



City Charter Primer



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What is a City Charter?

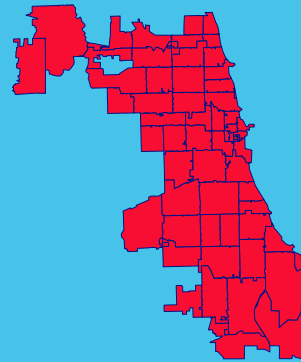
A constitutional document that:

- Defines the role, authority, and structure of a city government
- Establishes standards and processes for transparent decision-making

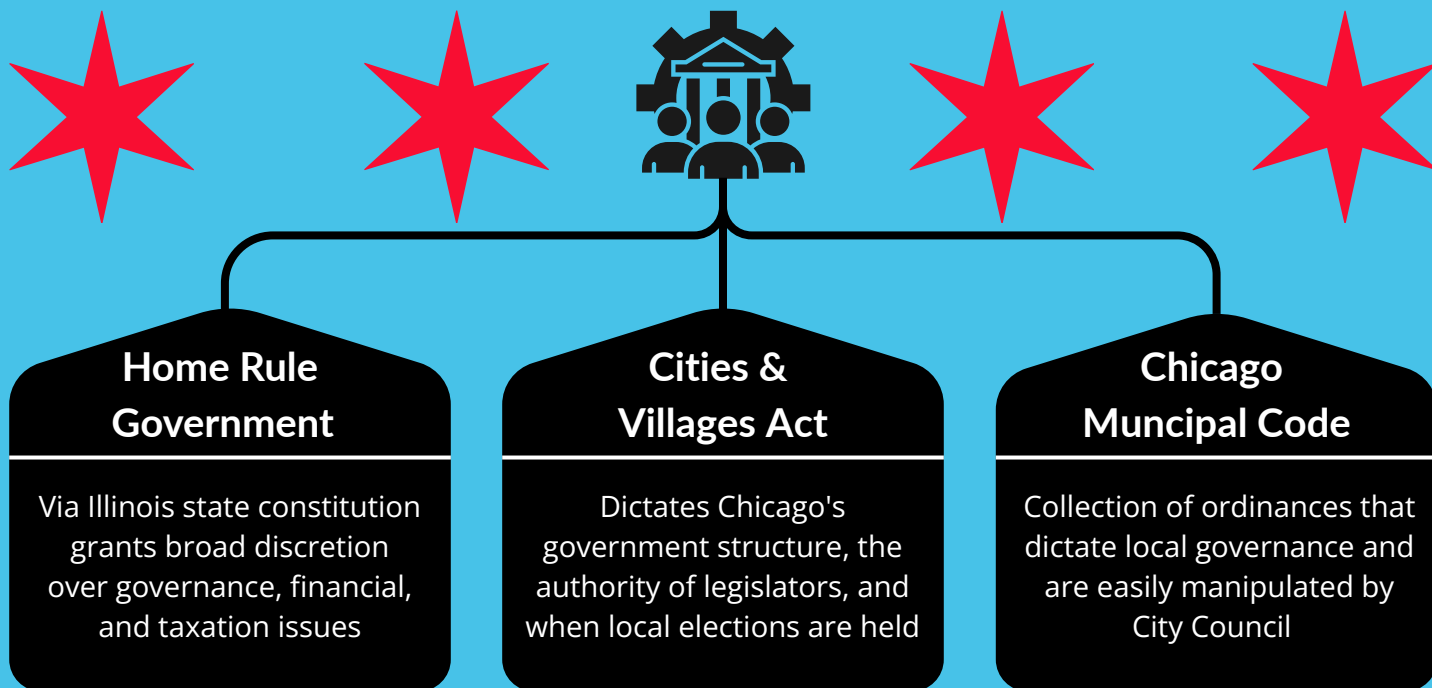
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Chicago

Only major city in the US that does not have a charter



Chicago's Present Governing Framework



FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK



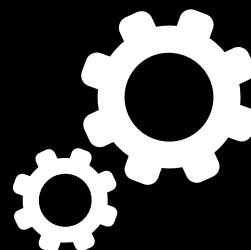
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Benefits of a City Charter



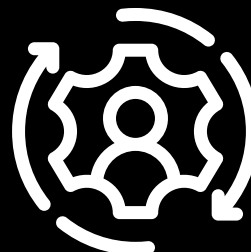
Redefining structural components of government

Clearly define the structure of city government, while establishing enforceable mechanisms for public participation and civic oversight including more comprehensive municipal redistricting practices.



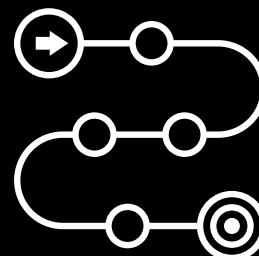
Formalizing the authority of city officials

Formalize the powers, responsibilities, and limits of public officials, while also creating checks and balances between branches of government and establishing which positions are elected or appointed.



Establishing rules for the legislative and budget processes

Establish transparent rules and timelines for legislation, budgeting, public hearings, and major financial decisions to strengthen oversight, improve public input, and prevent rushed decision-making.



Codifying accountability mechanisms

Codify independent accountability and oversight mechanisms, including requirements for audits, financial analysis, and year-round review processes to strengthen transparency, improve information sharing, and support more informed decision-making, especially around the budget process.



Scan here to read more

<https://www.civicrod.org/blog/what-city-charter-and-how-could-having-one-help-chicago>

