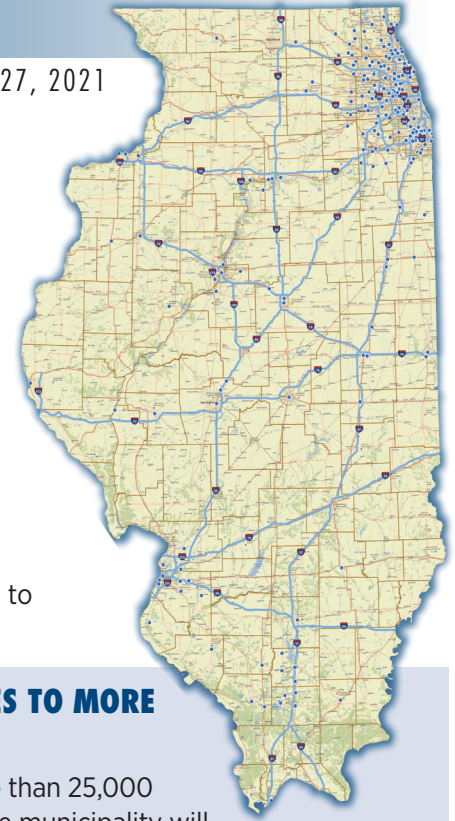


THE 2020 CENSUS AND HOME RULE



HOW WILL THE 2020 CENSUS IMPACT MUNICIPALITIES?

- Determines the need for reapportionment of congressional district boundaries
- Determines population-based federal and state funding distribution formulas
- Determines the need for reconfiguration of state legislative districts
- Determines the need for reapportionment of local wards or districts where applicable
- May cause a municipality to automatically gain home rule status, or create the need to submit the question of home rule status to citizens by referendum

WHAT IF THE POPULATION OF A NON-HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY INCREASES TO MORE THAN 25,000?

If the population of a municipality, as established by the 2020 Census, increases to more than 25,000 and the municipality does not already have home rule status by virtue of referendum, the municipality will immediately become home rule with no action necessary by the corporate authorities. (IL Constitution Art. VII, § 6(a)).

If a municipality obtains home rule status automatically due to its population, but does not wish to be home rule, it may place a referendum question on the ballot as to whether the municipality shall cease to be a home rule unit. (1970 Ill. Const. Art. VII, §6(b)).

WHAT IF THE POPULATION OF A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS HOME RULE, BASED ON ITS POPULATION, DECREASES TO 25,000 OR LESS?

The municipality continues to have home rule powers until it elects by referendum to cease to be a home rule unit. A referendum question must be put on the ballot for voter consideration no later than the next general election following such determination. (65 ILCS 5/1-1-9).

WHAT IF A MUNICIPALITY HAS ADOPTED HOME RULE BY REFERENDUM?

If adopted by referendum, the home rule status of a municipality is not impacted by the results of the Census.

HOW AND WHEN DOES A MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS A POPULATION THAT DECREASES TO 25,000 OR LESS HOLD A REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF MAINTAINING HOME RULE STATUS?

Unless the municipality held a home rule referendum in 2019 or 2020, the municipal clerk shall certify a question to the voters of the municipality, no later than the next general election of whether the municipality shall elect not to remain a home rule unit. (65 ILCS 5/1-1-9).

When the 2020 Census municipal population data is released, and reveals population loss to less than 25,001, the referendum of whether to cease being a home rule unit must be placed on the ballot no later than the November 8, 2022, general election.

WHAT DOES THE REFERENDUM QUESTION STATE?

The Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS 5/28-8) mandates the question posed shall be stated as follows:

Shall (name of the unit of local government) cease to be a home rule unit?

Yes

No

