

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

City/Town of
Smithers

2024
PROGRESS
REPORT

WV Municipal Home Rule Board
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E
Bldg. 1, Ste. W-300
Charleston, WV 25305
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.

A. General Information		
Name of Municipality: City of Smithers		
Certifying Official: D. Anne Cavalier, Ed.D.	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Teresa Dorsey	Title: City Administrator	
Address: 2 Greyhound Lane, P.O. Box 489		
City, State, Zip: Smithers, West Virginia 25186		
Telephone Number: (304) 442-5282	Fax Number: (304) 442-4497	
E-Mail Address: Tdorsey@smitherswv.gov		
2020 Census Population: 900		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input checked="" 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.		
D. Anne Cavalier, Ed.D., Mayor	<i>D. Anne Cavalier, Ed.D.</i>	12/10/2024
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: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at its regular meeting on August 10, 2020 (First Reading July 13, 2020) to allow identifying eyesores and dilapidated buildings .
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 8/10/2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
SUCCESSSES – 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. The City of Smithers now maintains and updates monthly inventory of dilapidated buildings; vacant dilapidated buildings; and properties that are not in compliance with relevant city ordinances. The Smithers Building Commission (SBC), City Attorney, and city employees who enforce related ordinances meet monthly with the mayor to discuss and determine legal and effective ways forward to address problem properties. This year the city established a Land Reuse Agency, which has had the opportunity to exercise the right to refusal to obtain dilapidated properties from the tax sales. Although we are still in the redeeming stage of the properties, we are hopeful to obtain ownership and demolish the dilapidated structures to help in our revitalization plan for the city. Through the REAP program, the city has been able to have several structures demolished and several others in the process of being demolished.
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. Due to this ability the city has been successful in having structures demolished that have been dilapidated and structures that are an eye sore to the city. This has given the city the opportunity to advance in the city's revitalization plan.

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

Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at a regular meeting on August 10, 2020 (first reading July 13, 2020) for the disposal of property without action.
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment 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? 08/10/2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
SUCCESESSES – 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. The city has not been able to exercise this action in this past year. The city is very hopeful in the upcoming year to exercise this action with some adjacent property owners. This action allows adjacent owners to expand their property and allows the property to be maintained in a clean and attractive way for citizens and visitors.
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. This ability allows the city to take this action, which is beneficial to both the city and the citizens. It removes the burden of cost to maintain from the city to the citizens.

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

Initiative: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at a regular meeting on August 10, 2020 (first reading July 13, 2020) to enter into intergovernmental agreements.
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment 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? 08/10/2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
 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. The cities of Smithers and Montgomery continue to work closely together, benefiting from initiating this initiative, to share services and/or the costs of services, to provide more and/or better services at better managed costs.
 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. Intergovernmental services have allowed the city to provide better and additional services through cooperation. This has shown the leadership of both cities that they can continue to look for ways to better utilize resources by working together.

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: After receiving Home Rule status by the WV Home Rule Board on July 8, 2020, the City Council of the City of Smithers passed an ordinance at a regular meeting on August 10, 2020 (first reading July 13, 2020) to allow 1% Sales Tax.
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment 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? 08/10/2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
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. The City of Smithers reduced Manufacturing and Retail Business and Occupational taxes in exchange for the 1% Sales tax. Comparing the gain of 1% Sales and reducing the Business and Occupational tax, the city continues to experience a loss. The city suspects this is due to underreporting of the 1% collected by businesses or that it is not being collected. The city requested from the WV Tax Department, Tax Accounting Administration Division in 2021 a list of the businesses which have submitted the 1% Sales Tax. The city is once again asking the State for this information so the city can get an accurate accounting of the 1% Sales Tax impact.
SUCCESES – 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. The city has completed several projects because of this ability. The city continues the plan to improve streets, safety, business environment, and residential services. There has been tremendous and positive response from businesses, residents, and visitors to both removal of dilapidated, vacant structures, and improvement to city streets, signage, and lighting.
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. It would be helpful if the city knew which businesses were implementing the 1% Sales Tax. As of this date, however, the city has no documentation supporting which businesses and which businesses do not apply the 1%. Please see Revenues Section above.