State vs. Local: COVID

First, you need to know the difference between general law and home rule.

Next, I want us to focus on the recent situations of conflict among some cities and the Texas Governor. Really, we saw this some with the Austin and Dallas mayor and Dallas County.... and Governor Abbott. We also saw a flip side where some cities/counties opened some businesses early. All this is represented in the links below. Please read/listen to them.

[Link (Links to an external site.)](https://www.keranews.org/post/governors-plan-reopen-texas-generates-mixed-reactions) to KERA news about the reopening of Texas businesses.

[Link (Links to an external site.)](https://www.dmagazine.com/frontburner/2020/04/dallas-county-worries-that-the-economy-is-reopening-too-soon/) to story on Dallas County concerns.

[Link (Links to an external site.)](https://www.texastribune.org/2020/04/30/greg-abbott-texas-reopening/)to Texas Tribune article about some areas opening up already ahead of the phased opening.

Now we know that this is almost a damned if you do or damned if you don't (I say that not to curse, but to accurately portray the reality). The issue here is risk health directly in potentially allowing the spread of the virus.. .or indirectly risk lives by a declining economy , which can lead to homelessness, strained relationships, lack of money for proper care and shelter and even some mental anguish.

So, with this discussion I want you to explain what home rule allows for cities to do. Then, after looking through these linked articles, I want you to give a **SUPPORTED** **opinion** of how the reopening of Texas is being handled.

* Do you think cities / counties have the right to push back against the governor?
* What about these locations who even opened earlier than "allowed?" Did they have that right?
* How important is the relationship between the local entities and the state throughout all this.
* Then, finally, tell about the situation in your own community what is happening as far as businesses opening and government allowances. I know some of you are even in different states - please tells us how it is where you are at. **(USE TEXAS, PERMIAN BASIN AREA IF POSSIBLE)**