

**CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS  
ORDINANCE NO. 3635**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LIMITS ON THE CORPORATE AUTHORITIES  
OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS PERTAINING TO THE EXERCISE OF  
HOME RULE AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Columbia (“City”), Monroe and St. Clair Counties, Illinois is a duly created, organized, and validly existing municipality of the State of Illinois under the 1970 Illinois Constitution and the laws of the State of Illinois, including particularly the Illinois Municipal Code, and all laws amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 6, Article VII of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, the City is currently considered a non-home rule unit; and

**WHEREAS**, as a non-home rule unit, the Corporate Authorities of the City may only exercise those powers explicitly granted by the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2023-01, passed by the City Council and Approved by the Mayor January 3, 2023, initiated a referendum question to be held April 4, 2023 asking qualified electors if the City should become a home rule unit; and

**WHEREAS**, if a simple majority of ballots cast in the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election in the question are in the affirmative, the City shall become a home rule unit; and

**WHEREAS**, as a home rule unit, the Corporate Authorities of the City may exercise any powers not explicitly preempted by the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities support the City achieving home rule status, as it will provide an enhanced level of local control over local issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities of the City recognize certain concerns pertaining to powers of home rule units, specifically those related to taxation, and the ability to incur debt; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of these concerns, the Corporate Authorities of the City find it necessary and prudent to enact certain safeguards regarding the exercise of home rule authority, binding upon this City Council and future City Councils of the City if home rule status is approved.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1.** The recitals contained above in the preamble of this Ordinance are hereby incorporated herein by reference, the same as if set forth in this Section of this

Ordinance verbatim, as findings of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Illinois.

**Section 2.** If the City of Columbia becomes a home rule unit as a result of the referendum to be held April 4, 2023, the limitations enumerated in subsequent sections shall be fully enacted.

**Section 3.** Property Tax Levy Limitation.

The Corporate Authorities of the City shall not approve a levy of property taxes in excess of:

- a. 105% of the aggregate extension of the preceding year; or
- b. the increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the preceding 12 month period,

whichever is lesser.

**Section 4.** Limitation of Debt Accrual.

The amount of debt to be incurred by the City, payable from ad valorem property tax receipts, shall not exceed 8.625%, in aggregate, on the value of the taxable property within the City. Indebtedness which is outstanding on the effective date of this Ordinance or which is assumed from another unit of local government shall not be included in the foregoing percentage amounts.

**Section 5.** Multi-Family Housing Controls.

The Corporate Authorities of the City shall not impose any ordinance, commonly known as a “Crime-Free Housing” ordinance, requiring landlords to evict tenants as a result of calls for police services.

**Section 6.** Requirement of a Supermajority.

Any legislation, contrary to the above limitations, shall require a 3/4 vote in the affirmative by the Corporate Authorities for passage.

**Section 7.** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect, from and after its passage and approval, as provided by law.

**PASSED** by the City Council and **APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Columbia, Illinois and deposited and filed in the office of the City Clerk on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023, the vote being taken by ayes and noes and entered upon the legislative record as follows:

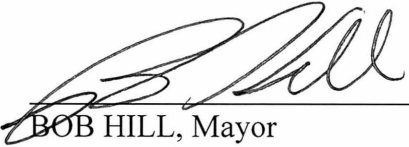
AYES: Aldermen Niemietz, Huch, Holtkamp, Martens, Riddle, Garmer, Khoury, and Lawlor.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BOB HILL, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANDREW HITZEMANN, City Clerk

(SEAL)