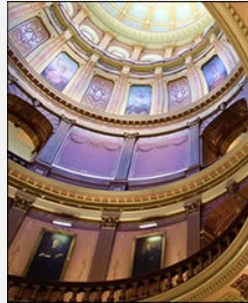


Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Dec. 1, 2023

2024 Capital Conference Registration Now Open!

Join [MTA's 2024 Capital Conference](#) on **Jan. 23** and get a breakdown on what happened in 2023—and what's to come in the year ahead. Hear from legislators on bills they may consider affecting local government and get a breakdown from experts on what will now be implemented and what you need to know. There are also numerous key issues still up for debate in 2024—which is also an election year— including legislation creating a revenue sharing trust fund and the ongoing debate over aggregate mining operations. MTA's Capital Conference provides you direct contact with lawmakers, state department officials, and MTA policy experts to allow you to learn more, ask questions and gain insights.



[Register](#) prior to Dec. 31 to get the early-bird rate.

Renewable siting bills signed that strip away true local input on how communities grow and change

The large-scale renewable energy bills were signed into law this week and will take effect on **Nov. 29, 2024**. "These bills represent a continued attack on the ability for Michigan's residents and their locally elected officials to have the final say on how their communities grow and change. The new laws simply do not create a balanced or equitable approach to our state's renewable energy needs," stated Neil Sheridan, MTA Executive Director. "Rather, the legislation unduly forces large, utility-scale renewable energy facilities into our rural areas, while also stripping away local input on where and how much should be located in a community. The

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December in-person events
[Financial Fundamentals](#)
(Dec. 5, Gaylord; Dec. 7, Lansing)

Dec. 6, Mt. Pleasant
* [Board Roles & Relations](#)
* [How Boards Make Decisions](#)

[Now You Know lunchtime webinar](#)
Dec. 8—[2023 Legislative Wrap-up](#)

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new laws prescribe statewide, one-size-fits-all requirements, and negate current renewable energy zoning provisions already carefully and thoughtfully enacted in communities around the state."

The legislation impacts solar projects in communities with a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or greater, wind projects with a nameplate capacity of 100 megawatts and energy storage facilities with a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or more. Smaller projects can continue to be addressed by local zoning ordinances.

If the threshold is at or above the above levels, a developer or utility is required to apply with the local unit of government IF the local unit has a **"compatible renewable energy ordinance"** that complies with statewide standards such as setbacks, decibel levels and height. A renewable energy ordinance is not considered compatible if it is more restrictive than the statewide standards or if the local unit has a moratorium in place. The local unit must then approve or deny the application within 120 days with a possible extension of up to 120 days **ONLY** if mutually agreed upon by the local unit and the developer. If the local unit denies or fails to act on the proposal, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) would then receive the application.

If a local unit does not have a "compatible renewable energy ordinance," the developer will apply directly to the MPSC. Additionally, while MPSC shall consider the impact on the local land use, including the percentage of land within the local unit of government dedicated to energy generation, the legislation does not limit the overall land that can be utilized in a local unit for said purposes. Finally, a one-time \$2,000 per megawatt payment is provided from the energy facility owner to the affected local unit for public safety and infrastructure purposes; however, both parties (the local unit and the energy facility owner) must agree on how the funds can be spent.

MTA will continue to work with our partners and experts to help navigate a path forward for our members and address the many unanswered questions and concerns that remain for local leaders and their residents. Watch for additional information in *Insights*, *Township Focus* and on MTA's website.

Township Governance
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ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



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

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



STC issues bulletins/ revised forms

The State Tax Commission recently issued several new and revised forms as well as bulletins due to statutory changes for the 2024 tax year:

Form 5076-Affidavit to Claim Small Business Tax Exemption—

Public Act 176 of 2023 made changes requiring all eligible claimants with personal property totaling \$80,000 or more but less than \$180,000 in true cash value within the local assessing unit to annually file both the [Form 5076-Affidavit to Claim Small Business Tax Exemption Claim](#) and a personal property statement (Form 632) to qualify for the exemption. Taxpayers wishing to claim the small business property tax exemption with true cash value greater than or equal to \$80,000 but less than \$180,000 must file both forms each year in which they wish to receive the exemption. Additionally, assessors are required to transmit parcel information for exempt parcels with true cash value between \$80,000 and \$180,000 to Treasury via their CAMA software by April 1.

Bulletin 18 of 2023 - Procedural Changes for 2024—STC also approved [Bulletin 18 of 2023 - Procedural Changes for 2024](#) to provide information on statutory changes, procedural changes and reminders for the 2024 assessment year.

Disabled Veteran's Exemption revisions—The following updated documents related to the amendments to the Disabled Veteran's Exemption enacted by Public Acts 150, 151, and 152 were also recently approved by the STC:

- [Bulletin 19 of 2023 Disabled Veteran's Exemption](#)
- [Revised Disabled Veteran's Exemption Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Form 5107 - Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption](#)
- [Form 6054 - Request to Rescind Disabled Veteran's Exemption](#)

- [Form 6055 - Notice of Denial of Disabled Veteran's Exemption](#)

Multipliers for Valuation of Free-Standing Communication Towers —STC approved the [Memo 4 - Multipliers for Communication Towers](#) for the 2024 tax year.

Taxable Valuation Forms and Equalization Valuation Forms—Also approved by STC are forms for taxable valuation and equalization valuation forms:

- [Form 602 - STC Analysis for Equalized Valuation of Personal Property](#)
- [Form 1019 - Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification](#)
- [Form 4093 - Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation \(including Leasehold Improvements\)](#)
- [Form 3128 - Taxable Value Calculations Worksheet](#)
- [Form 603 - STC Analysis for Equalized Valuation of Real Property](#)



MGC New Sustainability Plan Resource Kit tutorial and program updates

The Michigan Green Communities (MGC) program is announcing the release of a [new sustainability plan resource kit tutorial and program updates](#). This tool will help Michigan communities embed sustainability into their operations and policies, as well as set them up for pursuing federal and state climate and infrastructure funding. Join MGC program staff during a [webinar](#) on **Dec. 13 at 11 a.m.**—for both current and prospective participants—to learn more about the new reporting period for the MGC Challenge, opening Jan. 1, 2024, as well as a tutorial for those who are new to the program or need a refresher. MGC is open to all townships, cities, villages and counties in Michigan at no cost.



Read the December issue of *Township Focus*—online now!

Your [December issue of *Township Focus*](#) can be read online now and will be in mailboxes soon! In this month's cover story, *That's a wrap—Inside the Michigan Legislature's 2023 fall session*, learn about the many bills passed that impact our townships—including renewable energy siting legislation. We profile a township supervisor who exemplifies the "Spirit of MTA"—and share how you can nominate an elected leader from your township for [a new MTA recognition award](#). In our Q&A columns, "Hello, MTA ... ?" discusses types of surety bonds required for certain township officials, and "Financial Forum" explains types of township accrual accounts.

Federal update for week of Nov. 27

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