

Jan. 23, 2026

House advances postmark bill as date of receipt for property tax payments

Treasurers could soon be required to accept the postmark from the U.S. Postal Service *if it is not less than five days prior to the due date* as the date of receipt for property tax



payments and assessments. The House this week advanced [House Bill 4799](#), sponsored by Rep. Sarah Lightner (R-Tomkins Twp.), from second to third reading, with final passage likely next week. MTA, along with other local government organizations, oppose the legislation. Additionally, if electronic payment is accepted, the date of submission must be considered the date of receipt. Members are urged to share their position on the legislation with their [state representative](#).

Paid military leave legislation

Townships may soon be required to provide at least 26 days of paid military leave for firefighters and law enforcement officers under legislation considered this week by the House Government Operations Committee. [House Bill 5233](#), sponsored by Rep. Ron Robinson (R-Utica), would require law enforcement agencies and organized fire departments to provide a minimum of 26 days of paid military leave at the beginning of each year for employees who are enlisted in the Army or Air National Guard or in the reserves (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard). The leave would include time off from the individual's employment for military training or performance of military duty as well as a preinduction physical for those seeking to enlist. The employee seeking to use the paid military leave would have to be paid at their regular rate of pay and, if covered by a collective bargaining agreement, be provided all contractually required benefits and accruals. MTA is seeking clarifying amendments including exclusion of part-time employees, definition of days (versus hours) and impact on final average compensation. [HB 5232](#), sponsored by Rep. Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth Chtr. Twp.), is tie-barred to HB 5233 and would amend the act that allows local units to provide paid leave or differential pay for military leave to reflect the requirements of HB 5233. The bills are scheduled for a vote by the committee next week.

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

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Bills requiring annual food truck fire inspections would also prohibit local fees and ordinances

Legislation standardizing the fire inspection process for mobile food establishments would also prohibit a local unit from adopting any rule, regulation, code or ordinance that imposes a fee, tax or assessment for the operation of a food truck. Two bills, [House Bill 5450](#), sponsored by Rep. Timonth Beson (R- Kawkawlin Twp.), and [HB 5451](#), sponsored by Rep. Joesph Aragona (R-Clinton Chtr. Twp.,) were before the House Regulatory Reform Committee this week. While the main intent of HB 5451 is to require an annual fire inspection with required notification and inspection timelines and establish a state electronic database within the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, HB 5450 prohibits local units of government from any and all other regulation and fees including electrical inspections, permits and protections to public water and sewer systems. MTA testified in opposition to the bills as introduced and is seeking an amendment to limit the restriction to only fire inspections of food trucks. It is anticipated the committee will vote on the bills next week.

2025 PPT reimbursement correction process

Townships are asked to review and correct calculations and data used in the 2025 personal property tax (PPT) reimbursements distributed in October 2025 and February 2026. These taxable values are used in the PPT reimbursement calculations and will be applied to the May 2026 distribution of the 2025 PPT reimbursements to local units.

To determine if an error occurred, townships should review the applicable reports on [Treasury's 2025 Personal Property Tax \(PPT\) Reimbursements website](#). If no errors are identified, no action is required. If errors are identified, municipalities must complete the appropriate correction form and provide substantiating documentation. Corrections of 2025 PPT values used for the 2025 PPT reimbursement calculations should be made on [Form 5651](#) and submitted by Feb. 28. For corrections of school millage rates or other errors, use [Form 5654](#) and submit by March 31. Note only debt and hold harmless millage rates for school districts may be corrected at this time; other millage rate errors cannot be corrected after Aug. 1, 2025. Any modifications for 2013, 2014 and 2015 PPT values used for the 2025 PPT reimbursement calculations, use [Form 5658](#), due by March 31. Contact TreasORTAPPT@michigan.gov or (517) 335-7484 with questions.



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Register for MTA's 2026 Capital Conference today

Join us for [MTA's 2026 Capital Conference](#) on **March 17 in Lansing**. 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 current issues and what to expect in the year ahead. Get the breakdown from experts on the policies affecting local government and what you need to know for your community, including the potential property tax reform, election law changes, new grant programs, updates on PA 233 and pending litigation, data centers and more! During lunch, you will also have direct contact with lawmakers, giving you an opportunity to engage on your individual township issues. Discover how you can engage, advocate and influence the legislative issues impacting townships. **Learn more about [MTA's 2026 Capital Conference](#) and [register today!](#)**

Applications accepted for April MAAO program

The State Tax Commission (STC) is now accepting applications for the April 2026 [Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer \(MAAO\) program](#). Enrollment is limited to a maximum of 35 students and [applications](#) must be received by March 13. Additional information can be found in the [MAAO Program Summary](#) and on [STC's website](#).



