

Jan. 16, 2026

State revenues decrease

State revenues for the current and next fiscal years were revised downward today at the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC).



The [consensus](#)

[revisions](#) indicate a decrease from the May 2025 CREC. For the current fiscal year, combined revenue for both the state's General Fund and School Aid Fund estimates were decreased by \$779.4 million and estimates for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 are projected to be \$1.1 billion lower. The decrease in revenue estimates is a result of federal and state tax policy changes, including the recent road funding package and the economy. "While there is some relatively mild weakening in revenues for economic reasons, the large downward revisions (from the May 2025 estimates) are primarily due to tax policy changes involving motor fuels with respect to the FY 2024-25 road plan and tax policy changes associated with state-level [One Big Beautiful Bill Act] coupling on income tax deductions for overtime, tips and Tier 3 Social Security," per the House Fiscal Agency analysis.

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 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28. CREC sets the revenue estimates for the governor and the Legislature as they begin their work in February on the upcoming FY 2026-27 state budget, as well as projects sales tax revenue for constitutional revenue sharing.

Register for MTA's Capital Conference today

Join us for [MTA's 2026 Capital Conference](#), coming to the Lansing Center on March 17. You'll have a full day of access to MTA policy experts, state departments and legislators, who will give you the knowledge you need to navigate Michigan's evolving policy landscape. You will receive valuable insights on what's currently happening and what is ahead in the year to come. Get the latest on policies that affect local government from experts who will break down what you need to know for your community, including the latest on potential property tax reform, election law changes, new grant programs, updates on PA 233 and pending litigation, and more! Discover how you can engage, advocate

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UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

Jan 21: *Now You Know* Lunchtime Webinar [P&Z: NIMBY is Not an Option, Now What?](#)

February [Board of Review Trainings](#): Registration is open for in-person, online and advanced options.

March 17: [2026 MTA Capital Conference](#)

April 20-23: Registration is now open for [MTA's 2026 Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#) at the Grand Traverse Resort

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and influence the legislative issues impacting townships. Learn more about [MTA's 2026 Capital Conference](#) and [register today!](#)



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Legislature resumes

The state Legislature returned to session on Jan. 14, per the state's constitutional requirement (the second Wednesday in January) to begin the final year of the 103rd legislative session. All bills introduced and not passed in 2025 remain active until the end of the 103rd legislative session in late December. Legislative priorities shared by four legislative caucuses at this point include property tax changes, reducing health care costs, lowering energy costs, and economic development.

New laws affecting local government

Several bills recently passed by the Legislature—and previously reported in *Township Insights*—impacting local government were signed by the governor in late December:

- **PAs 53 & 54: Tax Tribunal**—Expands methods for the Michigan Tax Tribunal to hold hearings to include by telephone or video conferencing if agreed on by all parties, and updates the Open Meetings Act to allow. *Effective March 24, 2026*
- **PA 58: Land division**—Increases allowable number of parcels resulting from division for the first 10 acres from four parcels to 10 parcels; also allows local units to grant a greater number if permitted by local ordinance. *Effective March 24, 2027*
- **PAs 60, 61 & 62: Child care locking systems**—Allows child care centers to install temporary locking devices to be used in emergency situations and requires plans to be submitted to the appropriate code enforcement agency (fire/police departments) for review. *Effective March 24, 2026*
- **PAs 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 & 74: Farmland & open space preservation**—Amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify provisions related to agricultural conservation easements, development rights agreements or purchase development rights addressed in Farmland and Open Space Preservation and Agricultural Preservation Fund. *Effective Dec. 23, 2025*



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Township treasurers asked to verify 2025 millage rate

The Michigan Department of Treasury has compiled 2025 millage rates that are used to audit homestead property tax credits—so it is important the rates match what were on the July and December 2025 tax bills. Township treasurers are asked to review their 2025 total millage rates reported at [2025-Total-Rates.pdf](#). If the reported rates do not match the rates actually levied on the July and December 2025 tax bills, email rates@michigan.gov by Jan. 30 and attach a copy of the relevant July and December 2025 tax bills. *Note:* The only part-unit special assessment rates that may be included are public safety special assessments levied township-wide excluding villages. If the department's report rates match the total of the rates on the 2025 tax bills, no action is needed.

Local officials webinar on airborne electromagnetic survey in SW Michigan

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is partnering with the U.S. Geological Survey Upper Midwest Water Science Center to expand surface water and groundwater data collection in Michigan. The [Hydrologic Enhancement for Michigan project](#) will include an [airborne electromagnetic \(AEM\) survey](#) to study groundwater resources over [15 counties in southwest Michigan](#). The survey is conducted using a helicopter that tows a large hoop with geophysical sensors above the ground surface. Officials can [register now](#) for a webinar, held on Jan. 26 at 11:30 a.m., that will share survey flight plans, discuss the science and safety of AEM, and answer questions. Flights are expected to begin in March or April 2026. County sheriff's offices and emergency management departments have also been notified, as resident calls are anticipated during the survey due to the high visibility of the project.

Public comment for invasive species changes, firewood quarantine

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is accepting public comment until Feb. 9 on two proposed invasive species orders. Feedback on the first [proposed amendment](#), which would add two species (water-hyacinth and water lettuce) to the prohibited species list and four species (Japanese barberry, glossy buckthorn, Callery pear and common buckthorn) to the restricted species list, can be sent to MDARD [here](#). The second [proposal](#) is a [firewood quarantine](#) that would restrict the movement of firewood originating outside of Michigan to help prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and

diseases carried by untreated firewood. Public comment is being collected through an [online form](#).

Webinar explores community host agreements for landfills

Securing stable and sustainable funding for materials management can be a challenge for communities. Community host agreements between municipalities and nearby landfills are a valuable tool in financing waste management services. On Jan. 27 at 10:30 a.m., the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy is holding a [webinar](#) for local government officials and staff to learn how host agreements are structured, what kinds of community benefits can be included, and how funding has been used in several Michigan communities.



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Is your township ready for board of review? MTA brings the training to you!

MTA is hosting 10 in-person and four online *Board of Review Training* classes throughout February. Whether you need to meet the state's biennial training requirement OR are looking to dive deeper on advanced issues and hot topics for 2026, we have a class for you. Training includes critical insights, comprehensive resource materials and expert guidance created specifically for your township's board of review. [Download a signup form](#), learn more on [our website](#) or [register online now](#).



Federal updates for week of Jan. 12

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

MTA office closed Jan. 19


The MTA office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 20.


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