

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

City of Ravenswood

FY24
PROGRESS
REPORT

West Virginia
Municipal Home Rule Board
P. O. Box 11360
Charleston, WV 25339-1360
MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov
304.558.3356

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.

A. General Information		
Name of Municipality:		
Certifying Official: Joshua Miller	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Joshua Miller	Title: Mayor	
Address: 1 Wall Street		
City, State, Zip: Ravenswood, WV 26164		
Telephone Number: (304) 273-2621	Fax Number: n/a	
E-Mail Address:: mayor@cityofravenswood.com		
2010 Census Population: 3876		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class III <input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
C. Attest		
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.		
Joshua Miller	<i>Joshua Miller</i>	12-10-24
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official	Date

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.

Initiative: “On the Spot” Citations and hiring of a “Code Enforcement Officer” under our Law Enforcement Department to enforce our expanded Public Nuisance Code and various other violations.
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? September 17th, 2019 (effective upon passage)
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
SUCCESSES – 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. This initiative has had much success and we continue to reiterate to our citizens that this is not about writing tickets, this is about taking care of identified public health and public safety matters. We believe this program will continue to be successful far into the future and continue to address serious concerns within our city limits in a timely manner. In 2024 we have removed 65 vehicles; demolished 2 buildings; worked 47 property investigations and 111 grass investigations. Executed 5 search warrants on dilapidated buildings, sent our numerous abandoned property registration forms, and worked to secure grant funding for the demolition of dilapidated properties. Worked with Planning Commission to modernize land use code.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. The Code Enforcement program has been a great asset to our city. It’s important that we inform our citizens that the goal is not to issues fines and fees, the goal is maintaining public health and safety without community.

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.

Initiative: Eyesores and Dilapidated Structures
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? November 20, 2019
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>SUCCESSES – 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>We have compiled a list of the eyesores and dilapidated structures and have implemented a registration fee for the vacant structures. We have demolished 3 dilapidated structures with this ordinance and initiated 65 property investigations. We have sent our numerous abandoned property registration forms as well.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – 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>This process has been much more difficult as it related to getting building owners to cooperate and comply with our ordinances, many see it as an infringement on their personal property rights, but we continue to explain this is about public health and safety of our community and our citizens. Again, our goal is not to issue fines and fees, but to clean up our community. The process can drag out in court for months or even years, however we still believe pursuing these initiatives are well worth it in the end for the betterment of our community and our citizens.</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.

Initiative: 1% Municipal Sales Tax Implementation
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? November 19, 2019
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>REVENUES – 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>In 2024 the City of Ravenswood, West Virginia collected approximately \$424,220.46 in sales tax.</p> <p>B&O Tax relief for current business owners in Ravenswood, WV along with numerous business openings and investment spurred further economic growth, even during some very challenging times. So far, this initiative has had very positive results and we have seen our B&O Tax Revenues steadily increase even though with the elimination/reduction in some of our rate classes a decrease of \$61,697 in collections would have occurred.</p>
<p>SUCCESSIONS – 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>More revenue to invest in municipal projects that include the following: -Paving -Recreation Upgrades -First Responder Equipment Upgrades -Increased funding for various Boards, Commission, and Authorities so they can continue with their mission statements and improve our community in various ways -Increased opportunities for local Fairs & Festivals -Potential Revenue Bond source for larger projects in the near future at our waterfront - Upgrade of Municipal Water and Sewer Equipment -Upgrade of Sanitation Equipment, such as garbage trucks, street sweepers, etc. -Technology upgrades that allow our municipality to be more efficient; saving tax payer dollars.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – 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>Most important piece of advice I can provide from my perspective as a mayor would be to wait a year to see what your actual revenue collection is for the 1% Municipal Sales Tax and also pay close attention to the impact of your reduction on B&O Tax. You can make more informed decisions for your municipality and citizens by analyzing that data 12 months into actual collection of the new source of revenue and also make sure your project loss of B&O Tax wasn't much larger than you expected which would potentially leave you with a budget short fall. More information; better informed decisions.</p>