Fourth quarter wage reporting and payments reminder

Employers and third-party administrators are reminded quarterly unemployment tax and wage reports for the fourth quarter of 2025 are due by the close of business on Jan. 26, in [MiWAM](#). For assistance, visit the state Unemployment Insurance Agency [Employer Help Center](#) or contact the Office of the Employer Ombudsman at (855) 484-2626 (press option 4), Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

Consumers Energy land, water and air grant opportunity

Local units of government with territory serviced by Consumers Energy can now submit a letter of intent for the 2026 Planet Awards. These grants of up to \$250,000 may be used for projects that protect natural beauty and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, or reduce carbon and promote

air quality. Letters of intent must be submitted [online](#) by Feb. 4, and applicants will be notified of their status by Feb. 23.



The banner features the STG logo (Shumaker Technology Group) on the left. Below the logo are three service icons: Website Development, Paperless Solutions, and Aerial Drone Photo & Video. The main text reads "Michigan's Experts in Municipal Web Development" with a small map of Michigan above the word "Experts". A "VIEW PORTFOLIO" button is located below the text. The background is an aerial view of a town with a river.

Upcoming webinars explore recycling funding tool, healthy workplaces

- On Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m., the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy will host a webinar covering a tool for counties and local units to collaborate to fund recycling, composting and hazardous waste programs. Public Act 69 of 2005 allows counties to collect up to \$25 per household annually to support recycling efforts, without requiring a vote from participating local units. [Register online](#) for this next installment of the [Catalyst Communities webinar series](#).
- Leaders set the tone for how stress, resilience and culture show up in a workplace. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity is offering a three-part webinar series on how leaders can create healthier, trauma-informed workplaces. The next installment will share regulating techniques to help mitigate toxic stress and trauma responses in the workplace. Join the [Teams webinar](#) at 2 p.m. on Feb. 19.

Reminders for clerks

- **Cybersecurity warning:** Recent federal [cybersecurity alerts](#) highlight the misuse of QR codes to redirect users to fraudulent websites, harvest credentials or deploy malware. The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) urges election officials to exercise heightened caution when encountering QR codes in any context to protect election infrastructure.
- **Early voting (EV) templates:** BOE has added fillable templates for [single municipality early voting plans](#), [municipal agreements and plans](#) and [county agreements and plans](#) to its eLearning Center. The documents are designed to simplify the process of preparing for early voting in 2026.
- **Backup reports for early voting:** The clerk's office or early voting site coordinator must provide an early voting site location with a backup precinct list and a daily EV Voter Change report in case the electronic pollbook is unavailable due to power or internet outage. These reports must be generated from the Qualified Voter File (QVF) and sent to the early voting site before the start of voting on each day. Guidance is available in [eLearning](#).
- **Quick guide for early voting equipment:** In the early voting information and materials playlist on eLearning,

- election administrators can find a [quick guide](#) with tips on ensuring the physical security of early voting equipment and procedures to follow at the end of each day of early voting. The playlist also contains guides and resources developed for early voting and is regularly updated with new information.
- **New eLearning Center FAQ:** A new [Elections eLearning Center FAQ page](#) covers some of the most frequently asked questions on signing up for events, QVF access, new accounts and more.

MTA Conference housing opens at 9 a.m. on Jan. 27

Are you registered for [MTA's 2026 Annual Conference & Expo](#), coming to the Grand Traverse Resort on April 20-23? Remember—you **must** first register for the Conference before you can reserve your hotel room when **room blocks open next Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 9 a.m. sharp!** Your emailed Conference registration confirmation will contain your personalized housing code, which is required to complete the booking process. Rooms at our host hotel, the Grand Traverse Resort, are expected to fill up very quickly, so be sure to [register early!](#) Visit our website for [booking procedures and tips](#), [hotel options and amenities](#) OR [to learn more about the township event of the year](#).



Federal updates for week of Jan. 21

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

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