

**County Home Rule Charters**  
**In Chronological Order of Adoption - As of November 2024**

<u>County</u>	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Structure</u>	<u>Ordinance Authority</u>	<u>Other</u>
Walsh	1986	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations - not used.	¼ percent sales tax levied for emergency medical services.	Redesignated the Auditor's position as appointed - consideration being given for redesignation of other elected offices.	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. Sales tax previously levied for jail construction.	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 103 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.	½ percent sales tax levied for	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	
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.	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
Hettinger	2012	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations, but does not allow taxes in excess of statutory limits.	By ordinance, may levy sales, income, MV taxes, but must be submitted for citizen vote - have not done so.	Specifically states that currently elected offices shall remain elected.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Morton	2014	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations - not used.	½ percent sales tax levied for jail construction.	Allows for redesignation and combination of elected offices, but only through citizen vote.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Sargent	2020	Standard language allowing for establishing mill levy limitations - assume would take ordinance?.	Sales tax permitted with separate vote	Auditor Treasurer/Recorder Appointed	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	Recorder/Clerk Appointed. (Auditor/Treasurer already combined & appointed by Tool Chest)	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Burleigh <i>(amended 2014)</i>	2022	No language addressing levies.	N/A	Commission authority to adopt, amend, repeal, initiate, refer, and enforce ordinances.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Grand Forks	2022	Charter includes authority to increase levy limits by ordinance, but must be submitted for citizen vote.	½ percent sales tax levied for 60% law enforcement building renovation and construction; 20% county roads, 20% property tax relief.	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	Addendum to add 1/2% sales tax. Sunsets December 31, 2048
Ward	2022	No language addressing levies.	N/A	Limit county's authority to expand right-of-way acquisition.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	Limits additional ROW acquisition to ND statutory process.
Burleigh <i>(amended 2022)</i>	2024	Charter amendment to impose 1 percent sales tax to offset property taxes.	1 percent sales tax levied for the budgets of the Detention Center, Sheriff and State's Attorney.	Increased sales tax from 1/2 percent (2014) to 1 percent and redefined how the revenue can be used.	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Morton <i>(amended 2014)</i>	2024	Charter amendment to impose 1 percent sales tax to offset property taxes.	1 percent sales tax levied for the budgets of the Detention Center, Sheriff and State's Attorney.	N/A	Yes, subject to citizen referral	
Williams <i>(amended 2015)</i>	2024	No language addressing levies.	1 percent sales tax levied for public safety, sports/rec facilities, behavioral and rural health, and quality of life projects.	Extended 1 percent sales tax from 2015 and expanded how the revenue can be used.	Yes, subject to citizen referral. Authorized for 10 years beginning 4/1/2025.	