



# YOUR HOME RULE QUESTIONS, ANSWERED...

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How many votes are needed? Is it a simple majority to overrule it or do they need more?

A referendum is considered approved if a simple majority votes “yes.”

Does the Home rule give Batavia Government the power to increase tax rate with no limits. And no votes from its citizens?

The simple answer is “yes,” but the Aldermen who vote on property tax increases are elected officials who may be removed from office in a subsequent election. Also, in the nine years that the City of Batavia has had home rule, property taxes have increased \$1.2 million. That’s only \$100,000 more than it could have increased property taxes under PTELL, the law limiting non-home rule units to property tax increases that are the lower of 5% or the consumer price index increase. Interestingly, in the 9 years prior to home rule property taxes were increased \$2.5 million, more than twice what they have been raised under home rule. See the Finance Director’s 2018 Midyear Report.

<http://www.cityofbatavia.net/DocumentCenter/View/3400/City-of-Batavia-Mid-Year-2018--Finance>