

Contact your U.S. representative to oppose H.R. 2289

Local governments play a critical role in enabling broadband deployment while ensuring projects are safe, efficient and coordinated.

However, legislation scheduled to be before the U.S. House would limit the ability of local governments to manage public rights-of-way and negotiate cable franchise agreements—functions that are essential to ensuring efficient infrastructure deployment, protecting public safety, and coordinating with existing utilities.

[H.R. 2289](#) would create a one-size-fits-all federal approach that would unnecessarily preempt state and local authority and impose rigid mandates that may ultimately slow, rather than speed, responsible deployment. MTA urges members to contact their [U.S. representative](#) to oppose the legislation as it would:

- Impose “deemed granted” provisions—Applications not acted on within a set time frame would be automatically approved, removing local accountability and allowing projects to proceed without full review.
- Create rigid federal shot clocks—Mandated inflexible deadlines (60/90/150 days) do not reflect real-world constraints such as staffing, engineering review, public meeting requirements, and coordination with other infrastructure projects.
- Limit on cost recovery—The bill restricts the ability of local governments to recover legitimate permitting costs, effectively shifting those costs onto taxpayers and drawing funding away from essential services.
- Expand federal authority—Broad new authority for the Federal Communications Commission risks exceeding statutory intent and undermining locally accountable infrastructure management.

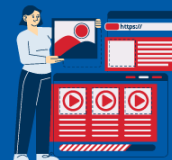
While we collectively support expanding broadband access, this bill would preempt local decision-making in ways that could undermine community input, public safety protections and equitable infrastructure deployment. Ask your [U.S. representative](#) to oppose H.R. 2289 and preserve local governments’ role in achieving equitable and sustainable broadband deployment helps ensure that infrastructure investments are responsive to community needs and implemented responsibly.



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UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

April 20-23: [MTA's 2026 Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#) at the Grand Traverse Resort

This May: [Planning & Zoning Primer](#) in three locations, 4-8 p.m.

May 13: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar [Dig up Your Township's Cemetery Ordinance](#)

Coming in June: [Election Ready](#) afternoon workshops, in-person or online.

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

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House budget boosts statutory revenue sharing

Under a budget bill reported this week, an additional \$65.6 million in state restricted sales tax revenue would be added for statutory revenue sharing for Fiscal Year 2027. Of this amount, \$45.8 million would be



allocated to townships, cities and villages through the existing formula payments (based on inverse taxable value, unit type population, and millage yield equalization). This would be an increase over current year and the governor's proposed budget, which did not make any funding change. The subcommittee recommendation next moves to the full House Appropriations Committee before being considered by the House.

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Natural Resources Trust Fund grants receive committee approval

Funding for 18 township projects, included in 75 projects recommended by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, received initial legislative approval this week. [Senate Bill 829](#), sponsored by Sen. John Cherry (D-Flint), provides \$45 million in matching funds for 15 land acquisition projects and 60 land development projects across the state. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and now awaits a vote by the full Senate.

Voter proof of citizenship approved by House

Proposed legislation would require individuals to provide proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote. [HB 4765](#), sponsored by Rep. Jason Woolford (R-Marion Twp.), would block voters from participating in state or local elections until citizenship was verified by the Secretary of State. The bill makes updates to applicable voter registration and Qualified Voter File management protocols to establish the documents and procedures for proving citizenship while respectively keeping an accurate account of the citizenship verification status of Michigan voters. The proposed changes could result in additional costs and administrative burdens for local election officials. MTA will continue to monitor this legislation as it moves to the Senate.



[* Adna Technologies](#)

[* Bauckham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman & Koches PC](#)

[* Consumers Energy](#)

[* Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

[* Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC](#)

[* Hartleb Agency](#)

[* ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

[* Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

[* Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

Michigan Township Participating Plan
2026 MTA Conference
Grand Traverse Resort
All Attendees – Place Your Bets!

Par Plan Derby FUN NIGHT
April 21, 2026
7 p.m.
Par Plan members are invited to arrive at 6:30 p.m.

