

# Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Jan. 5, 2024

## Limited space available for MTA's Capital Conference

Register today for [MTA's 2024 Capital Conference](#) on Jan. 23, being held at the Lansing Center. The event is fast approaching—and spaces are filling up! Join us and get a breakdown on what happened in 2023—and what's to come in the year ahead. The event will include an update on the recent changes for upcoming elections and a breakdown of the new renewable energy siting laws—what you need to know—and hear from legislators on bills they may consider affecting local government. There are also a number of key issues up for debate in 2024—which is also an election year—including legislation creating a revenue sharing trust fund and the ongoing debate over aggregate mining operations. MTA's Capital Conference provides you direct contact with lawmakers to have your voice heard and to meet with state department officials and MTA policy experts to learn more, ask questions and gain insights. [Register](#) today.



## 2023 public acts impacting townships

Curious about what new laws enacted in 2023 impact your township's authority and responsibilities and when they take effect? Check out MTA's [2023 Public Acts](#) compilation for a complete listing.

CiviClarity  
WEBSITE SERVICE

Save time publishing Meetings and Events

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**FIND OUT**

An illustration of a person in a blue jacket and red pants pointing at a calendar. The calendar shows the month of October with the 4th day highlighted in red.

Michigan Township Participating Plan

Insuring Michigan Public Entities Since 1985

theparplan.com

A logo for the Michigan Township Participating Plan, featuring a map of Michigan and the text "Michigan Township Participating Plan".

## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

Jan. 17—*Now You Know* webinar

[Renewable Energy Siting: What's Next?](#)

Jan. 23 in Lansing—[2024 Capital Conference](#)

Jan. 31 and throughout February—[Board of Review Training](#)



Plante Moran Cresa is now

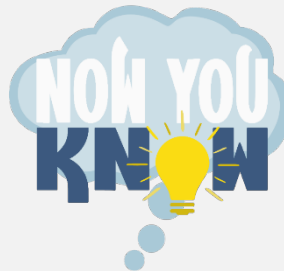


Comprehensive, end-to-end real estate solutions.

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### What’s next for renewable energy? Join upcoming MTA webinar

New laws impacting solar, wind, and battery storage utility-scale renewable energy siting left a great number of questions and uncertainty among townships and their residents. What is the new process for state siting approval? When does a developer still need to go through the township? What is a compatible renewable energy ordinance—and what needs to be in it? Join MTA legal counsel on **Jan. 17 at noon** for an overview of the new legislation, how it impacts your township’s existing ordinances, public safety and infrastructure considerations, and much more—all in just one hour! Can’t make the date? We’ll record it so you can watch when it works in your schedule. [Click here to register now.](#)



**One Team**  
**MTA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXPO**  
 APRIL 22 - 25, 2024  
**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!**

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

### Help improve community broadband access, join MERIT BEAD workgroup

Michigan will be receiving \$1.6 billion via the [Broadband Equity](#),



#### MTA QUICK LINKS

- [Answer Center](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Advocacy](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Community Connection](#)
- [Webcasts](#)
- [Store](#)
- [Township Governance Academy](#)
- [Allied Service Providers](#)
- [NATaT](#)

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MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION  
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**Michigan Township Participating Plan**  
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**MERS**  
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\* [Baukham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman & Koches PC](#)

\* [Consumers Energy](#)

\* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

\* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

\* [Hartleb Agency](#)

\* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

[Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#) to upgrade its internet infrastructure across the state, with funding to be distributed based on state maps that show the level and type of access to internet services. As the state prepares for the BEAD mapping challenge, Merit is developing a comprehensive platform to aggregate individual, local and regional challenges to the state map. The free resource will be available to help local communities optimize funding to build broadband infrastructure. To make this happen, Merit is convening a BEAD Challenge workgroup and is seeking local government officials, community partners, civic organizations and others to participate. By joining, you will help unlock BEAD funding for your community to improve the internet, which improves economic development, health and education outcomes, population retention, and much more. Planning is happening now—prior to the challenge window opening later this month—through virtual sessions. You can get involved by completing the form at [Merit Hosted: Michigan BEAD Challenge Process](#).

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### **2024 IRS mileage rate set at 67 cents**

The [IRS has increased](#) the optional standard mileage rate for 2024 to 67 cents per mile. 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. The rate applies to electric and hybrid automobiles as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

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### **Presidential primary reminders from BOE**

The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) reminds townships and clerks of numerous upcoming deadlines related to the Feb. 27 presidential primary. A [complete presidential primary calendar](#) is available on the BOE website.

