

# Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

February 17, 2023

## Guidance issued on Proposal 2022-2 implementation

The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) has issued guidance on the implementation of some aspects of Proposal 2 and is planning for provisions for upcoming elections, some of which will require legislation to fully implement. BOE has advised that technical implementation of the proposal's provisions will take months, but it has provided the following guidance as it applies to the May 2023 elections:



**Prepaid Postage:** Proposal 2 requires state-funded postage for voters to return their absentee voter (AV) ballot application and ballot. BOE is currently working with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to establish a permit process by which each jurisdiction will be able to print applications and ballot envelopes with a permit that will be billed to the state. This process will take several months. Thus, for the upcoming May election, the 75-day AV application period began Feb. 16. While it is not yet possible for jurisdictions statewide to print AV applications with return postage using the state permit, the state will reimburse municipalities for return postage costs on AV applications. Townships have several options (see below) for applying return postage to AV applications. BOE will provide further guidance for return postage on ballot envelopes in advance of the deadline to mail AV ballots to voters.

- If a jurisdiction has a USPS permit, they may print the AV application out of the Qualified Voter File (QVF) and place it in a return envelope pre-printed with the township's USPS permit. Alternatively, townships may have a print vendor produce AV applications (envelope or postcard) with the USPS permit.
- If a jurisdiction does not have a permit, townships may run AV application return envelopes or postcards through a postage meter to apply return postage, or they may apply stamps manually. Pre-

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#### [Board of Review Training](#)

In-person trainings

\*\*Feb. 21 [Lansing](#)

\*\*Feb. 22 [Mt. Pleasant](#)

\*\*Feb. 23 [Cadillac](#)

\*\*Feb. 28 [Frankenmuth](#)

#### [Online trainings](#)

\*\*Feb. 27 (Zoom)

\*\*March 2 (Zoom)

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

\*\* March 10 [Legislative Update](#)

[2023 Annual Conference & Expo](#) (April 17-20)

printed postcard applications in which the return section folds over into the application will need to be opened to apply postage and then resealed. This option may not be available for larger jurisdictions that use vendor-printed postcard applications and do not have a permit that the vendor can print on postcards. In this situation, you should discuss with your vendor (and legal counsel, if necessary) to determine the best option.

**Ballot Drop Boxes:** Proposal 2 requires that there be at least one state-funded AV drop box for every 15,000 registered voters in the jurisdiction. The bureau has begun an RFP process to solicit bids for vendors to supply drop boxes. Once contracts are awarded, BOE will provide a catalogue of drop boxes to clerks, who will then be able to order them. Once the ordering process becomes available, jurisdictions will be prioritized based on their next election date. All will be completed by the AV ballot application period prior to the 2024 presidential primary. Because drop boxes will not be available for the upcoming May election, BOE will reimburse jurisdictions with a May 2 election for their costs in acquiring a drop box if they do not currently have an AV drop box or the required number of AV drop boxes. Drop boxes may be purchased or borrowed from neighboring jurisdictions that do not have a May election.

**Permanent AV Ballot List:** Proposal 2 provides that voters may complete a single AV application to receive an AV ballot in all future elections. The updated printed and QVF AV ballot applications will provide voters with the option to join the permanent AV ballot list. BOE is developing an update to QVF to capture a voter's permanent AV ballot status in the QVF. While not yet available, it will be prior to the May 2 election. If clerks receive AV applications in which voters have requested to join the permanent AV list prior to implementation of this feature, clerks will have the option of sending these requests to the BOE via email or retaining the applications and entering the permanent AV status in QVF when it is available.

**Early Voting:** Proposal 2 requires jurisdictions to provide at least nine days of early in-person voting **for statewide and federal elections**. For local elections, it is permissive if the local units wish to provide the option of providing early voting. Many changes need to be put in place to prepare for early voting, including programming changes to voting machines to ensure ballots can be

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#### MTA QUICK LINKS

[MTA COVID Relief Webpage](#)  
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[Advocacy](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Community Connection](#)

[Webcasts](#)

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tabulated prior to Election Day—with the results not available until Election Day—and updated electronic pollbooks to check-in early voters, verify their registration, and ensure they have not already returned a ballot elsewhere. Additionally, it is anticipated the Legislature will provide statutory requirements regarding the early voting process. At this time, the state has not developed the technical resources to support early voting for the May election.