Horse Racing
Wagering
Lawn Games
Raffle Prizes
Best Dressed Awards

See You at the Derby!

MTA QUICK LINKS

- [Answer Center](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Advocacy](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Community Connection](#)
- [Webcasts](#)
- [Store](#)
- [Township Governance](#)
- [Academy](#)
- [Allied Service Providers](#)
- [NATaT](#)

Planning & Zoning Primer

May 6 | Lawrence, Van Buren ISD

May 13 | Frankenmuth, Bavarian Inn Lodge

May 18 | Harbor Springs, The Highlands

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO!](#)

House advances ban on purchase of certain election equipment

[House Bill 4720](#), sponsored by Rep. Rachelle Smit (R-Wayland Twp.) would amend the Michigan Election Law to prohibit the purchase or approval of new electronic voting systems that include components from entities listed on the Federal Communications Commission's "[covered list](#)." Equipment or services appearing on the list have been deemed to pose an unacceptable threat to national security. The bill applies prospectively from Jan. 1, 2026, and does not require the replacement of electronic voting systems currently in use. Additionally, any equipment purchased prior to the stated date can continue to be maintained and repaired to allow its ongoing use. The bill now moves to the Senate for further consideration.



The advertisement features a blue and white color scheme. On the left, there is a screenshot of a website interface with a navigation menu and a 'PORTFOLIO' section. On the right, the STG logo is displayed above the text 'SHUMAKER TECHNOLOGY GROUP'. Below this, a large blue button contains the text 'CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE PORTFOLIO!'. At the bottom right, a smaller blue button with a laptop icon says 'MICHIGAN'S EXPERTS IN WEB DEVELOPMENT'.

State Treasury holding free board of review training

All new and returning board of review members are required to receive training once every two years. The Michigan Department of Treasury is holding two free virtual board of review trainings in July. Each session is limited to 100 people.

- **July 13**, 9 a.m. to noon; register at <https://bit.ly/420HNaQ>
- **July 16**, 6 to 9 p.m.; register at <https://bit.ly/3PXL740>

New STC bulletins and updated forms

The State Tax Commission (STC) approved several updates of interest to townships and assessors:

- [Memorandum regarding Form 5107](#): The updated [Form 5107](#), *STC Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption* includes instructions for a newly purchased home; taxpayers are to include copies of the closing documents or other purchase documents to support the proration of property taxes. The memorandum also provides examples of tax proration based upon the closing documents.

- [Bulletin 3 of 2026](#), *Recalculating Taxable Value and Forms 6215 and 3452*: Per the bulletin, when an order for a change in taxable value is received by the STC ([Form 6215](#)) or Michigan Tax Tribunal ([Form 3452](#)), the assessor shall recalculate the taxable values for the year(s) following the year(s) specifically included in the order.
- Updated and reformatted [Charitable Nonprofit Housing Exemption Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [2026 DNR PILT Master List](#): The total state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) parcel count for the state is 7,940, with land area totaling 1,093,388.531 acres and taxable value at \$771,948,952.

'Local Leaders Webinar Series' covers asbestos

Asbestos has been used in insulation, floor tiles, roofing materials and siding, creating risk of exposure during renovations and demolitions of older buildings. In a May 6 [webinar](#), an asbestos inspector from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and staff from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration will discuss what local leaders should know about how asbestos is regulated in Michigan to protect the public and environment.

MECC

2026 MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE

JUNE 9-10 LANSING CENTER

Attend the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) premier environmental compliance assistance event!

- Choose from more than 70 concurrent technical sessions
- Check out services from exhibitors
- Get one-on-one assistance from EGLE staff
- Network with hundreds of environmental professionals

EGLE

Register by May 20 at Michigan.gov/MECC

Low-attitude helicopter flights documenting groundwater in Michigan counties

Local officials and residents in numerous Michigan counties may notice low-

flying helicopters carrying a suspended apparatus in the coming months. In partnership with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is conducting an [Airborne Electromagnetic \(AEM\) Survey project](#) in southwest Michigan this spring to improve available data on Michigan's groundwater availability and aquifer mapping. The study entails helicopters flying at about 200 feet with a suspended hoop-like horizontal frame on a cable about 100 feet below the aircraft that measures differences in Earth's electrical properties and magnetic field created by different rock types across the survey area. The technology does not collect photos or videos.



