

Home Rule Charters

Highlighting Keystone

Presented by Jennifer Madsen, Widner Juran LLP



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Agenda

- What is Home Rule?
- Process to Home Rule Charter
- Town of Keystone Charter

What is Home Rule?

- Under the control of local citizens rather than state government
- Powers are derived from charter and ordinances
- Creates freedom from the need for state enabling legislation
- Provides protection from state interference in local and municipal matters

2 Ways to Start Home Rule Process

- 1) Adoption of ordinance by governing body of municipality calling for election; OR
- 2) Petition signed by 5% of registered electors in municipality

Election on Home Rule

Two Questions:

- 1) Should we form a charter commission?
- 2) Who should serve on the charter commission?

Charter Commission

- Population < 2,000: 9 members on commission
- Population 2,000 or more: 9 members unless ordinance provides a higher odd number
- Candidates submit nominating petition signed by at least 25 electors

SUCCESS! Charter Commission Formed

- First meeting set by governing body
- Elect chair and secretary
- Adopt rules of procedure
- All meetings open to the public
- Reasonable expenses paid by municipality

Powers of Commission

- Employ staff
- Retain experts
- Conduct interviews
- Make investigations
- Accept funds and grants

WORK - Proposed Charter

- Municipality's constitution
- At least one public hearing
- 180 days after election, submit proposed charter
- Governing body calls for election and sets ballot title
- Must be approved by voters

REQUIRED! Home Rule Charter Provisions

- Initiative, Referendum, and Recall
- Continuing, Amending, or Repealing Existing Ordinances
- Prefatory Synopsis

Home Rule Charter Provisions

- Form of government (qualifications)
- Size of Council (at large/district and terms)
- Election procedure
- Boards and Commissions
- Ordinances and Resolutions
- Manager, legal, and judicial
- Budget and financing
- Eminent domain

Approval Requirements

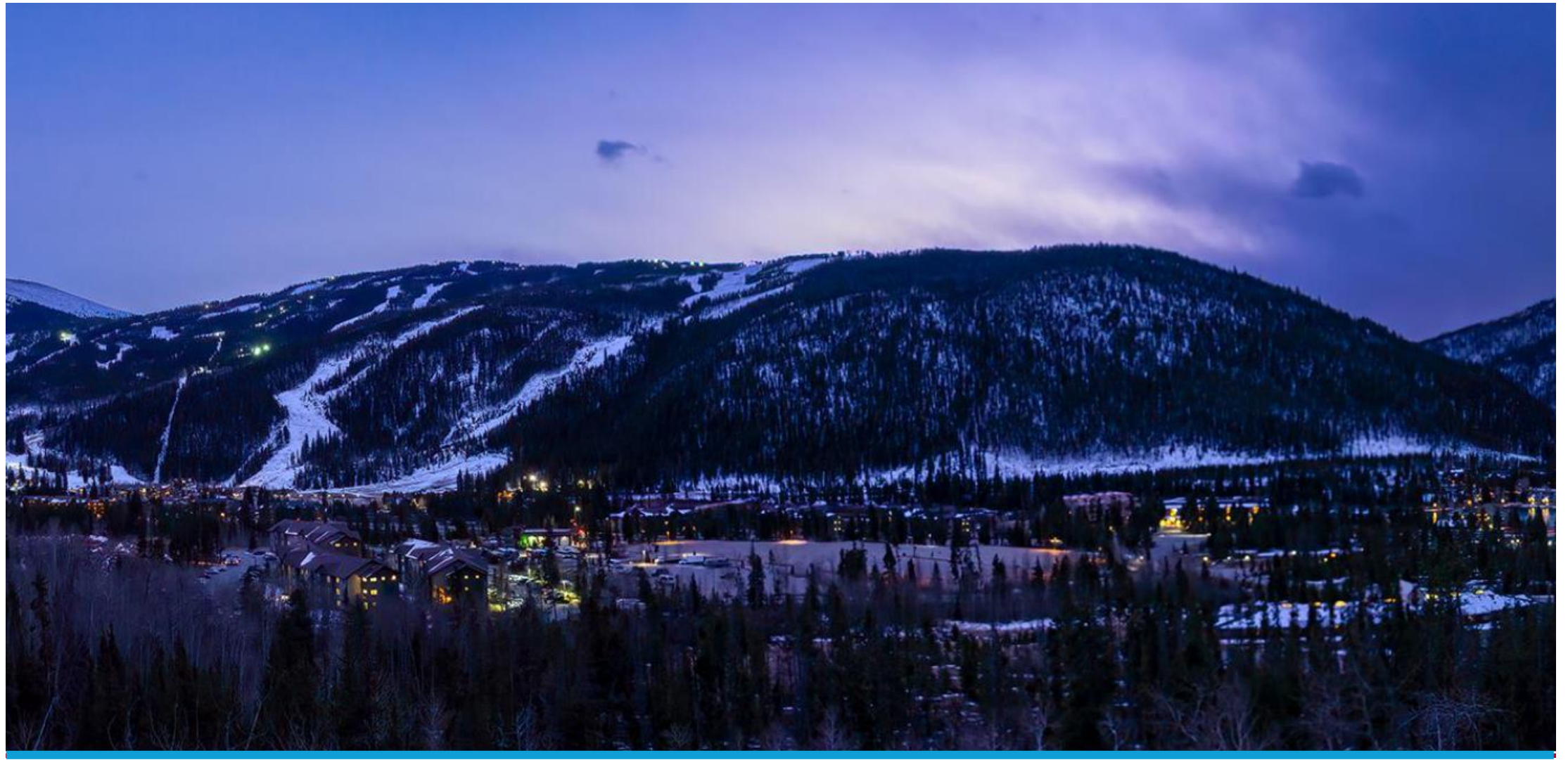
- At least one public hearing
- 180 days after election, submit proposed charter
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Conflicting/Alternative Provisions

