is open at**

**Wauconda and Fremont Township offices now**