The flights, completed during the day only, are flown by specially trained pilots and will not pass over buildings at low

altitude. The flights will avoid densely populated areas and pose no risk to humans, animals or plant life. The survey will cover Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Ottawa, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties. Exact dates of flights are weather dependent, and the USGS will update a flight tracker on the [study website](#) with daily progress.

Michigan Green Communities Challenge deadline approaching

With two weeks remaining, townships can still complete the [Michigan Green Communities \(MGC\) Challenge](#). The MGC Challenge is an annual recognition program that rewards communities that embed sustainability into their operations, policies and programs. Participating communities can earn certification for sustainability actions they completed in 2025 and gain access to resources, including a network of local leaders and environmental experts, by completing the free challenge. It also includes access to up to two registrations for the MI Healthy Climate Conference and Michigan Sustainability Conference. Submit your township's efforts by May 1. MTA is a Michigan Green Communities partner.

MIOSHA training explores managing workplace violence, incidences

Township officials can join a free three-hour virtual training opportunity focusing on managing the aftermath of workplace violence, industrial fatalities and mass casualty events. The seminar will be on April 28 at 9 a.m. hosted by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA). Drawing on experiences from recent incidents across Michigan (e.g., Michigan State University, Oxford Community Schools and Temple Israel), participants will learn how to support employees, address trauma impacts, and protect organizational operations and reputation following catastrophic events. The training will further explore crisis response strategies and best practices for workplace violence prevention. Registration is required and may be completed [here](#).

Webinars cover new unemployment portal for employers

The [Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency](#) (UIA) is offering two recurring webinars to help employers gain familiarity with the new MiUI unemployment insurance portal. A daily seminar each morning at 10 a.m. covers how to initiate a MiUI account and a weekly seminar on Wednesdays helps prepare employers and third-party administrators for submitting wage reports and payments in MiUI. Register for either series under the "UIA Coaching Session" section of the [UIA appointment scheduler](#).

Reminders for clerks

- **Draft roles and responsibilities ruleset:** The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) is accepting public comment on a new ruleset defining the roles and

responsibilities of election officials, including township clerks and their staff. The draft rule language can be viewed [online](#). Public comments can be emailed to Elections-PublicComment@Michigan.gov by 5 p.m. on May 22, or shared at a [public hearing](#) on May 22 at 10 a.m. at the Binsfeld Office Building in Lansing.

- **Reminder for alternate addresses in the QVF:**
When a voter requests an absent voter (AV) application or ballot be sent to an address that is not their permanent address, clerks must record that address as an alternate address in the Qualified Voter File (QVF) rather than a permanent address to avoid triggering an update to the voter's driving record. This process is detailed in the [quick guide](#) on adding alternative addresses in the BOE's eLearning Center.
- **May 5 election deadlines:** April 20 is the last day for individuals to register by mail or online to vote in the May election. Thereafter, individuals can register in-person with a local clerk through Election Day. Write-in candidates must submit a declaration of intent form to the appropriate filing official by 4 p.m. on April 24. Voters who wish to spoil their absent voter (AV) ballot and receive a new one by mail must submit a written request by 5 p.m. on April 24. Voters who have returned their AV ballot wishing to spoil their ballot and receive a new AV ballot must submit a written request in person to the clerk's office by 5 p.m. on April 24.

MTA office closed for Annual Conference

The MTA office will be closed April 20-24, while MTA staff is at the 2026 Annual

Educational Conference & Expo at the Grand Traverse

Resort in Acme Township (Grand Traverse Co.). You may call the MTA office and leave messages for staff at (517) 321-6467 or contact staff via email; responses will be delayed. The office re-opens on Monday, April 27. See you in Grand Traverse!



Federal update for week of April 13

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships [Weekly Legislative Update](#) for the latest on federal actions impacting townships.

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