

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

July 21, 2023

Notification of error in LCSA payments

Townships that receive funding under the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Right-of-Way Oversight (METRO) Act may soon receive a [notice of error regarding the 2023 METRO Act distribution](#) along with the corrective plan. 2023 METRO Act payments were distributed to 1,754 municipalities on May 31, 2023. After the distribution, the Local Community Stabilization Authority (LCSA) identified an error that was unique to the May 31, 2023 distribution only that resulted in some municipalities receiving an overpayment and some receiving an underpayment for 2023 distributions. Over the next few weeks, **any municipality that received an over- or underpayment will receive a corrective action letter from LCSA regarding their distribution.** For 95% of impacted municipalities, the LCSA will correct the error in next year's payment (May 2024) with an over- or underpayment equal to the error in the May 2023 payment. If a municipality would like to request consideration of another resolution, instructions will be provided in the corrective action letter. For 5% of the municipalities that received a very large overpayment relative to their correct distribution, the LCSA is requesting that the overpayment be repaid to the LCSA as soon as possible. Instructions for repayment will be provided in the corrective action letter. MTA encourages affected townships to watch for the LCSA notice.

Proposal 2 implementation measures signed into law

Legislation implementing many aspects of Proposal 2022-2 has now been signed into law. The eight bills include:

- [Public Act 81 of 2023](#) sets up the procedures for local governments to conduct the nine days of early voting now required for statewide and federal elections. The act also allows for the pre-



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TOWNSHIP WEBSITES!

STG VIEW OUR PORTFOLIO →

A promotional graphic for STG township websites. It features the text 'Easy-to-use and affordable' at the top, followed by 'TOWNSHIP WEBSITES!' in large, bold letters. Below this, there are three small images showing different township website designs. At the bottom, there is a blue button with the STG logo and the text 'VIEW OUR PORTFOLIO' with a right-pointing arrow and a hand cursor icon.

Upcoming MTA Training

[Now You Know webinars](#)

**Aug. 9: [Spending Public Money](#)

[August Workshops](#)

**Aug. 1: [Fundamentals of Assessment & Taxation](#)

**Aug. 2: [At Your Service: Meeting Township Needs](#)

[Emerging Issues in Emergency Services](#)

**Sept. 12: [Bavarian Inn Lodge - Frankenmuth](#)

[2023 Professional Development Retreats](#)

**Sept. 26-27: [Clerks' Retreat](#)

[Retreat](#)

**Oct. 3-4: [Trustees' Retreat](#)

**Oct. 3-4: [Planning & Zoning Team Retreat](#)

**Oct. 5-6: [Supervisors' Retreat](#)

[Retreat](#)

**Oct. 5-6: [Strategy & Innovation Retreat](#)

**Oct. 10-11: [Treasurers' Retreat](#)

[Retreat](#)

processing and early tabulation of absent voter (AV) ballots. Communities with a population over 5,000 may pre-process on any or all of the eight days prior to Election Day, while those under 5,000 can pre-process AV ballots on the Monday before the election.

- [PA 82](#) requires the state to pay for pre-paid postage for AV applications and AV ballot return envelopes. It also establishes guidelines for signature matching and the process to allow voters to cure any deficiencies, including allowing up to three days after the election to cure them.
- [PA 83](#) establishes a five-year felony if the results of early voting are disclosed before the close of polls on Election Day.
- [PA 84](#) establishes an AV ballot tracker program that allows voters to receive electronic notification of the status of their AV ballot.
- [PA 85](#) puts in place the requirement that each jurisdiction have one AV drop box and one additional drop box for every 15,000 registered voters. These are to be paid for by the state, including delivery, installation and video monitoring.
- [PA 86](#) allows voters to be on a permanent mail AV ballot list that would require a ballot be sent to them for all future elections. This eliminates the need to complete an AV ballot application for each election or election cycle.
- [PA 87](#) expands the post-secondary types of student IDs that can be used for election purposes and requires that municipal IDs be accepted.
- [PA 88](#) permits communities to expand their precinct sizes to up to 5,000 active voters. The previous limit was 2,999.

