Michigan Township INSIGHTS

July 2, 2026

State budget update



The Legislature and the administration continue past the July 1 deadline with budget negotiations for the state's FY 2027 budget. If an agreement is reached and the Legislature approves the budget before breaking for the Fourth of July Holiday, MTA will provide an update on budget provisions of impact to townships prior to the next *Township Insights* edition.

Repeal of state-issued youth work permits passes House

The House approved legislation this week repealing requirements for the state Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity to develop and maintain a registration system for minors seeking work and issue work permits. House Bill 5727, sponsored by Rep. Mike Hoadley (R-AuGres), transfers the responsibility for confirming a minor's eligibility to work to employers. The bill addresses the circumstances and hours minors under the age of 16 may work and requires schools to notify employers when a working minor is not in good academic standing due to attendance problems, poor academic performance or disciplinary issues. Under the bill, schools can request employment information from the student and their parents or guardians, while employers would have 30 days to correct any technical errors in information submitted to schools. HB 5727 moves to the Senate for further consideration.

House approves foreclosure rights changes

Legislation to increase transparency around foreclosure proceedings was passed by the House this week. House Bill 5152, sponsored by Rep. Brad Paquette (R-Niles), requires foreclosure sale notices and cancellations to be recorded with the county register of deeds. The bill outlines a standardized "notice of rights" disclosure, which includes a mandatory seven-day cooling-off period before signing over a deed. HB 5153, sponsored by Rep. Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph Chtr. Twp.), outlines the conditions for a transfer of post-sale redemption rights, requiring similar disclosures and the cooling-off period before those rights can be assigned. Both bills establish financial liability for buyers or assigned purchasers who fail to provide the notice of rights and stipulate the right to the proceeds from the sale of a foreclosed property are not transferrable after the notice of



UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

July 14-15: Summer Academy, Bay Valley Resort in Bay City:
- Creating a Vision
- Linking with the Community
- Strategic Planning

July 15: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Summer Update: Legislative News from the Capitol

Coming to three locations this August, Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning evening workshops:
- **Aug. 18** - Frankenmuth, Bavarian Inn Lodge
- **Aug. 26** - Gaylord, Treetops Resort & Convention Center
- **Aug. 31** - Lawrence, Van Buren ISD

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foreclosure is published. The bills move to the Senate for consideration.



MTA to file amicus brief on PA 233 case appeal to Michigan Supreme Court



The MTA Legal Defense Fund Committee approved the Association's filing of an amicus brief in support of an Application for Leave to Appeal in the Michigan Supreme Court to reverse the Michigan Public Service Commission's (MPSC) Implementation Order of Public Act 233 of 2023, the renewable energy siting law enacted in 2023 to preempt local siting authority, establish statewide siting standards, and grant siting of utility-scale renewable energy facilities to the MPSC. MTA also participated in the matter before the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Numbered letter revisions and updated Uniform Reporting Format manual

The Michigan Department of Treasury has issued Numbered Letter 2016-1 that clarifies how to determine if a Deficit Elimination Plan is required for local governments with fund deficits. This revision, effective July 1, 2026, for audited financial statements submitted after June 30, 2026, specifically updates the requirements for determining if a plan is needed for Proprietary Funds, Fiduciary Funds and Discretely Presented Component Units (Full Accrual). For the working capital calculation, current liabilities may no longer exclude the current portion of long-term debt.

Treasury also issued an updated Uniform Reporting Format aligned with GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*, with primary changes in budgetary information reporting. You can view the final updated Uniform Reporting Format for Local Units of Government as well as summary of the revisions; all previous versions are considered outdated. Contact (517) 335-7469 or LAFD_Audits@michigan.gov with questions or comments.

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System
www.mersofmich.com

* Adna Technologies

* Bauckham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman& Koches PC

* Consumers Energy

* Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

* Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC

* Hartleb Agency

* ITC Holdings Corp.

* Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.

* Mika Meyers, PLC

MTA QUICK LINKS
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Township Governance Academy
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State, federal courts issue rulings impacting townships

Both Michigan courts and the U.S. Supreme Court have issued recent rulings impacting Michigan's townships.

- In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in *Pung v. Isabella County*—an MTA Legal Defense Fund case—that the U.S. Constitution does not require states to compensate former property owners based on the fair market value of property sold through a tax foreclosure. The court held that the proper measure of "just compensation" under the Fifth Amendment is the amount realized through a fairly conducted tax foreclosure sale—not a property's hypothetical fair market value—and rejected claims that the process violated the Eighth Amendment's Excessive Fines Clause.
- The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Watson v. Republican National Committee* allows states to continue to count mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day, but received afterward.
- In another MTA Legal Defense Fund win, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in *Zezula v. Brown* that the MISS DIG Act does not authorize a plaintiff to sue a township for failure to properly mark sewer lines, and can only seek remedy under the act through a complaint process at the Michigan Public Service Commission. The court also affirmed that sewage disposal system events, which can lead to governmental liability in certain cases, are subject to strict notice requirements.
- In a reversal of a Court of Claims decision, the state Court of Appeals issued a ruling in *Republican National Committee et al v. Secretary of State and Director of Elections* that MCL 168.768 does not prohibit absentee ballots returned to election officials by mail that have missing or mismatched ballot stubs from being counted and does not require rejection of the ballot.

