

### What Self-Governance means to your county.

For more than 100 years in Alabama, local voters have been blocked because the power to make decisions has largely rested in the halls of the Alabama Legislature in Montgomery. But, a law enacted in 2005 (the Alabama Limited Self-Governance Act) gave Alabama voters the ability to return control of the local communities back to the local level.

A special Web site, [www.selfgov.net](http://www.selfgov.net), is helping educate voters, county officials and others interested in the concept of Self-Government and provides details on the implementation of a law in Alabama that gives local voters the power to make local decisions.

### What Self-Governance DOES NOT mean to your county.

The law, as passed by the Alabama Legislature, only deals with nuisance abatement in the unincorporated portion of the county and only in the following defined areas: **Weeds, junkyards, litter and rubbish, noise, pollution, unsanitary sewage and animal control.**

The law does not include any authority in the two areas usually associated with the term "home rule." This law does not grant any authority to levy taxes or to establish a planning and zoning program. These statements are actually in the law in two different places, just to make sure!

In addition, the law specifically prohibits the county from taking any actions inside a city's limits. The concept behind the act is that only voters in the unincorporated area should vote and the commission should only exercise the powers in the unincorporated areas.

### You'll find the following at [www.selfgov.net](http://www.selfgov.net):

- A copy of the Alabama Limited Self-Governance law.
- Definitions of terms used in the law.
- A press release from Gov. Bob Riley.
- Questions and Answers on Self-Governance.
- The latest news from papers across Alabama.
- A current listing of "self-governance" counties.

### SELF GOVERNMENT

The belief that governmental decisions are best made by local citizens on the local level.

"This new law ... will result in more effective and responsive county governments and lessen Montgomery's power to decide matters that are purely local in nature and should be handled by the government closest to the people."

**Gov. Bob Riley**