

August 15, 2025

Changes to allow land split increases move forward

The first 10 acres of a parent parcel or tract of land could soon be increased from four to 10 parcels under [House Bill 4081](#), sponsored by Rep. Jay DeBoyer (R-Clay Twp.). The bill, previously passed by the House, is now before the Senate and would increase the number of parcels that can be platted (i.e., divided from a single tract of land). Currently, the Land Division Act allows the first 10 acres of a parent tract of land to be divided into up to four smaller parcels. Under HB 4081, the first 10 acres of a parent tract could be divided into up to 10 parcels. The bill also would allow municipalities that have the authority to approve or reject a proposed land division under the act to adopt ordinances allowing tracts of land to be partitioned into a greater number of parcels than otherwise allowed by the act. MTA worked to include language that would provide local units one year to review their ordinances and make any necessary changes before the measure takes effect, if passed. The bill is expected to be considered by the Senate in early September.



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Webinar offers local leaders overview on state burning regulations

Local governments often enforce state burning regulations in addition to municipal ordinances. On Sept. 9 at 10 a.m., the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy is hosting a [webinar](#) to familiarize local leaders with state regulations on what can or cannot be burned, and offer guidance on how to handle resident complaints and frequent violators.

Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

Sept. 17: [Revenue Sources: Coins in the Couch](#)

Sept. 10: [Emerging Issues in Emergency Services](#)

[Professional Development Retreats](#)

Sept. 29-30: [Clerks](#)

Oct. 1-2: [Treasurers](#)

Oct. 14-15: [Supervisors](#)

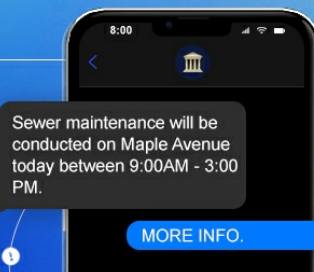
Oct. 27-28: [Trustees](#)

Oct. 29-30: [Planning & Zoning Team](#)

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MORE INFO.

Webinar on Aug. 21 to detail new rules for opioid settlement reporting

Townships receiving opioid settlement payments can [join a webinar](#) on Aug. 21 from 3 to 4 p.m. to learn about new reporting

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requirement changes. The state Attorney General's Office will review the new mandated reporting for participating local units of government eligible for opioid settlement funds and answer questions.

Septic informational webinar for residents

SepticSmart Week is Sept. 15-19 and aims to raise awareness of effective septic management among the 1.3 million Michigan residents whose wastewater is treated by a septic system. This includes a free [webinar](#) on Sept. 15 at 9 a.m., which local governments are encouraged to share with residents, offering education on proper use and routine care of septic systems to help homeowners avoid costly repairs and protect the health of groundwater, lakes and streams. Find more resources for local governments on septic education on the [SepticSmart webpage](#).

CE opportunity for wastewater operators

Wastewater system operators and managers looking to earn continuing education credits (CECs) can earn 0.4 Technical Wastewater CECs through a free, two-part [online training](#) offered by Michigan Technological University. The virtual workshop, which covers concepts and mathematics needed for wastewater treatment process control, will run from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. Attendance on both days is required to earn the credit. [Register](#) by Sept. 14 for the free training.

Awards seek to honor those preserving Michigan history

Is there someone in your township who works to preserve, protect and promote your township's history, or historic significance or impact? Nominate them for one of the Michigan Historical Commission's two annual awards that seek to honor the exemplary work done by stewards of Michigan history. The Swainson Award, which honors Gov. John B. Swainson, recognizes governmental employees who work outside of their primary job responsibilities to help preserve or interpret Michigan history. The MAAK Award, created in honor of Gov. William Milliken, Commissioner Elizabeth Adams, Secretary of State Richard Austin and Attorney General Frank Kelley, acknowledges individuals for their lifetime service to the preservation, understanding or promotion of Michigan's history. The 2025 nomination window for both awards is open through Dec. 31. The nomination form, eligibility requirements and information on past award recipients can be found on the [Michigan Historical Commission website](#). For further assistance, contact davism1@michigan.gov.

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MTA RETREATS

CLERKS | SEPT. 29-30
TREASURERS | OCT. 1-2
SUPERVISORS | OCT. 14-15
TRUSTEES | OCT. 27-28
PLANNING & ZONING | OCT. 29-30

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



Reminders for clerks

Upcoming deadlines on AV drop box requirements. Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, regardless of when an absent voter (AV) drop box was ordered or installed, the township clerk must use video monitoring of each AV drop box during the 75 days prior to each election and on Election Day to ensure effective monitoring of each AV ballot drop box in the township.

Polling place accessibility review. Townships can schedule an accessibility review, where the ombudsperson for accessible elections or a disability access partner advocate will coordinate with election officials to review your polling places for accessibility issues while providing guidance on best practices for fixing any issues observed. Email ADAVoter@michigan.gov to schedule your review.

NATaT Special Report—EO on federal grantmaking

On Aug. 7, President Trump issued an executive order (EO), *Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking*. The National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) has prepared a [special report](#) outlining the order and providing direction to grant recipients on how to remain compliant with current grant portfolios and prepare for the upcoming changes to future grant funding opportunities.

MTA policy platform review and input sought

Member township officials can review and provide input on the MTA legislative policy platform. The legislative policy objectives—reviewed, updated and approved annually—guide the Association’s government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members are encouraged to review the current [2025-2026 policy platform](#) and share any proposed additions and revisions by Monday, Nov. 24. Member-proposed policy changes will be reviewed by MTA policy committees and will be presented at the 2026 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our 2026 Annual Educational Conference in April. Contact legislation@michigantownships.org with questions, comments or suggestions.



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