

August 22, 2025

## House approves bill to prohibit ranked choice voting

Legislation to amend the election law to ban ranked choice voting in Michigan passed the House this week on a party-line vote. [House Bill 4707](#), sponsored by Rep. Rachelle Smit (R-Wayland Twp.), would prohibit the state as well as any township or city from conducting an election using ranked choice voting. In addition to prohibiting ranked choice voting, the bill also includes any method that allows voters to vote for more candidates than total number of positions to be filled in the election. HB 4707 moves to the Senate for consideration.



Ranked choice voting allows voters to rank candidates based on their preference, generally one through five. After each vote count, the candidate with the fewest votes is removed, while the votes of their supporters are awarded to the candidate they picked as their second choice; that process continues until one candidate reaches 50%. There is currently a ballot proposal seeking signatures to allow ranked choice voting to be put before the voters in 2026.

## Local government comment sought for Numbered Letters

Township officials, employees, municipal advisors and all local government officials/employees are being asked by the Michigan Department of Treasury to review and submit comments on a new and two revised Numbered Letters following revisions made to provide additional clarity, improve user experience and create internal efficiencies. [Numbered Letter 2025-3](#) provides guidance and information around dollar limits for professional training and education expenditures for retirement system governing body board members. [Revised Numbered Letter 2016-1](#) provides guidance around deficit elimination plan requirements, and [Revised Numbered Letter 2021-1](#) provides guidance on post-issuance debt review process. Submit written comments by Sept. 22 to [LocalRetirementReporting@michigan.gov](mailto:LocalRetirementReporting@michigan.gov) for Numbered Letter 2025-3, and [Treas\\_MunicipalFinance@michigan.gov](mailto:Treas_MunicipalFinance@michigan.gov) for Revised Numbered Letters 2016-1 or 2021-1.

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## 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](#)

## MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)

[Training](#)

[Advocacy](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Community Connection](#)

[Webcasts](#)

[Store](#)

# STGNOTIFY

## KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED

Send instant updates directly to your residents' phones

Sewer maintenance will be conducted on Maple Avenue today between 9:00AM - 3:00 PM.

MORE INFO.

## Cost savings calculator launches for state revolving fund

Communities interested in seeing their potential savings from participation in the [State Revolving Fund's](#) (SRF) low-interest loan program can now estimate cost savings for individual projects with the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's [SRF Savings Calculator](#). The calculator uses the estimated project cost, comparable loan terms for the type of project, and the municipality's standard open market interest rate to calculate estimated savings.

## Informational webinar on nonpoint source watershed management grants

The state's Nonpoint Source (NPS) program provides grants and technical assistance to local officials tasked with watershed management. A Sept. 10 [webinar](#) with program staff from the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy will cover the grant application schedule and requirements, program priorities and eligibility, and tips for successful applications. The webinar is intended for municipal environmental coordinators, drain commissioners, watershed groups and any others interested in grant funding for updating their watershed management plan to better restore and protect watersheds and enhance water quality.

## BEAD update

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) recently conducted the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Benefit of the Bargain round in accordance with National Telecommunications Information Agency (NTIA) guidelines. MIHI is currently reviewing more than 800 applications covering thousands of broadband serviceable locations across Michigan, scoring and deconflicting applications, and completing the process of notifying preliminarily selected subgrantees. Subgrantee selection results will be made public when MIHI releases a draft version of the BEAD Final Proposal for public comment, which is anticipated in the near future. MIHI anticipates a final proposal that will bring thousands of Michiganders online and move the state closer to universal availability of broadband coverage.



## Webinar covering how to conduct respectful misconduct investigations

Township Governance Academy  
Allied Service Providers  
NATaT

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



[www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes](http://www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes)



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

\* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



In cases of bullying and harassment, employers must delicately conduct investigations to minimize further harm to all parties involved. The state Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's final part of the [Combating Mistreatment at Work webinar series](#) will cover how employers can manage workplace investigations respectfully and effectively. The [webinar](#) will be held on Microsoft Teams at 2 p.m. on Sept. 18. No registration is required.



## EMERGING ISSUES IN EMERGENCY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 10 | BAVARIAN INN LODGE in FRANKENMUTH

**SPACE IS LIMITED — [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)**

### Info session on emergency response to alternative maritime fuels

New fuels that reduce emissions from maritime vessels can pose different risks to first responder safety and the environment than those associated with traditional fuels. A [webinar](#), to be held on Sept. 10 at 1 p.m. and featuring experienced marine casualty responders, will cover best practices for emergency coordinators, existing and recommended regulatory framework around alternative fuels, and where to find training, equipment and exercises for first responders who may have to respond to a maritime incident.

### MTA retreats offer customized content for township officials

Don't miss out on MTA's 2025 [Professional Development Retreats](#), coming to the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth this fall!

With separate retreats and content tailored specifically for each office—[Clerks](#), [Treasurers](#), [Supervisors](#) and [Trustees](#), plus a [Planning & Zoning Team Retreat](#)—these two-day events are a fantastic way to learn from our experts, and connect with others who share the same responsibilities and face the same challenges (and opportunities!) that you do! Space is filling quickly—[learn more here](#) or [register online now](#) to secure your seat.



Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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