



History and Future of Home Rule

- Prior to the 1880s: no municipal governments had 'Home Rule'
- Dillon's Rule: all county and municipal power derives from its state
- Beginning of change: tied to Reform Movement of 1880-1915 era



Florida's Story

- County: only an arm of the state – first 75 years; occasional special act for county authority related to services
- Municipal: special acts grouped by region, population or type of service



Post- WWI

- 1922 - the Florida League of Municipalities is formed to 'unite municipal voice'
- Great Depression – survival matters more than authority



Post- WW II Era

- Florida grows exponentially from 1940s to 1960s; over 100 municipalities incorporate
- Battle for special acts: how many can be considered in every-other-year Legislature with 60-day sessions?



The 1968 Constitution Revision

- Appointees include Ralph Marsicano, FLC General Counsel
- Flip Dillon's Rule: broad authority...would it appeal?
- Passes – immediately challenged in court



1973 Home Rule Powers Act

- Municipalities may exercise any power for municipal purposes except when expressly prohibited by law.



40 Years - Status

- Summary so far includes unfunded mandates; some preemptions (i.e., landfills) and some gray areas – but overall success for both counties and municipalities



Looking Forward

- 2017-18 Constitution Revision Commission meeting now; what will they propose – direct to ballot
- Legislative Attacks: 2017 bills which completely preempted municipal home rule
- NLC report: under attack nationally



Is Home Rule Worth Keeping?

- Ask Georgia and South Carolina municipalities – what is it like without it?