You can get more detailed information on the new changes in July's cover story in *Focus* magazine.

Additional bills signed into law this week impacting townships

- [Public Act 89](#) of 2023 allows a local brownfield redevelopment authority to capture revenue from sales and use taxes to pay for eligible activities through the state's transformational brownfield program and to increase the caps on annual and total allowable reimbursements. A

MTA QUICK LINKS

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

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)

* [Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

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

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

transformational brownfield plan is a brownfield plan created under the act that, among other requirements, must be for a mixed-use development that involves a minimum level of capital investment depending on the population of the municipality. The change took effect on July 19, 2023.

- PAs [90](#), [91](#), [92](#) and [93](#) of 2023 provide changes to allow tax increment financing to be used for housing development projects through the state's brownfield development plan, including previously developed property. The changes became effective on July 19, 2023.

STC offering MCAT courses in September and October

Individuals can apply now for [Michigan certified assessing technician \(MCAT\) courses](#) being offered by the State Tax Commission (STC) in September and October. The September program will be held Sept. 7 and 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oakland County Schools Conference Center, with the exam set for Sept. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the same location. [Completed applications](#) must be received by the STC by Aug. 18 to be considered for the September 2023 MCAT program. The October program will be held in Lansing Oct. 12 and 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lansing Parks Foster Community Center, with the exam on Oct. 16 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the same location. [October MCAT applications](#) must be received by the STC no later than Sept. 22. Email GastW@michigan.gov with questions.

Review MIHI five-year action digital equity draft plans at upcoming roundtable

As previously shared, Michigan received a \$1.55 billion allocation through the [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#) to be used to ensure the universal availability of high-speed internet throughout the state and support digital inclusion efforts. The first step is the creation of the BEAD Five-Year Action Plan. Over the last several months, the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) has engaged with and



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

[* Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



listened to hundreds of stakeholders across the state to draft the plan and they are now seeking feedback as the plan will set the priorities, strategies and activities through which MIHI will implement the BEAD program. Additionally, the office has released the state's Digital Equity Plan that highlights the state's vision, goals, objectives, barriers, needs and strategies to help ensure that all Michiganders can connect to affordable high-speed internet and have the devices and digital skills they need to be successful and will guide how federal funds are used to connect all Michiganders to what they need.

MIHI will present the draft plans at their upcoming Partnership Roundtable on Wednesday, **July 26**, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for review and feedback. Register [at this link](#). You can review the [draft Five-Year Action Plan](#) as well as the [draft digital equity plan](#) prior to the roundtable discussion. Feedback on the five-year action plan can be submitted to LEO-MIHighSpeedInternet@michigan.gov by Aug. 4 and public comment on the digital equity plan can be submitted [here](#).

Finally, the MIHI Office is continuing their regional tours seeking public input. You can attend any of the following final tour stops:

- Beaverton: July 25, 5 to 7p.m., Beaverton Junior/Senior High School, Cafeteria, 3090 Crockett Road
- Sandusky: July 27, 5 to 7p.m., Westpark Inn, 440 West Sanilac Road
- Okemos: Aug. 1, 5 to 7p.m., Okemos Event Center, 2187 University Park Drive
- Three Rivers: Aug. 2, 5 to 7p.m., George Washington Carver Community Center, 436 Jefferson Street
- Howell: Aug. 9, 5 to 7p.m., Cleary University, 3725 Cleary Drive

BOE reminders of upcoming deadlines

Voter registration. Monday, July 24 is the deadline for registering to vote in any manner other than in person at the local clerk's office to be eligible to vote in the Aug. 8 election. After July 24 and through Election Day, Secretary of State branch offices and agencies of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that provide voter registration services will provide customers who register with a notice informing voters that they need to take additional steps to vote in the upcoming election. Any voter registered by mail with a registration form postmarked after July 24 also must be sent a notice.

