

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

Corporation of Harpers
Ferry

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

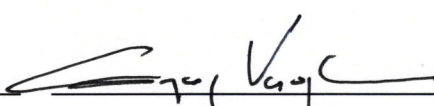
Rev. 08.01.24

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: Corporation of Harpers Ferry	
Certifying Official: Gregory Vaughn	Title: Mayor
Contact Person: Patricia Morse	Title: Administrative Officer
Address: PO Box 217	
City, State, Zip: Harpers Ferry, WV 25425	
Telephone Number: 304-565-2206 ext. 4	Fax Number: N/A
E-Mail Address: Pmorse@harpersferrywv.us	
2020 Census Population:	
B. Municipal Classification	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III x <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.	
Gregory Vaughn, Mayor	 Signature of Certifying Official
	11/24/2025 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: Blight and derelict properties.
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? 9/8/14
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
SUCSESSES – 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 Home Rule initiative, as reported in previous years, is the most successful undertaking. Scores of dwellings and properties have been returned to a compliant state. The town’s Code Enforcement Officer maintains regular vigilance and monitors suspect properties.
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 Officer’s professional demeanor and actions have been instrumental in protecting and preserving the Town’s inventory of historic properties. The state of these properties contributes to the successful visitation experience of the tourists.

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: On-the-spot code violation enforcement.
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? 9/8/14
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.
SUCSESSES – 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 authority for this initiative continues to be a major function of the Code Officer. It serves as not only a deterrent for non-compliant property, but it also reinforces, conceptually, to all property owners that Harpers Ferry is committed to protecting and preserving its historic properties.
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. Our on-the-spot program was meticulously planned and implemented through guidance from the County Prosecutor and Magistrate Judge. We continue to refine the process.

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: Implementation of a 1% sales and use tax.
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? X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/14/15
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>Harpers Ferry Article 732 (Sales and Use Tax) became effective on July 1, 2016. Prior to its enactment, Harpers Ferry made reduction within categories contained in both room occupancy tax and business and occupation categories.</p>
<p>SUCSESSES – 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 Town’s sales and use tax is a principal revenue source for the town. As a Class IV municipality, we encounter significant challenges with revenue. Monies generated from this tax base has enabled Harpers Ferry to meet challenges caused by the economic impact of the hundreds of thousands of visiting tourists.</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>

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: Authority to dispose of municipal property without auction.
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? X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/17/2020
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.
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. Unlike previous years, during this reporting period, the town did not dispose of any municipal property. However, it is certainly reassuring to know that we retain this authority.
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.