

# MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

City of Bluefield

2024  
PROGRESS  
REPORT

WV Municipal Home Rule Board  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E  
Bldg. 1, Ste. W-300  
Charleston, WV 25305  
[MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov)  
304.558.3356

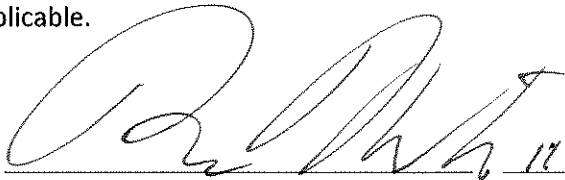
Rev. 08.01.24

**West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:**

"Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance."

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Home Rule Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

**Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on the first business day of December, by emailing to WV Municipal Home Rule Board at [MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov).**

<b>A. General Information</b>	
Name of Municipality: Bluefield	
Certifying Official: Ron Martin	Title: Mayor
Contact Person: Cecil Marson	Title: City Manager
Address: 200 Rogers Street	
City, State, Zip: Bluefield, West Virginia, 24701	
Telephone Number: 304-327-2401 ext. 2406	Fax Number: 304-327-8670
E-Mail Address: dkersey@bluewv.org	
2020 Census Population: 9,658	
<b>B. Municipal Classification</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class III <input type="checkbox"/> Class IV	
<b>C. Attest</b>	
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.	
Ron Martin, Mayor	
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official      Date 11/12/24

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

<b>Initiative:</b>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? May 26, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>SUCCESSSES</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The City created a municipal land bank, a land reuse agency pursuant to W, Va, Code § 31-18E-1, et seq. The land bank has accepted donations from property owners in the past, and this year has purchased approximately 50 parcels from the auditor, as part of the tax sale process. Plans are being developed to work with other state and federal agencies to use many of those parcels to replace existing HUD housing with homes distributed throughout the community. The City is also working with developers to build median income/affordable housing on some of those properties. Sixty parcels were committed as an in-kind contribution for a multi-million-dollar federal housing development grant. The former nursing home, mentioned in past reports, is the subject of a pending grant to locate an in-patient treatment program for substance abuse victims.</p>
<p><b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>Taking ownership of these properties in blighted areas has given the City better control over their maintenance to minimize adverse reflection on neighboring properties and positioned the City to develop a comprehensive strategy to address housing needs and plan for future development.</p>

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

<b>Initiative: On-Spot Citations</b>
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? May 25, 2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>REVENUES</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>Sales tax revenue has increased now for 4 consecutive years and continues to be a stable source of revenue for the City. Reduced B&amp;O rates have made the City more competitive with Virginia, who borders the City. Spot Citations continue to make the City safer, take less time to process, and continue to aid in the maintenance and appearance of the City.</p>
<p><b>SUCCESES</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The initiative remains enormously effective, with the citation initiating a process which usually results in compliance. With the funds that we have received we have initiated numerous programs that make our citizens lives better. We are currently using the funds to match federal grants, that are improving our streets, sidewalk, and our parks. We have also increased employee salaries to make us more competitive in the job market.</p>
<p><b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>The citation process permits the city to immediately address code violations brought to its attention and streamline the condemnation process of dilapidated structures.</p>