

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE
PROGRAM

City/Town of Auburn

2025
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: Town of Auburn		
Certifying Official: Robert Lowther		Title: Mayor
Contact Person: Robert Lowther		Title: Mayor
Address: P.O. Box 37		
City, State, Zip: Auburn, WV 26325		
Telephone Number: 304-349-2257		Fax Number: 304-349-2494
E-Mail Address: townofauburn@yahoo.com		
2020 Census Population:		
B. Municipal Classification		
X 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.		
Mayor Robert Lowther		12-31-2025
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: : Decentralized Wastewater System and Relief from Public Utility Regulation

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application YES or a plan amendment ?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? YES

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 2016

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
N/A

SUCCESES – 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 Town of Auburn has continued implementation of its decentralized wastewater strategy, made possible through Home Rule authority. This flexibility has allowed the Town to avoid classification as a regulated public utility while maintaining compliance with West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection requirements. The Wastewater Management Association provides a practical framework for oversight and maintenance under Town supervision. This approach preserves affordability for residents and avoids the need for new taxes or debt.

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.

Home Rule authority is essential for very small municipalities where traditional utility models are not financially or administratively feasible. Early coordination with state environmental agencies and use of nonprofit or cooperative entities can significantly improve implementation success.

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:
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application- N/A
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? NO
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? N/A
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. N/A
SUCCESSSES – 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. N/A
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. N/A