

# THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

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## Liberty Twp. trustees go slow on home rule

By Jennifer Edwards  
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**LIBERTYTWP.**—A decision won't be made anytime soon on whether this fast-growing Butler County suburb should adopt a home-rule form of government so it can have more authority to operate on its own.

After discussing the issue for several weeks, township trustees agreed late Monday to hold off until they learn more about how it works and how it would affect the community's 33,000 residents.

"We want to take a closer look at it and make sure it is

something worthwhile and beneficial to the community," Trustee Christine Matic said.

Should the township adopt a home-rule form of government, projects such as roads could happen sooner because Liberty officials would have broader powers to meet specific needs without turning to Butler County for help.

That appeals to township leaders because Liberty's population is projected to skyrocket to 86,000 people in the next few decades.

Now, county officials oversee road projects in Liberty

### What's next

Trustees continue considering adopting the home-rule form of government. They likely will discuss it again at their next regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. June 5 at the township hall, 6400 Princeton Road.

For more information, call the township: (513) 759-7500.

and dictate when they receive money.

Under a home-rule designation, Liberty Township would be able to borrow

more money over a longer period of time for roads and other necessities.

The township also could get a higher bond rating, which can lower debt costs and combine different debt obligations under one bond issue. Larger bond issues can reduce interest costs.

The township would have to hire a law director. Now, it uses the Butler County Prosecutor's Office.

Trustees can either vote to adopt home rule or put the issue on the fall ballot.

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