Write-in filing deadline. The deadline for write-in candidates to file Declaration of Intent forms for the August election is **4 p.m. Friday, July 28**. For more information, review the Write-In Section of the [Managing Your Precinct on Election Day](#). Clerks should instruct precinct inspectors of the importance of writing down each name variation, along with the tallies of each, for valid write-in candidates. Clerks should not pre-fill in the tally sheet with write-in candidate names.

November election deadlines.

- July 25, 4 p.m. is the deadline for nominating petitions and Affidavits of Identity for candidates who file directly to the November election.
- Aug. 1, 5 p.m. is the deadline for petitions to place county and local questions on the November ballot.
- Aug. 4, 5 p.m. is the deadline for recall petitions for a recall election to appear on the November ballot.
- Aug. 15, 4 p.m. is the deadline for ballot wording of county and local proposals to be presented at the November election to be certified to county and local clerks. Local clerks receiving ballot wording must forward to the county clerk within two days.

USDOT grant program opportunities

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has opened two grant opportunities that include several programs:

Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program—RCN program applications, with up to \$3.16 billion available for planning and construction projects, are **due by 11:59 p.m. Sept. 28**. The [funding opportunity notice](#) includes two programs—the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) and Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Programs—to provide a more efficient application process for project sponsors, but remain separate programs for the purposes of award. Under RCN, USDOT is offering three grant types: Community Planning Grants, Capital Construction Grants, and Regional Partnerships Challenge Grants. Visit the [RCN website](#) for a recorded “Interested in Applying?” webinar, as well as additional information on eligibility, application and submission processes, and evaluation criteria.

Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program to Support Transportation Projects in Urban and Rural Areas—This funding supports three major discretionary grant programs that involve

surface transportation projects designed to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety and daily life. **Applications are due by Aug. 21 at 11:59 p.m.** The notice of funding opportunity, Frequently Asked Questions and other helpful resources can be found [here](#). Available funding includes:

- [National Infrastructure Project Assistance \(Mega program\)](#): Supports large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and are likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility or safety benefits. Local units of government are eligible to apply for projects that could include highway, bridge, freight, port, passenger rail and public transportation projects of national or regional significance.
 - [Infrastructure for Rebuilding American program \(INFRA\)](#): Awards competitive grants to multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, accessibility, efficiency and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas. Eligible applicants include a local unit of government or a group of local governments, and eligible projects will improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, enhance resiliency, and hold the greatest promise to eliminate supply chain bottlenecks and improve critical freight movements.
 - [Rural Surface Transportation Grant \(Rural program\)](#): Supports projects that improve and expand surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life. Eligible applicants include local units of government and regional transportation planning organizations, and eligible projects for Rural grants include highway, bridge and tunnel projects that help improve freight, safety, and provide or increase access to agricultural, commercial, energy or transportation facilities that support the economy of a rural area. Funding must be awarded in \$25 million or greater amounts for 90% of the available funds.
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Solar for All competition now open

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced a \$7 billion [Solar for All Competition](#) that will award up to 60 grants to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities primed for distributed solar investment—enabling millions of low-income households to access solar energy. Applications must be received by **Sept. 26**. Slides from a recent informational webinar can be obtained by emailing ggrf@epa.gov.



EGLE webinar shares overview of MI Health Climate Plan

Join the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for a [webinar](#) on **July 25** at 11 a.m. offering an overview of the [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#), its roadmap to reach the state's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 52% from 2005 baselines by 2030, and where we're heading with upcoming federal funding opportunities. The [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#) lays out a pathway for Michigan to avert the worst climate crisis impacts and build a healthier and more sustainable Michigan. Learn about historic federal and state funding coming for climate action, upcoming legislation, what is happening, where the state is heading and how you can get involved.

Federal update for week of July 17

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