

# Limited Home Rule

## And How It Threatens Your Property Rights

Limited Home Rule, passed by voters in the November 2006 election, was listed on the ballot like this:

*Shall the provisions of Act. No. 2005-200 which authorizes the county to abate certain health and safety nuisances be applicable in the unincorporated areas of Tuscaloosa County?*

Many of us who voted for this understand now that we were deceived by good-sounding words. We made an honest mistake. But now that we know how the future of our children and grandchildren will be affected, we don't have to live with this mistake! We can work to get rid of "Home Rule." There are basically three ways we can do this:

1) Our County Commissioners can put this back on the ballot and let the people of Tuscaloosa County repeal it by a vote. *The Commissioners were asked to do that, and have declined.*

2) We can petition for it to be put back on the ballot. We need 10% of the registered voters in the unincorporated areas of the county to sign the petition. *(This is what we are currently working on.)*

3) We can elect Commissioners who will not pass such ordinances and who will put the "Limited Self-Governance Act" ("Limited Home Rule") back on the ballot for the people of Tuscaloosa County to repeal it by a vote.

Under "Limited Home Rule" there are five areas that our Commissioners are limited to; therefore, they can only pass ordinances in these areas:

(1) Abatement of Weeds, (2) Control of Animals and Animal Nuisances, (3) Control of Litter, (4) Junkyard Control of areas which create a public nuisance, (5) Abatement of Noise, Unsanitary Sewage, or Pollution.

"Junk" is defined as "Old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper trash, rubber debris, waste or junked, dismantled or wrecked automobiles, or parts thereof, iron, steel, and other old or scrap ferrous or nonferrous material."

The Commissioners have stated that we will have a "Junk" Ordinance. It is just a matter of time before they pass one.

Please understand: the citizens of Tuscaloosa County do not get to vote for or against any of these possible future ordinances. They can be passed at any time without the specific consent of the people.

Since most areas controlled by these ordinances can already be handled by the Health Department, why would we want another layer of bureaucracy in Tuscaloosa County?

If you think "Limited Home Rule" is limited, read the quote below:

*"The passage of the Health and Safety Powers Act provides counties with an excellent opportunity to exercise self governance in abating certain nuisances within the county. However, this new act has **limited application**. Therefore, the Association supports any further legislative efforts to **grant counties additional self governance powers** in other important areas of county concern." Association of County Commissioners of Alabama, Item 22, Legislative Program for 2008. (Emphasis ours.)*

Could that include taxing and zoning? It certainly can!

Remember their "temporary" one-cent sales tax!

Not so limited is it? Should it be called, "Unlimited Home Rule"? Power seeks more power. Where will it end?

It will end when enough good people of Tuscaloosa County say, "**ENOUGH!**" Will **YOU** stand with us?



**It is time to take away the County Commission's ability to take away your property!**

Help us do that by attending the next meeting of the

**TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PROPERTY RIGHTS ALLIANCE**

[www.tcpra.net](http://www.tcpra.net)

**Third Thursday of Each Month**

**7:00 PM**

**Tuscaloosa County Courthouse**

Please sign the petition to get "Limited Home Rule" back on the ballot in Tuscaloosa County.

For more information, please contact:

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**"Property must be secured or liberty cannot exist." John Adams**