

# 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](mailto: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.”

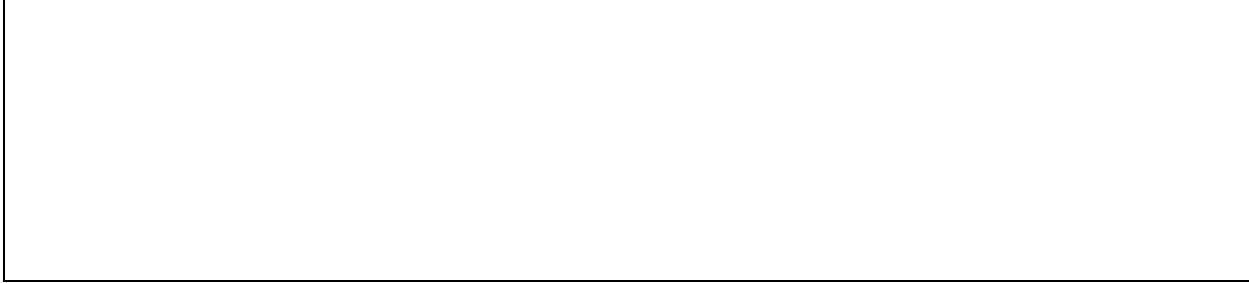
The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Home Rule Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient 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](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov).

<b>A. General Information</b>		
Name of Municipality: City of Ravenswood, West Virginia		
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: 3,876		
<b>B. Municipal Classification</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class III <input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
<b>C. Attest</b>		
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>	12/01/21
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.

<b>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.</b>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application? YES
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 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 (effective upon passage)
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>SUCCESSSES</b> – 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>Code Enforcement Report – Code Enforcement Officer, Danny Mitchell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vehicles Removed or Caused to be Removed from City Limits in reference to code violations – 62</li><li>• Demolition of Abandoned or Dilapidated Buildings – 2</li><li>• Property Investigations Opened due to Public Nuisance Code Violations – 54</li><li>• Property Investigations Closed or Resolved – 36</li><li>• Enforcement and Investigations related to High Grass Ordinance – 52</li></ul> <p>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 belief 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.</p>
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.



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.

<b>Initiative: 1% Municipal Sales Tax Implementation</b>
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application? YES
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><b>REVENUES</b> – 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>From July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 – the City of Ravenswood, West Virginia collected approximately \$368,556.27</p> <p>This number was nearly \$38,500 more than our original projections. We also estimated a reduction of \$73,000 in B&amp;O Tax per our selected B&amp;O category tax cuts, and actually ended up collecting nearly \$10,500 above our projections for the year.</p> <p>B&amp;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 during the pandemic. So far, this initiative has had very positive results and will allow us to take on many more immediate needs in various areas of our municipality.</p>
<p><b>SUCSESSES</b> – 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- More revenue to invest in municipal projects that include the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Paving</li><li>-Recreation Upgrades</li><li>-First Responder Equipment Upgrades</li></ul></li></ul>

- 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.

**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.

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.