

Jan. 10, 2025

MTA's 2025 Capital Conference registration is now open

Register today for [MTA's 2025 Capital Conference](#), held March 4 in Lansing, and learn about new laws taking effect, new legislation taking shape at the state level, and the budget proposal for FY 2025-2026—all impacting township government. The final few months of 2024 were filled with legislative discussions and challenges—and the November election also brought about a change in control of the Michigan House of Representatives. With all these changes, MTA will break down what passed and what did not, and give you the inside scoop on what's happening in Lansing.



Our Capital Conference will also provide you with the latest on what you need to know on major issues, including changes to the state's **minimum wage and paid sick leave laws**, an update on **PA 233 of 2023** (which shifted **siting of utility-scale renewable energy facilities**) and the pending lawsuit challenging the implementation order, insights on **elections changes** taking effect in 2025 and more.

You'll also have direct contact with lawmakers during lunch and an opportunity to talk with state department officials during the "State Expo" for grant and program information to benefit your township. [Register today](#) and get the early-bird registration rate!

103rd Legislature convenes

The 103rd legislative session convened at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 8, per the state's constitutional requirement (the second Wednesday in January). This two-year session marks significant changes, including control of the state House, newly elected House members beginning their term and new committee chairs and members. The House announced the creation of a committee this week to address two bills introduced (see related article); additional committees and members serving on each are expected to be announced soon. The Senate, which is at the halfway point in its four-year term, also returned to session—short one member as former state Sen. Kristen MacDonald-Rivet is now a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. With the beginning of a new legislative session, all legislation must be introduced—and all legislation not passed in 2024 is now considered dead. If you have a new state representative as of Jan. 1, MTA encourages you to invite them to an upcoming board meeting and to create a relationship with the new legislator and their staff.

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Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinar](#)

Jan. 22: [Is Your Township Ready for the Earned Sick Time Act?](#)

[New Officials Training](#)

Jan. 14: [Port Huron](#)
Jan. 15: [Gaylord](#)
Jan. 16: [Mt. Pleasant](#)
Jan. 17: [Ann Arbor](#)
[Online version](#)

[Board of Review Training](#)

Feb. 3: [Muir](#)
Feb. 4: [Lawrence](#)
Feb. 5: [Jackson](#)
Feb. 11: [Frankenmuth](#)
Feb. 12: [Hale](#)
Feb. 13: [Gaylord](#)
Feb. 19: [Mt. Pleasant](#)
Feb. 20: [Cadillac](#)
Feb. 25: [Marquette](#)
Feb. 26: [Sault St. Marie](#)
[Online Training](#)

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BOARD OF REVIEW

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State revenue estimates raised

State revenues for the current and next few fiscal years were revised upward today at the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC). The [consensus revisions](#) indicate an increase from the May 2024 CREC. For the current fiscal year, combined revenue for both the General Fund and School Aid Fund estimates were increased by \$770 million from May estimates, and estimates for the upcoming fiscal year are projected to be \$910 million higher. CREC establishes an official economic forecast of major variables of the national and state economies, as well as a forecast of anticipated state revenues. Economists from the House Fiscal Agency, Senate Fiscal Agency and state Department of Treasury presented their economic and revenue forecasts for fiscal years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27. CREC sets the revenue estimates for the governor and the Legislature as they begin their work in February on the upcoming FY 2025-26 state budget, as well as projects sales tax revenue for constitutional revenue sharing.

Legislative changes anticipated on earned sick leave and minimum wage laws

With the start of the 103rd Legislature, four bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate to amend the Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act (IWOWA) and Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA). [House Bill 4001](#), sponsored by Rep. John Roth (R-Green Lake Twp.), and [Senate Bill 8](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores), would amend the minimum wage law, while [House Bill 4002](#), sponsored by Rep. Jay DeBoyer (R-Clay Twp.), and [SB 15](#), sponsored by Sen. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), would amend the earned sick leave law. Without any legislative change, effective Feb. 21, 2025, all Michigan employers are subject to new minimum wage increases and expanded earned sick leave requirements due to a July 2024 Michigan Supreme Court ruling reinstating the IWOWA and ESTA. Employers with 10 or more employees must provide up to 72 hours of paid sick leave annually, while employers with less than 10 employees must offer 40 hours of paid leave and an additional 32 hours of unpaid leave. Action is expected as soon as next week in the House on HBs 4001 and 4002.