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## Multi-faceted income tax bill approved

A bill making changes to how retirement and pension income is taxed, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and potentially providing rebate checks to each tax filer passed the Senate and is now on its way to Gov. Whitmer. [House Bill 4001](#), sponsored by Rep. Angela Witwer (D-Delta Charter Twp.), allows taxpayers to choose between existing deductibility of retirement and pension income or the new provisions that would exempt public and private pension income and more than double the existing exemptions for private retirement income from sources like 401ks and IRAs. The legislation also increases the EITC from the current 6% of the federal EITC to 30% of the federal EITC. Additionally, the measure would provide \$180 rebate checks to each tax filer and deposit up to \$600 million into various economic development funds—only if the legislation becomes effective prior to **April 18**. These provisions may not occur as the Senate did not provide immediate effect on HB 4001.

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## 2023 EMPP filing requirements

Due to the number of inquiries regarding the Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property (EMPP) exemption for 2023, the state Department of Treasury is clarifying that **filing requirements for 2023 have not changed**. To receive the EMPP exemption for 2023, the taxpayer must claim the exemption by timely filing the Combined Document ([2023 Form 5278](#)) with the assessor of the local unit in which the property is located. The deadline to file is **Feb. 21** (Feb. 20 is a state holiday). If the deadline to file with the assessor is missed, the eligible claimant may file Form 5278 directly with the March board of review prior to its adjournment. If no Form 5278 is timely filed, the parcel is ineligible for the exemption in 2023 and must be assessed on the local roll—regardless of whether the exemption was granted in any previous year. Essential Services Assessment (ESA) Statements for all parcels granted the EMPP exemption will be available on Michigan



\* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)

\* [Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, 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](#)



Treasury Online (MTO), beginning May 1. Additional information is available at [ESA Topic 21](#).

## MTA's Board of Review Training

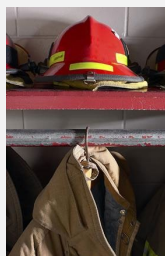
PA 660 Required Training for Board of Review Members  
or  
Beyond the Basics: Management of the Board of Review

<https://bit.ly/BOR23>



### Input sought on fire training

The state Bureau of Fire Services is developing the upcoming National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)-compliant Instructor III program for the State of Michigan and is seeking input. You can provide input on training topics until **Feb. 23** at the [survey link](#).



### STC issues multiple 2023 updates

The State Tax Commission (STC) released several updates, forms and bulletins this week including information on 2023 boards of review, 2023 millage rollbacks and the necessary forms, disabled veterans exemption and interest rates:

- [Bulletin 1 of 2023—4th Quarter Certified Interest Rates](#)
- [Bulletin 2 of 2023—Millage Rollback](#)
- [Bulletin 3 of 2023—2023 Boards of Review](#)
- [Bulletin 4 of 2023—Disabled Veterans Exemption](#) and [Disabled Veterans Exemption FAQ](#)
- [Pipeline Factor Memo 02.07.23](#)
- 2023 Millage Rollback forms:
  - [Form 610](#)—2023 Calculation of Taxable Valuations Including Additions, Losses and Totals for Units Which Were Not Equalized as Assessed in 2022 or 2023
  - [Form 612](#)—2023 Millage Reduction Fraction Computation
  - [Form 613](#)—2023 Complete Millage Reduction Fraction Computation
  - [Form 614](#)—2023 Tax Rate Request

- [Form 2166](#)—2023 Millage Reduction Fraction Calculations Worksheet
- [Form 5190](#)—2023 Allocation Rates
- [Air Pollution Control Tax Exemption Certificate Form #3828](#) and [Air Pollution Control Tax Exemption Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Water Pollution Control Tax Exemption Certificate Form #891](#) and [Water Pollution Control Tax Exemption Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Additional information on all of the above can also be found at STC's [website](#).

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### **Michigan Housing Tools webinar**

With the enactment of legislation at the end of 2022, there are now new tools to support new construction and preservation of housing with a focus on affordability. The goal of the legislation is to provide developers and local leaders the tools they need to overcome barriers to development and increase housing options for current and future residents. You can join a [webinar](#) on **Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. to hear from** local and state leaders on the impact of these tools and how you can use them to increase housing supply across the housing spectrum.