Numerous actions must be completed by **Jan. 29**, including publish a newspaper notice of days and hours for voter registration at the clerk’s office; and post and enter into the Qualified Voter File (QVF) the hours the clerk’s office will be open on the Saturday or Sunday (or both) immediately before the election, and any additional locations and hours (if applicable), to issue and receive

\* [Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

\* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



absent voter (AV) ballots; and for those coordinating an early voting region, the location, days and hours of early voting sites should be posted into the QVF.

**Presidential primary ballot selection form.** If a permanent mail ballot voter has not returned their ballot selection form by **Jan. 18**, the local clerk must notify the voter by phone, email and text message, if available, that the voter will not receive a presidential primary ballot unless they make a party selection. Notification must be made by mail if the clerk doesn't have the voter's phone number or email address, and may also be made by any other available method. A form is available in the BOE [eLearning Center](#).

**Early tabulation.** Starting with the Feb. 27 presidential primary, all communities can authorize an absent voter counting board (AVCB) to process and tabulate AV ballots on the Monday before Election Day. Townships with a population of at least 5,000, and with a combined AVCB, may process and tabulate AV ballots on any of the eight days before Election Day. This is separate from ballot tabulation at an early voting site and replaces any ballot "preprocessing" previously established in Michigan Election Law. Townships must notify the Secretary of State by **Jan. 30** that it intends to participate in AV ballot early tabulation, to [elections@michigan.gov](mailto:elections@michigan.gov) with the subject line: Early tabulation notice. The dates, hours, location and number of election inspectors participating must be posted on the township's website and in the clerk's office by **Feb. 9**.

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## **EGLE floodplain, climate webinars**

Register now for upcoming webinars from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE).

As part of EGLE's [Local Leaders Webinar Series](#), designed for building officials, planning and zoning officials, and others involved in floodplain management and development:

- [Resources for Floodplain Management 101](#), **Jan. 23, 1-2 p.m.** Explore floodplain management and ways to work collaboratively, and gain a better understanding of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program, Michigan building code flood provisions and state floodplain authority.
- [Floodplain Substantial Damage and New Coastal FEMA National Flood Insurance Rate Maps](#), **Jan. 30, 1-2 p.m.** Discuss how federal, state and local

agencies and floodplain regulatory codes work together to minimize flood losses, including substantial damage/improvement/repairs, as defined in the Michigan building codes, and the ways this is determined and documented. Learn how to interpret flood zones in updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps and apply applicable sections of the Michigan building codes.

As part of EGLE's [Catalyst Communities Webinar Series](#):

- [Introduction to Climate and Health Adaptation Planning: A Health in all Policies Approach](#), **Jan. 17, Noon-1 p.m.** The first of a three-part series focusing on climate adaptation planning that leverages the [Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Program](#) (MICHAP) and other state department and university resources, attendees will explore climate adaptation planning from a human health perspective. By participating in the three-part webinar series, communities will be positioned to engage with MICHAP in a future technical assistance planning opportunity.
- [Planning for Sustainable Small Harbors: Project Overview and Useful Tools](#), **Jan. 24, 10-11:30 a.m.** Learn about the [Sustainable Small Harbors project](#), designed to help coastal community leaders assess and strengthen waterfront assets, and relevant tools to help communities navigate coastal planning.

## CAPITAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 23 | LANSING

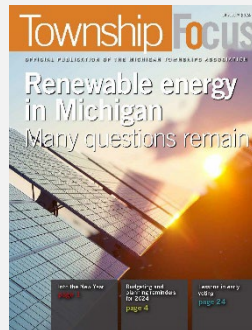


[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)



## January *Township Focus*—online and coming soon to your mailbox!

The first *Township Focus* issue of 2024 is hitting mailboxes soon and is [available online now](#)! In this month's cover story, MTA legal counsel shares what we know now—and what questions remain—about the renewable energy siting laws passed last year. You'll also find all the details for our [2024 Annual Conference & Expo](#) in the complete [registration brochure](#) included with this issue. Stay well-informed with our features highlighting "Township budgeting and planning reminders for 2024" and "Lessons in early voting." Read all this, and more, in the January *Township Focus*!



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## MTA offers in-person and online *Board of Review Training*

MTA is hosting two *Board of Review Training* classes this year, one approved by the State Tax Commission to satisfy the PA 660 of 2018 training mandate AND one for those who've already met the requirements for the two-year cycle. Training includes comprehensive handouts and resources like samples, updated forms and bulletins, along with expert guidance created specifically for your township's board of review. [Learn more, including dates and locations, here](#) or [register online now](#).