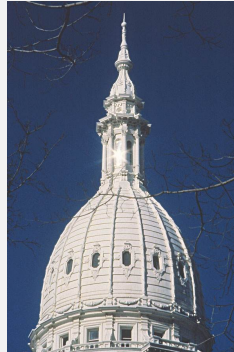


Feb. 28, 2025

## Governor delivers State of the State address

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer delivered her seventh State of the State address this week outlining her priorities for the current year. Increased investment in local road funding and affordable housing were among the 2025 priorities affecting local units of government. Other measures proposed include overhauling the state's licensing and permitting process and increased jobs. With two road funding proposals shared earlier this year by the governor and the House Republicans, it is the next major item expected to be negotiated, along with the state's FY 2026 budget.



## Bills allowing childcare centers to install temporary locking devices return

Local fire departments and law enforcement agencies would be notified if childcare centers in their jurisdiction install temporary locking devices to be used in emergency situations. Legislation, approved by the Senate Oversight Committee this week, would allow child care centers to follow the same procedure as schools when they install the devices, requiring them to submit their plans to the appropriate enforcing agency for review and approval, [Senate Bills 96](#), [97](#) and [98](#), sponsored by Sens. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), Roger Hauck (R-Union Chtr. Twp.) and Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak), were advanced to the Senate floor for further consideration. Similar bills cleared the Senate with bipartisan support last term.

**MTA'S PRE-CONFERENCE CLASSES TAKE YOU ON A DEEP DIVE INTO THESE TOPICS:**

- Assessing Uniqueness: Best Practices for Assessment Administration**
- Board Authorities: Responsibilities & Roles**
- Township Finances**
- Legal Institute for Township Attorneys**

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!**

## Assessors' comments sought on DNR PILT roll

Assessors can provide comments on the [DRAFT DNR PILT Roll](#) until **March 24**. The State Tax Commission (STC) is required to annually determine the valuation of state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) property and furnish to local

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## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

### [Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

March. 12: [Payroll Precision: Methods and Records](#)

### [Board of Review Training](#) Feb. 25: [Marquette Online Training](#)

March 31-April 3: [Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#)

### [Pre-Conference sessions:](#)

- \*\* [Assessing Uniqueness: Best Practices for Assessment](#)
- \*\* [Board Authorities, Responsibilities and Roles](#)
- \*\* [Township Finances](#)
- \*\* [Legal Institute for Township Attorneys](#)

assessing units where the property is located. Email comments to [TREAS-DNRPILT@michigan.gov](mailto:TREAS-DNRPILT@michigan.gov). The STC will provide final approval of the 2025 DNR PILT Roll at its April 1 meeting.

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## STC releases bulletins and revised guidance

The State Tax Commission (STC) approved and released the following this week:

- [Bulletin 1 of 2025](#)—4th Quarter Certified Interest Rates
- [Bulletin 2 of 2025](#)—Millage Requests and Rollbacks
- Revised [Standards, Factors, Forms, Fractions, Multipliers, Ratios, Rates and Rounding](#) to reflect changes required for consistency and understanding purposes, and to state that all values shall be traditionally rounded unless otherwise noted.
- [Transfer of Ownership Guidelines](#), which modifies penalties for failing to file a property transfer effective April 2, 2025

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## Upcoming webinars for local officials

**Fiscally ready communities**—[Register now](#) for the state Department of Treasury’s next [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) webinar, “Budgeting for Fiscal Stability,” on **March 10** at 2 p.m. The webinar will discuss the budget process, communicating your budget, tracking your budget performance, understanding key financial variables and dealing with uncertainty in a changing economy. Receive resources to support best practice implementation and assess your township’s fiscal health. Send questions to [TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov), with the subject line “Fiscally Ready.”

**Guidance for local leaders on odor complaints**—A [webinar for local government officials](#) is being offered by air pollution investigators at the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) on **March 18** at 10 a.m. The webinar will discuss the options available to locals for preventing nuisance odors, the role that zoning plays, and what to do if community members begin lodging odor complaints.

**Relieving technostress**—The final session of a three-part workplace mental health webinar from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity will be held **March 6** at 2 p.m., aiming to help alleviate “technostress”—the negative impact on employees’ productivity and well being resulting from technological changes and information overload. No registration is required, simply join the [Teams call](#) at the start of the webinar. Recordings of the previous two sessions are available online; part one can be found [here](#) and part two can be found [here](#).

**Michigan risk-based corrective action process webinar series**—The EGLE [Remediation and Redevelopment Division](#) is preparing a guidance document related to incoming changes to corrective actions required under Part 213 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), which relates to underground storage tanks. The first [webinar](#) in their four-part series covering the Michigan-specific risk-based corrective action process is scheduled for **March 24** from 1 to 3 p.m.



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### MTA QUICK LINKS

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

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## Reminders for clerks

**May precinct consolidation deadline.** The deadline for temporary precinct consolidations for the May 6 election is Friday, March 7.

**Accessibility to ballot drop boxes.** Clerks should review their drop box(es) to ensure the following for accessibility for individuals with disabilities: an accessible route to the ballot drop box, an accessible clear ground space in front of the ballot drop box, and an accessible ballot drop box opening.



**Post-election procedural audits.** Clerks are asked to ensure all post-election procedural audits have been entered into the state Bureau of Election's eLearning by a certified auditor.

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## Annual spring weight restrictions begin March 3

To protect roads, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and local agencies are enacting spring weight restrictions. Effective 6 p.m. on March 3, weight restrictions will be imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways from the Indiana/Ohio border north to and including US-10 in Ludington in Mason County from the M-116 intersection, then east to US-127 in Clare County, then north on US-127 to M-61, then east on M-61 ending at the intersection of US-23 in the City of Standish, Arenac County. All state trunklines will have weight restrictions imposed and enforced. State routes typically carry M, I or US designations. County road commissions also put in place their own seasonal weight restrictions. Signs are generally posted to indicate which routes have weight restrictions in effect. For weight restriction information and updates, call (800) 787-8960 or view them [online](#).

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## Read the March/April issue of *Township Focus*—online now!

Your [March/April issue of \*Township Focus\*](#) is here! This month's cover story, *Unwavering confidence: The foundation for leadership*, dives into creating a lasting impression in your community through authentic leadership, integrity and collaboration. Our feature story, *Amplifying local voices: Michigan Public Policy Survey shares insights, experiences of township officials*, explores how the information gleaned from the statewide survey informs public policy, helps to navigate political and societal trends, and gathers details on services, programs and key issues impacting Michigan communities. "Hello, MTA ... ?" discusses the township's role in assessing, while "Financial Forum" explains why strong governance is important to financial management. Check out a preview of MTA's [2025 Conference & Expo](#) coming to Grand Rapids March 31-April 3, including a schedule at a glance, exhibitor listing, pre-Conference sessions and our proposed legislative platform.



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## Federal update for week of Feb. 24

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

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