MTA's next *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar, held Jan. 22, will explore *Is Your Township Ready for the Earned Sick Time Act?* [Register now](#) to hear from municipal attorneys about the new law and get your questions answered by township employment law experts.

MTA Conference registration is now open!

Embrace the **Unique and United** spirit of Michigan townships at [MTA's 2025 Annual Conference & Expo](#), coming to Grand Rapids

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



SAVE THE DATE
2025 MTA CAPITAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 4
LANSING CENTER

MTA QUICK LINKS

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March 31–April 3! With 55 expert-led [educational sessions](#) designed to address the challenges facing townships today, plus an [expo with more than 100 municipal vendors](#), this event brings you the knowledge and tools needed to serve your community with confidence and competence. Whether you're newly elected or a seasoned official, the MTA Conference & Expo will empower you to lead with purpose. Remember, you must first [register for Conference](#) in order to book [housing](#) when reservations open on Jan. 23! [Learn more here](#) or [register online now](#).



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Reminder: All township board of review members must meet state training mandate



The new board of review term of office began Jan. 1, and under Public Act 660 of 2018, all board of review members (including alternates)—regardless if they are brand new or have served for years—must receive State Tax Commission (STC)-approved training. The PA 660-required session of [MTA's Board of Review Training](#), being held in February across the state and online, qualifies for this requirement. Please note that township supervisors do not need to complete with board of review required training. (While the *Advanced Training* session does NOT satisfy the statutory requirement, it is an excellent opportunity for those board of review members who do not need to complete the required PA 660 training this year.) [Registration is open](#) for MTA's *Board of Review Training*. The Michigan Department of Treasury is also conducting two virtual trainings that meet the requirement: [on Jan. 22](#), from 6-9 p.m., and [on Feb. 11](#), from 9 a.m. to noon.

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MIHI opens BEAD application period to bridge digital divide

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) has opened the project [application period](#) for the [Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#). Internet service providers, communities and eligible participants can submit project applications for the competitive grant program to bring high-speed internet to unserved and underserved locations across the state. Michigan has secured \$1.559 billion, **the fourth-largest allocation in the nation**, to connect more than 244,000 locations across 83 counties. A recording of MIHI's BEAD Project Application webinar held this week will be posted on their site soon; view the presentation [here](#). MIHI will also [hold office hours](#) Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. to discuss and answer any questions about BEAD project applications.

Key BEAD program dates:

- Pre-registration period: Open now through March 10, 2025. This is a necessary step for any entity wanting to participate in BEAD in Michigan.
 - Project application window: Closes April 9, 2025.
-

Safe Routes to School mini grants applications open

Township partnerships can [apply](#) for Safe Routes to Schools mini grants for the 2025-2026 school year through March 7. Townships are eligible for funding if they partner with a county road agency, city, village, tribal government, school district, regional transportation authority, or transit or natural resource agency on the project. Eligible projects must encourage and educate students about how they can get active as they safely travel to school via walking or biking. [A virtual informational session](#) will be held on Feb. 13 at 3:30 p.m.

Upcoming webinars: Chart Chat, watershed funding, "technostress"

- Michigan Department of Treasury's next [Chart Chat webinar](#), held Jan. 16 at 2 p.m., will cover topics including Numbered Letters and an F-65 update, Qualifying Statements, and PA 202 of 2017 retirement reporting. Questions can be submitted when registering.
 - Information on available funding to help local units meet watershed management goals and reduce the impacts of nonpoint source pollution will be shared in a Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy webinar on Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. [Register](#) now to learn how to create a successful application, application deadlines, eligibility criteria, and get your questions answered.
 - The first of a three-part workplace mental health webinar from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity will be held Jan. 16 at 2 p.m., and aims to help guide managers in effectively addressing and reducing "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.
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BOE reminders for clerks

New procedures for postage and drop box reimbursement. The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) is working to automate and improve response time and processing for reimbursement requests, with Phase 1 automating prepaid postage and drop box submission process. Reimbursement claim forms can be accessed in BOE's [eLearning Center](#). Postage reimbursement documentation should be submitted no later than 60 days after the most recent election in your township, and drop box and security camera documentation should be submitted no later than 60 days after purchase. Refer to the latest BOE update newsletter for full instructions.