- May submit conflicting or alternative sections
- Voters decide
- Alternative approved by majority is adopted

Approved Charter and Amending

- File Charter with the Colorado Secretary of State
- Amendment requires a vote
- Accomplished by circulated petition or by ordinance
- May form new charter commission
- Repeal of Charter requires a vote
 - Circulated petition – signed by 15%
 - Ordinance – 2/3 vote of governing body



Information about Keystone

- Approximately 1,200 registered electors
- Almost 2 miles in size
- Significant number of second homeowners
- Approximately 2,000 short-term rental licenses

Keystone Charter Commission

- Commission met weekly
- Held 14 meetings
- 1st meeting -- organization
- 3rd meeting -- goals

Meeting Format

- Memo and samples of possible charter provisions
- Each meeting, discussed and informally agreed
- Interviewed elected officials and Town managers
- 2 Town Halls with a public hearing

Keystone Charter Commission

- Goal to create enabling charter
- One source document for basic operations
- Engage the Keystone Community

Keystone – form

- Council-Manager
- Term limits
- By April 2026, Code of Ethics
- Attendance requirements
- Manager must reside in Summit County

Keystone – recall, initiative, referendum

- Recall – 25% entire vote cast
- Initiative – 10% registered electors
- Referendum – 10% registered electors

Keystone – property owners

- Considered voting right
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Boards and Commissions

SUCCESS! Keystone Home Rule Charter

- Charter Commission approved on June 27, 2023
- Election held on September 26
- Total votes cast 346
- 83.2% voted in favor of the proposed charter

Unique Home Rule Provisions

- Exclusive jurisdiction Municipal Court
- Employee residency requirement
- Eminent domain
- Single subject rule in elections
- Voter qualifications
- Others?

Resources

- **CML's Home Rule Handbook 2022**
- Colo. Const. Art. XX (Home Rule Cities and Towns)
- C.R.S. § 31-2-201, et seq. (Municipal Home Rule Act of 1971)

Thank
You!



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