

County Home Rule Charters
In Chronological Order of Adoption - As of January 2026

<u>County</u>	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Current Revenue</u>	<u>Structure</u>	<u>Ordinance Authority</u>	<u>Other</u>
Walsh	1986	No language addressing levies.	1 percent sales tax (.25% authorized in 2014 for emergency med services and .75% in 2024 for jail construction)	Charter preserves elected offices unless changed via 11-10.2 (Tool Chest) or by ordinance and voter approval.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Richland	1990	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations – citizen committee looked at this, but 2015 statutory changes met their needs.	By ordinance, may levy sales, income, MV taxes, subject to referral - have not done so.	Charter creates an appointed auditor and gives commission authority to create other offices as necessary - except that Sheriff & State's Attorney shall remain elected. Creates personnel system.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	Requires commission to create and maintain a 5-year capital program for the county
Cass	1994	Charter included a provision to permit a consolidated general fund of 75 mills.	½ percent sales tax levied for flood control (authorized in 2011).	Charter allows commission, by ordinance, to redesignate (after 2002) the offices of auditor, treasurer, recorder, and clerk as appointed. Appointed Jan 2019, Combined May 2019. Creates a personnel system.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Stutsman	2000	By ordinance may establish levy limits, not to exceed a total of 115 mills.	By ordinance, may levy sales, income, MV taxes, subject to referral - have not done so.	Charter redesignates the offices of auditor, treasurer, and recorder as appointed, allows for the creation of a chief operation officer.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Ward	2001	Charter includes authority to consolidate levies by ordinance – subject to citizen referral. Commissioners have not, as yet, used this authority.	1/2 percent sales tax for building bonds, roads, bridges and transportation (authorized in 2020).	Charter redesignates the positions of auditor/treasurer and recorder as appointed and gives commission authority to create other offices as necessary- except that Sheriff & State's Attorney shall remain elected. Creates personnel system.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	Limits county's authority to expand right-of-way acquisition.
Steele	2005	Charter includes authority to increase levy limits by ordinance, but must be submitted for citizen vote. Have not, as yet, used this authority.	1 percent sales tax levied for road maintenance (authorized in 2005).	Charter designates the positions of clerk, recorder, & state's attorney as appointed. These previously made appointed through "tool chest" provisions.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	Amended in 2020 to require recording of commission meetings
Williams	2006	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations - not used.	1 percent sales tax levied for public safety, sports/rec facilities, behavioral and rural health, and quality of life projects (authorized in 2024).	Charter preserves elected offices unless changed via 11-10.2 (Tool Chest) or by ordinance and voter approval.	Yes, subject to citizen referral.	
Hettinger	2012	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations, but does not allow taxes in excess of statutory limits.	1/2 percent sales tax for emergency services including city policing, emergency medical services, fire and rescue (authorized in 2017).	Specifically states that currently elected offices shall remain elected.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Burleigh	2014	No language addressing levies.	1 percent sales tax levied for the budgets of the Detention Center, Sheriff and State's Attorney and to offset property taxes (authorized in 2024).	Board of Commissioners may use state law for converting auditor/treasurer, recorder to appointed offices - except Sheriff and State's Attorney shall remain elected.	Yes authorized in 2022, subject to citizen referral.	
Morton	2014	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations.	1 percent sales tax levied for the budgets of the Detention Center, Sheriff and State's Attorney (authorized in 2024).	Charter preserves elected offices unless changed via 11-10.2 (Tool Chest) or by ordinance and voter approval.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Sargent	2020	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations.	Sales tax permitted with separate vote.	Charter preserves elected offices unless changed via 11-10.2 (Tool Chest) or by ordinance and voter approval.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Towner	2020	Charter included a provision to permit a consolidated general fund of 193 mills.	Sales tax permitted with separate vote.	Auditor/Treasurer already combined & appointed by Tool Chest. Recorder, Clerk of Court can be converted to appointed by ordinance.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Grand Forks	2022	Charter includes authority to increase levy limits by ordinance, but must be submitted for citizen vote.	By ordinance, may levy sales tax, fees and special assessments, subject to referral.	Established three term limit for commissioners. Allows Board to appoint department heads other than Sheriff and State's Attorney which shall remain elected offices.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	