

Goals Established by the Village Board of Trustees if Home Rule is Adopted

To maintain Northfield's community character, ensure financial stability and uphold the public trust.

1) PRESERVE OUR COMMUNITY CHARACTER BY:

- a. Maintaining existing level of police, fire and public works services
- b. Maintaining a sound infrastructure of roads, water, storm water and sanitary systems
- c. Allowing Northfield increased authority to maintain the unique character of the Village through zoning regulations
- d. Maintaining the programs that affect the quality of life of residents (*emergency response times for Police and Fire, flood assistance, Willow Road advocacy, crossing guards, sidewalk snow removal, well-being checks, animal control, and beautification*)

2) ENHANCE FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY BY:

- a. Restoring the Village to long term financial stability through fiscally conservative practices
- b. Diversifying the Village's revenue streams to decrease our reliance on property taxes
- c. Responding more quickly and flexibly to the changing market conditions
- d. Providing a way for non-residents to pay for the services they utilize when in our community. (*sales tax, prepared food and beverage tax, gas tax*)
- e. Managing the Village with lower general fund operating reserves
- f. Protect our low property tax rate by staying within the State tax caps – the Village Board adopted legislation to abide by the property tax caps
- g. Frequently improving bond ratings which lowers borrowing costs

3) PROVIDE LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL NEEDS BY:

- a. Opting out of State and County legislation which is inconsistent with our community needs (*affordable housing legislation*)
- b. Affording increased responsiveness to public issues specific to Northfield. (*property maintenance – vacant gas station site, local enforcement of zoning violations, community development initiatives, flooding*)
- c. Providing for a stronger say in Springfield – nearly 80% of Illinois residents live in home rule communities
- d. Providing the Village with greater autonomy from Springfield