

Dec. 8, 2023

## New Housing Readiness Incentive Grant Program

Townships can apply for the new \$5 million [Housing Readiness Incentive Grant Program](#) to support costs associated with the adoption of land use policies, master plan updates, zoning text amendments and similar actions to encourage increasing housing supply and affordability. The program includes \$3 million that can be utilized by municipalities that are not part of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation redevelopment program that provides communities ideas for zoning to increase housing. The remaining \$2 million is available to municipalities enrolled in the redevelopment program. The **online application will open Jan. 16 and will remain open until funding is fully committed.**

Applications will be reviewed by MSHDA and awarded as they are received. Email [MSHDA-OHS@michigan.gov](mailto:MSHDA-OHS@michigan.gov) with questions.



## Legislation recently signed into law

Below is a list of legislation previously shared in *Insights* that has recently been signed into law. Unless otherwise indicated, the new acts take effect Feb. 13, 2024:

- [Public Act 210 of 2023](#) allows peace officers to patrol and enforce the laws for off-road vehicles.
- [PA 211 of 2023](#) provides a process, for the 2021 tax year only, to file for a late-qualifying eligible manufacturing personal property exemption from property taxes if the owner did not qualify because the applicable paperwork was not properly filed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [PA 212 of 2023](#), effective Nov. 22, eliminates the sunset on certain default speed limits.
- [PA 213 of 2023](#) requires a local enforcing agency to provide written violation notification to an

### Upcoming MTA Training

Jan. 23 in Lansing—[2024 Capital Conference](#)

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](#)

occupant of an apartment building of a serious and imminent hazard to health or safety.

- [PA 214 of 2023](#) allows public employee retirement boards to meet remotely.
- [PA 218 of 2023](#), effective Nov. 22, allows assessment of property in an alternate location on tax day.
- [PAs 226](#) and [227 of 2023](#), effective Nov. 22, allows townships and cities to have precinct sizes of no more than 4,999 active registered voters.
- [PA 230 of 2023](#) codifies current policy to allow farmland enrolled in PA 116 a deferment period for use for commercial solar facilities.
- [PA 236 of 2023](#) requires public employers to provide bargaining representatives with public employee contact information.
- [PA 243 of 2023](#) removes a provision prohibiting public bodies from administering payroll deduction plans for political contributions.
- [PA 244 of 2023](#) allows the use of public resources to establish or administer payroll deduction plans for contributions to campaign committees.
- [PA 248 of 2023](#) allows county road commissions to enter into an agreement with a non-adjacent county or the Michigan Department of Transportation to perform roadway work and purchase machinery and equipment.
- [PA 251 of 2023](#) allows clerks to accept election inspector applications through an online portal or by other electronic means.
- [PAs 252](#) and [253 of 2023](#) makes it illegal to intimidate an election official or otherwise prevent election officials from performing their duties.
- [PA 257 of 2023](#), effective June 30, 2025, allows an individual to register to vote through the electronic voter registration interface by providing the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number and other identifying information if they do not have a state ID or driver's license.
- [PA 258 of 2023](#) allows eligible individuals who are at least 16 years of age to preregister to vote.
- [PA 259 of 2023](#) modifies and clarifies provisions of the early voting law passed earlier this year, including clarification that at least three election inspectors are required for each early voting site—not each precinct that an early voting site would

## 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 & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

\* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)





include. It also clarifies that the room in which the early voting site is located be locked—not the entire building—at the end of each day of early voting.

- [PAs 260, 261, 262](#) and [268 of 2023](#), effective June 30, 2025, modify the automatic registration procedure at Secretary of State (SOS) branch offices and other government agencies to require the applicant to receive a letter from the SOS allowing them to opt out of registering instead of opting out at the time of the transaction.
- [PAs 263, 264, 265](#) and [266 of 2023](#) requires any political advertisement that utilizes artificial intelligence (AI) to disclose the use of AI in the advertisement.
- [PA 270 of 2023](#) codifies the ability for voters to apply for an absentee ballot online which Secretary of State Benson enacted administratively during the COVID pandemic.