Pending reimbursements. Documentation for Early Voting Grant 1 and August wage requests was due upon form submission. Reimbursement funding cannot be guaranteed if documentation was not received by Dec. 31, 2024. If you are a new clerk and

ensure if you have an open request, email BOEReimbursement@Michigan.gov with the subject line: Reimbursement Status Request, along with your township, seven-digit clerk code and the request you are checking on. The reimbursement claim form for wages from November election early voting is open through Jan. 17, 2025. The county clerk must submit this form; check with your county clerk to ensure your reimbursement request has been submitted.

Drop box orders. Per Proposal 2022-02, the State of Michigan will provide at least one fully funded absent voter (AV) drop box to each Michigan municipality. If you have not ordered your drop box, election administrators may select any model from one of three drop box vendors, using the BOE order form available in [eLearning](#). Email BOEOperations@Michigan.gov, with the subject line: State-Funded Drop Box, with questions. Requests for reimbursement for a drop box purchased prior to implementation of state-funded contracts or for video camera installation should be submitted through the drop box reimbursement process.

Consolidating or adjusting precinct boundaries. If your township intends to redraw precinct boundary lines, the changes must be approved by the township election commission. Once approved, email change requests to ElectionData@Michigan.gov, with the subject line: Precinct Boundary Change, and a brief description of the request, approved resolution (if necessary) and marked up street index (including maps). Voters affected by a precinct number change must be issued a new voter identification card listing the new precinct number, and reflect the new polling place (if necessary). Voters must be notified of any polling place change 45 days before the first election held after the change has been implemented. A new [Quick Guide: Precinct Boundary Changes](#) can be found in BOE's [eLearning Center](#).

UOCAVA status. If you have received an absent voter application from a military or overseas voter since Nov. 6, 2024, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) status for that voter must be set in the Qualified Voter File.

Signing up for eLearning. The BOE encourages all new clerks or new clerk staff to [sign up for a Michigan Election eLearning Center account](#), which provides access to specialized election resources, and allows you to register for training courses and access training curriculums. Allow up to two business days for requests to be processed.

Post-election audit resources. An updated *Post-Election Audit Manual*, revised *Post-Election Audit Checklists* and new *Post-Election Audit Online Training Course* have been added to [eLearning](#). It is recommended to have more than one staff member certified for post-election audits.

Voting systems survey. Complete a BOE survey in [eLearning](#) to share your experiences using voting systems during the 2024 elections, including any issues encountered, vendor feedback and suggestions for improvement.

IRS mileage rate for 2025 set at 70 cents

The Internal Revenue Service has increased the optional standard mileage rate for 2025 to 70 cents per mile, up from the 67 cents

per mile rate in 2024. There is no requirement for townships to pay the standard mileage rate per mile—the maximum amount employers can reimburse employees for business miles driven in the employee’s personal vehicle, without tax consequences. The IRS sets these “safe harbor” limits whereby the employer [township] can reimburse the employee for the business use of his or her personal vehicle without income tax consequences. These rates apply to electric and hybrid-electric automobiles as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

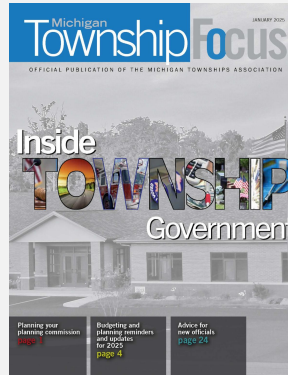


Snowmobile Weekend allows riders without registration/trail permit

This year’s [Snowmobile Weekend](#)—one winter weekend each year where snowmobilers can legally ride without the requirement of a snowmobile registration or trail permit—is Jan. 17-19. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-designated weekend allows Michiganders and visitors to explore more than 6,000 miles of [DNR-designated snowmobile trails](#), public roads and public lands (where authorized). All other snowmobile rules and regulations still apply, and the state [Recreation Passport](#) is required where applicable.

Read the January Township Focus now!

The [January issue of Township Focus](#) is online and in mailboxes now! With the new township term of office underway, our cover story goes inside "Inside Township Government," providing an overview of the core structure and functions of Michigan townships—and your role in it. We share "Tips to be effective at township board meetings," offering practical advice on building trust, staying prepared and making the most of the meetings where important township decisions are made. There's also a listing of statutory duties for each elected office, public acts worth knowing, and how MTA is ready to help all township leaders—whether you are newly elected or have served for years. The issue also includes "Budgeting and planning reminders for 2025" and updates on legislation passed during the lame-duck session—PLUS you'll find everything you need to know about our 2025 Annual Conference & Expo in [the registration brochure](#), included in this issue!



Federal update for week of Jan. 6

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

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