Watch MTA's *Township Focus* magazine for additional details about the cases.

CEDAM hosts Affordable Housing Forum

The Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) Affordable Housing Forum: LIHTC & the QAP will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Lansing. The day-long training and discussion will cover the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, application expectations through the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP), other MSHDA programs, as well as the status of the equity markets and other topics

related to multi-family housing in Michigan. The agenda includes experienced investors and developers who are navigating LIHTC project challenges and opportunities in real time, and are passionate about strengthening the affordable housing ecosystem. Learn more and register today.



Invasive species management in critical dune areas

It takes diligence from everyone to protect Michigan's coastal dunes system from invasive species and other threats. Join the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in a webinar on July 22 at 9 a.m. to review the Critical Dune Areas Program and learn about the types of invasive species found in dune systems, their impacts, and how EGLE works to protect dunes from invasive species through the Critical Dune Area permitting program.

Federal grant opportunities include historic preservation

Local governments are eligible to apply for awards up to $750,000 for preservation of historical sites related to the struggle of all Americans to achieve equal rights. Eligible activities include architectural services, historic structure reports, preservation plans and physical preservation of structures. Apply on grants.gov by the July 21 deadline for the funding, which does not have a match requirement.

Road work paused for Fourth of July holiday



As an estimated 2.9 million Michiganders hit the road this weekend, lane restrictions on 60% of road and bridge projects statewide will be removed to ease traffic delays for Fourth of July holiday travelers. Beginning at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 2, and continuing until 6 a.m. Monday, July 6, 106 out of 177 projects statewide will have lane restrictions removed. While motorists will see suspended operations in most Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) work zones for the weekend, drivers are advised that equipment and certain traffic configurations may remain in place, like temporary shifts or shoulder closures. Travelers can view a list of projects for which lane restrictions will remain in place over the holiday weekend

here. For the most up-to-date information on all MDOT projects, go to the Mi Drive website.

Mobile Home Section at work within BCC

In January, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs created a new Mobile Home Section within the Bureau of Construction Codes to oversee licensing, inspections and regulation of the mobile home industry. The section centralizes key licensing functions and serves as a single point of contact for residents, licensees and local government partners. It aims to improve responses to citizen complaints, speed resolutions and strengthen regulatory compliance. The Mobile Home Section has developed resources to help community owners and other interested individuals better understand the compliance process, including a sample notification letter for community owners and a presentation explaining the inspection process. Any questions for the Mobile Home Section can be directed to LARA-BCC-AIR@michigan.gov or (517) 241-9313.

Reminders for clerks

- Election inspectors for the August primary must be appointed by July 14.
- Clerks should begin testing equipment ahead of the August primary as soon as possible. Testing procedures for tabulators, Voter Assist Terminals and ballot-on-demand printing systems are available via an updated Logic and Accuracy Test Procedure Manual in the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) eLearning Center.

Handling election duties for clerk recall election

Per the BOE, MCL 168.965 is invoked when a recall election of a local clerk is called. Section 965 provides that the official with whom the recall petition was filed must appoint someone other than the clerk who is the target of the recall to perform the duties related to that election. To help clerks navigate this unique situation, the BOE has posted a Recall Election of Clerk: Handling of Duties guide in the eLearning Center.

Upcoming training opportunities

- BOE is hosting brief training opportunities throughout July focused on key election administration tasks. These virtual sessions will primarily be held during the lunch hour. Details on training subjects, dates and times are available via the registration page.
- Early voting virtual training opportunities focused on the early voting electronic pollbook and early voting procedures will be available on July 14 and 16. Each day will include a morning, afternoon and evening option, ensuring each subject is available during one of the time periods between the two days.
- In-person cybersecurity training opportunities offered by the state Department of Management and Budget and hosted at the Michigan State Police headquarters are available to interested participants. While there is no charge for the classes, registrants are responsible for their own travel, lodging and meals. To register, participants must follow the course link and create an

account via the course website. Upcoming trainings include:

—Cybersecurity Vulnerability Assessments, July 28 and 29 at 8 a.m.

—Cybersecurity Risk Awareness for Officials and Senior Management, July 30 at 8 a.m.

—Demystifying Cyber Attacks, Aug. 27 at 8 a.m.

—Recovering from Cybersecurity Incidents, Oct. 29-30 at 8 a.m.

MTA office holiday schedule



The MTA office will be closed, Thursday afternoon, July 2, and Friday, July 3, for the Independance Day holiday. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, July 6. We wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday!



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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