

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

City of Ravenswood

2020
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: City of Ravenswood		
Certifying Official: Joshua Miller	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Joshua Miller	Title: Mayor	
Address: 1 Wall St.		
City, State, Zip: Ravenswood, WV 26164		
Telephone Number: 304-273-2621	Fax Number:	
E-Mail Address: mayor@cityofravenswood.com		
2010 Census Population: 3,876		
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		12/19/2020
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 issued by Law Enforcement and Code Enforcement Officer to address public nuisances deemed a health hazard within city limits along with various other public nuisances defined in our ordinance.
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application YES 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 17, 2019 (Effective upon passage)
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>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.</p> <p>This program has been very successful in regard to cleaning up properties that have been major issues for year. As stated on numerous occasions, it's never the city's goal to fine people regarding these issues we simply want to clean up our town and respond to the legitimate complaints we receive for our citizens. Last year when we reported this program was just getting off the ground. I'm proud to announce that because of this program we've been able to tear down several problem structures that had been deemed health hazards and potentially dangerous to the public for years that have been back and forth with the health department and our municipal court. Our Code Enforcement program has towed at the least 50+ vehicles out of town that have been receiving complaints for years. In 2021, our main focus will be to continue tearing down potential structural hazards and focusing on our abandoned building initiative in hopes to redevelop those areas with the next 12-24 months. That will be on our 2021 report.</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>

The only lesson I think has been learned is we should've started this program years ago, it really has made an impact on cleaning up our community and restoring pride in our community.

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 and Use Tax
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application YES 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 (Collection begins July 1, 2020)
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>We’ve currently collected 1Q of municipal sales tax revenue which is not enough for me to make a formal projection on if I believe our numbers are on par with what we expected to collect. I will say that the revenue collection was a bit below what I anticipated for the 1Q collection. However, this could be cause by a numerous set of factors such as COVID-19, some businesses not being aware of the collection even though we made a major effort to spread the word along with the State Tax Department. Also, I’m not sure if large corporations such as Amazon, etc. pay their sales tax quarterly or annually. Several questions remain. Our collection was around \$60,000 for the first quarter, I anticipated a collection of over \$100,000 for the second quarter. We still do not have enough data to calculate the B&O Tax reduction and if those numbers were on point. The numbers for this Home Rule initiative will be more concrete in our 2021 report. I believe we anticipate a \$75,000 cut in B&O Taxes annually and if we base our numbers on the 1Q of sales tax collection we’ll collect around \$240,000 in sales tax revenue.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>We’re not far enough into collections to deem this initiative a success yet, better projection will be the 2021 report.</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.

My only comment about the implementation of the 1% Municipal Sales Tax is I believe there needs to be a better partnership on getting the word out to small businesses about the implementation of the 1% sales tax, I'm not blaming anyone, but I just feel we should work together to get the word out with the State Tax Department. I'm not the only mayor who feels this way. Thank you for listening and once again I'm not being critical, just a suggestion.