

Dec. 15, 2023

Shared clerk compensation resolution does not comply with township legal requirements



MTA is aware that the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) has sent out a statement and sample resolution that they are proposing be used by municipalities to address compensation for the new and expanded election responsibilities resulting from Proposal 2 of 2022 and follow-up legislation adopted for its implementation. While we share the concerns for adequate compensation for all election officials (including clerks and other officials responsible for the election process), we cannot advocate for the use of a resolution that does not match the legal requirements and restrictions on the compensation of township clerks. MTA sent an email to all elected township board members earlier this week with information and guidance on setting compensation—[click here](#) for that message, along with links to an MTA compensation resource toolkit and sample township board salary resolutions.

2024 Capital Conference to include election updates

Join MTA at the **2024 Capital Conference on Jan. 23** for the latest on the changes for upcoming elections—taking a deep dive into the rules and requirements for early voting, the new presidential primary date and more. You will gain the knowledge you need to ensure your township’s elections run smoothly and maintain state compliancy in the face of these changes and challenges. Bring us your questions, and our experts will get provide answers! Learn more about [MTA’s 2024 Capital Conference](#) and register today! *Register prior to Dec. 31 to get the early-bird rate.*

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Upcoming MTA Training & Events

- Jan. 3—Registration opens for 2024 [MTA Annual Conference](#)
- Jan. 17—[Now You Know: Renewable Energy Siting: What's Next?](#)
- Jan. 23 in Lansing—[2024 Capital Conference](#)



BOARD OF REVIEW
IN PERSON & ONLINE TRAINING with MTA
 CHOOSE FROM TWO CLASSES, ONE THAT SATISFIES THE P.A. 660 TRAINING MANDATE OR ONE THAT OFFERS A DEEPER DIVE INTO COMMON TROUBLE SPOTS ENCOUNTERED BY BOARDS OF REVIEW.
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New law makes institutional desecration a crime

Public Acts [277](#) and [278](#), sponsored by Reps. Noah Arbit (D-West Bloomfield) and Ranjeev Puri (D-Canton Chtr. Twp.), create the Institutional Desecration Act that was recently signed into law. The new laws, effective Feb. 13, 2024, prohibit the targeted defacement, destruction and vandalism of institutions and communal property, including houses of worship, cultural or community centers, cemeteries, and businesses as a hate crime, and creates misdemeanor and felony penalties for said violations.

Treasury seeks public input on numbered letters

Townships and other local governments receive direction from the Michigan Department of Treasury on accounting and auditing in the form of Numbered Letters and Michigan Committee on Governmental Accounting and Auditing (MCGAA) Statements. Treasury has begun the process of removing and updating the Numbered Letters and MCGAA statements from 1993 to the present, with the goal to update every five years. The updates will bring the publications to the current format and ensure all web links are accurate. The department is also in the process of changing the MCGAA Statements to Numbered Letters. The Local Audit and Finance Division is currently soliciting public comment on selected [Numbered Letters](#) by **Jan. 12, 2024**. Email comments to LADF_Audits@michigan.gov with the subject line "Numbered Letters Exposure Draft" or mail to Michigan Department of Treasury, Local Audit and Finance Division, P.O. Box 30728, Lansing, MI 48909-8228.

Reminders from BOE

Clerk continuing education. To remain accredited, all clerks must complete all the continuing education training requirements by

Jan. 31 and throughout February—[Board of Review Training](#)

MTA QUICK LINKS

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

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



Burnham & Flower
 INSURANCE GROUP
www.bfgroup.com



Michigan Township Participating Plan
www.theparplan.com



MERS
 Municipal Employees' Retirement System
www.mersofmich.com

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

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

Dec. 31. The curriculum is available in the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) [eLearning Center](#).

November post-election audits. The list of precincts selected for November post-election audits is available in the [eLearning Center](#). If your jurisdiction was selected, you will be contacted directly by the BOE or county staff to arrange a date and time for the audit. Additionally, you will be asked to provide several items from the November election—including the ballot container for the chosen precinct. Audits should be able to be completed in two to three hours, and all audits should be conducted by Jan. 8, 2024.