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### **MIHI updates and engagement opportunities on broadband access**

Michigan is poised to receive more than \$1.6 billion from the federal government to expand high-speed internet service and achieve digital equity, and the Michigan High Speed Internet (MIHI) team wants to hear from you. This is an opportunity to address the digital divide in a way that we have never seen before and likely will not again.

First, the office is hosting two Partnership Roundtables next week—offering two sessions (Feb. 21 and Feb. 23) in order to accommodate as many schedules as possible, but the content will be the same at each session. These will be a critical part of guiding MIHI's plans for how the funds are used—and they want to be sure that your voice is part of the conversation. Register for either session at [Session 1: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.](#) or [Session 2: Thursday, Feb. 23, 2 to 3:30 p.m.](#)

The second opportunity is the ongoing [MI Connected Future statewide listening tour](#). Every region and every community in our

state has unique needs when it comes to getting everyone connected and the MIHI office needs input from them all. Attendees are asked to be active participants in the development of the Michigan Five-Year Action Plan and the Michigan Digital Equity Plan. The following locations are currently scheduled, with more on the way:

- St. Johns: Feb. 21, 2 to 4 p.m.
- Lansing: Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to Noon
- Mt. Pleasant: March 23, 4 to 6 p.m.
- Baldwin: April 12, 5 to 7 p.m.
- West Branch: April 18, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Rogers City: April 26, 5 to 7 p.m.

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## New grants available for townships

**Stream cleanup and monitoring efforts:** Townships are eligible to apply for grants related to stream cleanup and monitoring. The Michigan Clean Water Corps ([MiCorps](#)) is accepting funding proposals for two grant programs. The **Volunteer Stream Cleanup Program** has a total of \$25,000 available for grants (ranging from \$500 to \$5,000) to support efforts to clean up garbage from Michigan's rivers lakes and streams. The **Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program** has a total of \$75,000 available across three grant types for volunteer benthic macroinvertebrate (aquatic animals without backbones) monitoring and habitat assessment in wadable streams and rivers. **Start-up grants** are for organizations looking to learn the MiCorps monitoring protocols and sets them up to receive implementation grants in future years. The maximum grant is \$5,000 for one-year projects. **Implementation grants** support volunteer training and macroinvertebrate data collection for the purpose of assessing water quality that helps state and local efforts to protect and manage water resources. The maximum grant is \$20,000 for two-year projects.

**Maintenance grants** are one-year grants for groups that are already monitoring with MiCorps procedures. The maximum grant is \$2,000 and can be used for staff time, equipment, and travel to MiCorps training sessions and conferences. The request for proposals for these grant opportunities can be found at the [MiCorps Stream Monitoring and Cleanup Grants page](#). With the exception of the startup grants, the grants require a 25% local match. Grant applications are due by 5 p.m. **March 7**. Questions can be directed to Dr. Paul Steen of the Huron Watershed Council at (734) 519-0449 or [PSteen@HRWC.org](mailto:PSteen@HRWC.org) or Tamara Lipsey with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy at (517) 342-4372 or [LipseyT@michigan.gov](mailto:LipseyT@michigan.gov).

**Recycling Infrastructure grants:** Michigan Recycling Infrastructure grants are available for townships that target projects to increase collection and capacity of recyclable materials or food waste; increase access to recycling or food waste composting infrastructure; or increase participation rates in recycling or food waste composting programs. Apply by **May 19** for the \$3.3 million available as matching grants through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. View the [RFP](#) or visit the [website](#). Questions can be directed to Tracy Purrenhage at (517) 282-2380 or [PurrenhageT@michigan.gov](mailto:PurrenhageT@michigan.gov).

**Small Community Education grants for recycling education:** Townships with fewer than 10,000 households are eligible to apply for grants that provide recycling education resources for small communities. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, until allotted funds are disbursed, and no match is required. Visit [RecyclingPartnership.org/MI-EGLE/](http://RecyclingPartnership.org/MI-EGLE/) for details.

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### **Learn how to use data to achieve your community sustainability goals**

To assist with the tracking of your community's progress in meeting the [Michigan Green Communities Challenge](#), you can register for a [webinar](#) on **Feb 22** at noon. Learn from how to automate the data collection and sustainability reporting required to meet the metrics and track your progress in reducing water/energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and more.

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### **Federal update for week of Feb. 13**

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