**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.  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

## 2024 MTA Capital Conference registration is 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.

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## STC offers February 2024 MCAT Course

[Applications](#) are now being accepted by the State Tax Commission (STC) for the [February 2024 Michigan Certified Assessing Technician \(MCAT\) program](#) to be held Feb. 1 and 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kent District Library in Kentwood. The exam will be on Feb. 5 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the same location. Applications are due by Jan. 12. Email [GastW@michigan.gov](mailto:GastW@michigan.gov) with questions.

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## Reminders from BOE

**Internet connectivity for early voting.** If you have concerns regarding internet connectivity at your early voting locations, the [Michigan Broadband Map](#) contains address search capabilities to locate fixed broadband options as well as mobile, satellite and voice provider options available to make the best decision. If you have concerns about download speeds, try to limit the connection to only the early voting e-pollbook.

**Accessibility video.** The Bureau of Elections (BOE) has a series of videos and articles to increase familiarity with general accessibility requirements and best practices. These are designed to help elections officials ensure that everyone can vote privately and independently whether they vote at a polling place or at home. The first video, [Accessible Elections - Information for Election Officials: Understanding Disability](#), developed by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, provides an overview of concepts involved with disability and why various accessibility options at polling places are essential to those voters.

**Proposal 2022-2 training.** Two virtual Proposal 2022-2 training sessions will be held Dec. 19 and Jan. 3. Sign-up information is not

yet available. The "Proposal 2022-2 Regional Training" presentation from in-person trainings held previously is also available in the [eLearning Center](#).

**Drop boxes.** Clerks may order drop boxes (paid for by the state), using the order form in the [eLearning Center](#). Clerks may order one drop box per jurisdiction and an additional drop box for every 15,000 voters in their jurisdiction. BOE has created a drop box web page (in the eLearning Center) where clerks can view the vendors and available drop boxes. If you do not have the required number of drop boxes for your township, place your order immediately.

**Train-the-trainer.** Visit the [eLearning Center](#) for dates and to register for one of 12 BOE training sessions in December and January for clerks and staff to receive accreditation to train election inspectors. These sessions are available to county clerks and their staff and any jurisdiction with populations over 10,000. If your township has a population under 10,000, but you assist the county clerk with their election inspector training or have a special reason to attend, exception requests, approved by your county clerk, can be submitted to [ESupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ESupport@michigan.gov) for consideration. A virtual session will be scheduled once in-person sessions are complete.

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## **Webinar on the proposed NERIS data framework for the U.S. fire data**

Join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, UL's Fire Safety Research Institute and U.S. Fire Administration for a Dec. 14 webinar held from 1-2 p.m. [Modernizing the U.S. Fire Data System: Understanding the Proposed NERIS Data Framework](#) will explore the proposed NERIS data framework, and include a question-and-answer session. The webinar will highlight the project's advancements, key attributes of the new framework, opportunities to offer feedback, and tangible benefits the system will offer to first responders, agencies and the public. Register by **Dec. 12**, and contact [NERIS@ul.org](mailto:NERIS@ul.org) with questions.

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## 2024 threshold for publishing minutes set at \$110 million for general law townships

The 2024 taxable value threshold for exempting general law townships from the requirement to publish minutes has increased to \$110 million. The 2023 rate was \$104 million. The rate is determined by the Michigan Department of Treasury's Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis, which is required to determine the adjusted amount each year. Public Act 465 of 1996 exempts general law townships with a taxable value under a threshold from the requirement to publish township board meeting minutes, or a synopsis of the proceedings, within 21 days after the meeting. An updated ["Just the Facts! Taking Township Minutes"](#) MTA resource toolkit, which includes a sample minutes synopsis, is available on [MTA's "Minutes" webpage](#) (login is required.)



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## Registration now open for MTA's 2024 Board of Review Training

Join MTA this winter at one of 11 in-person events—or choose from three online classes. Whether you're looking to complete the State Tax Commission training requirement under Public Act 660 of 2018 or seeking a deeper dive into common trouble spots encountered by boards of review, we have a class for you! You'll walk away with critical insights and key information, valuable to even the most experienced board of review members. [Learn more here](#) or [register online now!](#)

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## 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.