

## Township Planning & Zoning: What's New, Changing and Challenging

Join MTA for a how-to guide based on real-life practical experiences at the summer's hottest workshop series, *Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning*. This evening class, offered every other year, is a must for your township's planning and zoning team.

As the **renewable energy** landscape evolves, so do the questions surrounding it. Gain a better understanding of where local authority begins—and ends—including the growing impact of state preemption. We'll describe what the process looks like at the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) if a project ends up there. Explore siting trends, legal considerations for approvals and denials, and how to build clear standards. We'll also shed light on decommissioning agreements and financial assurances that can help protect your community long after the project is built.

As **data centers** reshape development conversations, communities are navigating new legal and zoning questions—and many local ordinances weren't built with these developments in mind. Explore where local authority exists, where ordinances need updates, and how infrastructure demands and development agreements factor into decision-making. Learn more about creating conditions around issues like noise, generators, water use and buffering.

The **short-term rental** debate isn't cooling off anytime soon. Across townships, tensions are rising, meetings are becoming more volatile and legal challenges loom. Explore what your township *can* regulate, where legal vulnerabilities exist, and gain insight into enforcement limitations and restrictions that strengthen defensibility while helping your community strike a workable balance.

**Enforcing ordinances** is an important but challenging task. When regulations are tested, challenged, or ignored, strong processes matter. From documentation to notices, hearings to appeals and penalties, we'll unpack what it takes to support effective enforcement. Explore the risks of inconsistency, where townships get tripped up and how unclear ordinance language weakens your legal footing.

Amendments to the **Land Division Act** are paving the way for new development possibilities. Are your township's zoning and land division ordinances ready? Find out what's new and what it means for your township's planning decisions.

Seats fill quickly so don't delay, register today!

## Event Details

4 p.m.

Registration check-in begins  
and dinner is served

5 to 8 p.m.

Class in session; breaks will be provided

Presented by MTA Legal Counsel  
Catherine Kaufman, Seth Koches & Michael Bila  
Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

## When & Where

Tuesday, August 18:

Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth

Wednesday, August 26:

Treetops Resort Conference Center, Gaylord

Monday, August 31:

Conference Center at Van Buren ISD, Lawrence

## Course credit

*This course was designated by Michigan State  
University Extension for Master Citizen Planner  
(MCP) program credit.*



## Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning

To register, send completed form to  
MTA, P.O. Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078.  
Email [rebecca@michigantownships.org](mailto:rebecca@michigantownships.org)  
Fax (517) 321-8908 or register  
online at <http://bit.ly/twptraining>

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Township & County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Title

*Confirmations will be sent via email to individual registrants.  
To add or update an email, contact MTA at (517) 321-6467,  
ext. 231 or email [database@michigantownships.org](mailto:database@michigantownships.org)*

### When will you join us?

- August 18: Frankenmuth
- August 26: Gaylord
- August 31: Lawrence

**Early-bird Rate\***: \$100/person  
*Expires two weeks prior to event date*

**Late Rate\***: \$150/person  
*Applies two weeks prior to event date and on-site*

\_\_\_\_\_ (# registered) x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (rate\*) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Rate applies to MTA members. Non-members, call for rates.*

Payment options		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed (payable to MTA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill me (members only)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge to: (Visa/MasterCard only)		
Card #	CSV (3-digit code)	Expires
Print Card Holder's Name		Signature

## Dates, locations and driving directions

### **August 18: Bavarian Inn Lodge Conference Center**

One Covered Bridge Ln., Frankenmuth

*Meet us on level two in the Conference Center.*

Need lodging? Call (855) 652-7200

### **August 26: Treetops Resort Conference Center**

3962 Wilkinson Rd., Gaylord

*Conference Center is located beyond the tennis courts.*

Need lodging? Call (855) 261-8764

### **August 31: The Conference Center at Van Buren Intermediate School District**

490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence

Lodging options appear in registration confirmation.

## Special dietary needs or accommodation

Email [kristin@michigantownships.org](mailto:kristin@michigantownships.org) or call

(517) 321-6467, ext. 230 at least one week in advance.

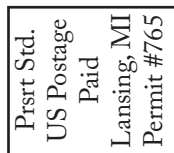
## Cancellations, substitutions or switching

Written cancellation requests received at least two weeks prior to class will receive a full refund. No refunds are issued thereafter without extenuating circumstances. Notify MTA if you wish to switch locations (as space allows). Note that switching with less than one week's notice will result in additional fees of \$30/person. You may substitute another individual from your township without incurring a charge. Please notify MTA of any changes.

## Continue the learning

MTA's library of publications includes *The Township Guide to Planning & Zoning*, *Planning & Zoning Decision-making* and *Breaking the Zoning Code—Decoding the Township Zoning Ordinance* offering insights, background, best practices, considerations and requirements to help townships plan for their land use needs. Each of these books will be available for purchase on-site at our August events.

MTA's Online Learning Center has planning and zoning training, too! Visit [learn.michigantownships.org/planningandzoning](http://learn.michigantownships.org/planningandzoning) to browse our online offerings available on-demand.



512 Westshire Drive  
P.O. Box 80078  
Lansing, MI 48908-0078

Evening class explores  
hot topics in township  
planning & zoning



# Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning

Township attorneys tackle timely topics:  
data centers, renewable energy,  
short-term rentals and more!