Presidential primary ballot selection form. There are unique requirements for absent voter (AV) ballot applications and the permanent mail ballot list associated with the upcoming presidential primary. At least 60 days prior to the election, clerks **must send** the Presidential Primary Ballot Selection Form, available in the [eLearning Center](#), to voters on the permanent mail ballot list who have not made a political party ballot selection. If the voter does not return the form at least 40 days before the presidential primary election, the clerk must notify the voter via phone, email or text message, if available, of the requirement. If a voter enrolls on the permanent mail ballot list after the clerk has sent out the presidential primary ballot selection forms and the voter has not made a ballot selection, the clerk must immediately send the voter a presidential primary ballot selection form, with prepaid return postage.

If there are other items on the ballot, permanent mail ballot list voters who have not made a party ballot selection before the election must be sent a ballot with any offices or proposals, other than president, along with a notice that indicates both that the voter did not receive a presidential primary election ballot because they did not make a ballot selection and the process by which they can still participate in the election.

Proposal 2022-2 virtual training. Clerks not able to attend in-person BOE sessions can register in the [eLearning Center](#) for Proposal 2022-2 virtual training sessions, held Dec. 19 and Jan. 3.

Mass ballot module. Clerk's offices should plan to use AV Scan or AV Details in the Qualified Voter File (QVF) to assign ballots to voters for the presidential primary. The Mass Ballot module that allows the recording of ballot numbers in bulk cannot accommodate assigning ballot numbers by party or ballot type.

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

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



MERIT convening BEAD workgroup

Michigan will be receiving \$1.6 billion via the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program to upgrade its internet infrastructure across the state with funding to be distributed based on state maps that show the level and type of access to internet services.

As the state prepares for the BEAD mapping challenge, Merit is developing a comprehensive platform that will be utilized statewide to aggregate individual, local and regional challenges to the state map. The free resource will be available to help local communities optimize funding to build broadband infrastructure. To make this happen, Merit is convening a BEAD Challenge workgroup and is seeking local government officials, community partners, civic organizations and others to participate. By joining, you will help unlock BEAD funding for your community to improve the internet, which improves economic development, health and EDU outcomes, population retention, and much more! Planning is happening now—prior to the challenge window opening in January 2024—through virtual sessions. You can get involved by completing the form at [Merit Hosted: Michigan BEAD Challenge Process](#).



EGLE seeks input on clean energy projects

With billions of dollars in federal loans and loan guarantees available to invest in climate- and energy-related projects, the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) is seeking input on an opportunity to leverage financing for clean energy generation and infrastructure, economic development, supplier retooling and diversification, and other related projects. EGLE and other state departments are assessing the need for a [State Energy Finance Institution](#) (SEFI) that would unlock federal loans and loan guarantees. The financing would support public and private clean energy and emissions-reducing projects and clean energy businesses in the state. Input on projects that span more than one community or beyond Michigan boundaries are also welcome. EGLE has initiated a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) to solicit initial feedback on a SEFI program that would help finance major clean energy and other emission-reducing projects in Michigan. This RFI is for input on the need for, and potential

design of, SEFI programs. Responses must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024. Written responses can be submitted via [online form](#), email EGLE-OCE@Michigan.gov with the subject line "SEFI R", or mail to Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Executive Office, Office of Climate and Energy, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909-7973.

2024 MTA Conference registration opens Jan. 3

MTA's [Annual Conference & Expo](#)

returns to the Grand Traverse

Resort April 22-25, 2024—

connecting YOU with municipal

experts, inspiring speakers and

nearly 1,000 of your fellow officials. Educational offerings feature

50 timely township topics and our expo brings more than 100

municipal vendors. Registration opens **Wednesday, Jan. 3**. You'll

find all the details—from classes to highlights and hotel options to

registration forms—all nicely wrapped in the January issue of

your *Township Focus* magazine, as well as on MTA's

website. Remember, you must register for the Conference to get

your personalized housing code which allows you to reserve your

hotel room. Lodging opens Jan. 24.



Federal update for week of Dec. 11

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships

[Weekly Legislative Update](#) for an update of federal actions

impacting townships.