Michigan Township INSIGHTS

July 24, 2026

## Fire equipment/gear grant applications re-opened



The Fire Equipment Grant Program, established as a one-time appropriation in the state;s FY 2025-2026 budget to provide funding to local units of government for the purchase of fire equipment for all firefighters and/or fire gear for on-call, part-time or volunteer firefighters, is **now open** for application. Local government is defined as a city, village, township or tribal government, or an authority or commission established by a county, village, city or township by resolution, motion or charter. The state Department of Treasury suspended the $8 million grant program ($4 million of which must be distributed to local governments with predominately on- call, part-time, or volunteer fire departments) in May to update eligibility requirements. To request access to the electronic application, visit the Michigan Electronic Signature Solution. The **deadline for submissions is Sept. 30, 2026**. Grant expenditures must be incurred between Oct. 1, 2025, and Sept. 30, 2030.

---

## 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:

- Public Act 21—Appropriations for FY 2026-27 state budget and supplemental appropriations for FY 2025-2026
- PAs 23, 30 and 31—Creates housing opportunity tax credit program to encourage development of qualified housing projects
- PAs 28 and 29—Amends the state building code to allow certain multiple-family dwellings to have a single interior exit stairway if specified conditions are met
- PA 32—Creates a new act to generally prohibit large institutional investors from purchasing or entering into a contract to directly or indirectly purchase a single-family home in Michigan
- PAs 34 and 35—Modifies and extends the Commercial Redevelopment Act and the Commercial Rehabilitation Act *(see related story below)*
- PA 36—Amends the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act to make changes to the state's transformational brownfield plan program
- PAs 55 and 56—Amends the Michigan Amber Alert Act to require the activation of the Amber Alert plan for a




### UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

**Aug. 12:** *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Sticky Situations: Ethics in Everyday Decisions

Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning evening workshops:
· **Aug. 18** - Frankenmuth
· **Aug. 26** - Gaylord
· **Aug. 31** - Lawrence

**Sept. 9:** Emerging Issues in EMS Services workshop - Frankenmuth

**Sept. & Oct.** Regional Meetings & UP North Summit:
· **Sept. 22** - Bay City
· **Sept. 23** - Jackson
· **Sept. 29-30** (2-day U.P. summit) - Harris
· **Oct. 7** - Thompsonville
· **Oct 8** - Spring Lake
· **Oct 13** - Gaylord




### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

report of a missing child, or a missing child with special needs
- PAs 57 and 58—Requires local units of government to provide at least 26 days of paid military leave for full-time firefighters and full-time law enforcement
- Public Act 59—Requires the Department of State Police to establish and maintain a missing senior or vulnerable adult medical alert system plan

## Supreme Court holds city manager was not a public body for OMA purposes under city marijuana licensing ordinance

In *Exclusive Capital Partners, LLC v. City of Royal Oak* (Docket Nos. 168243 and 168244, decided July 23, 2026), the Michigan Supreme Court held in a unanimous opinion that (1) the city's manager was not a "public body" under the Open Meetings Act (OMA), and therefore not required to review and decide applications for marijuana licenses in open session at an open meeting, and (2) that the specific city ordinance assigning that approval authority did not delegate the city council's licensing authority to the city manager for OMA purposes.

The Court held that in this case, "The city manager does not qualify as a 'public body' as defined by the OMA. A governmental entity can qualify as a public body under the OMA by one of two pathways: (1) by satisfying the statutory definition of "public body" in its own right, or (2) by being delegated authority from another public body. The city manager here does not qualify as a public body under the first pathway. As this Court held in *Herald Co v Bay City,* 463 Mich 111 (2000), 'public body' as used in the OMA connotes a collective entity and does not encompass individuals. The city manager also does not qualify as a public body under the second pathway. … [T]he Court of Appeals presumed that the city commission held original authority under the ordinance to decide among license applicants, but that the city manager was the de facto decision-maker in determining which applicants received licenses. However, the ordinance gives the city manager the power to decide among applicants, and the city commission has no role under the ordinance in ranking applicants. The … city manager was acting alone in his official work capacity pursuant to an independent grant of authority and, therefore, was not subject to the OMA."




## Slotkin to host deep dive into the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act

ACRISURE
www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes

MI Par Plan
MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP PARTCIPATING PLAN
www.theparplan.com/

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**
Answer Center
Training
Advocacy
Classifieds
Community Connection
Webcasts
Store
Township Governance Academy
Allied Service Providers
NATaT




Now that the federal 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act has become law, the Office of U.S. Sen. Elissa Slotkin is hosting a virtual discussion on the legislation and what it means for Michigan communities. Held via Zoom on **Aug. 5 at 1 p.m.**, participants can learn key provisions of the law and what they mean for Michigan, and get your questions answered. The meeting will also cover upcoming implementation, available resources, and practical steps communities can take to prepare for and benefit from these policy reforms. To RSVP, email Brooke_Wood@slotkin.senate.gov.

---

## STC update on commercial redevelopment and rehabilitation acts changes

The Commercial Redevelopment and Commercial Rehabilitation Acts were updated effective July 22 under Public Acts 34 and 35 of 2026, and the State Tax Commission (STC) issued a summary of changes. The STC will provide updated forms and FAQs after the commission's August meeting. Among the act changes are:

- Allowing applicants to submit an amended application if an error or mistake is discovered after the exemption certificate has been issued
- Changing the due date for Assessing Officer Reports from October 15 to June 15
- Extending the date after which a new exemption may be issued to Dec. 31, 2035
- PA 35 also changes the maximum period for which a commercial rehabilitation certificate may be issued to 12 years

Property tax exemption information can be found on Property Tax Exemption website.

---




---

## Wastewater webinar for local leaders

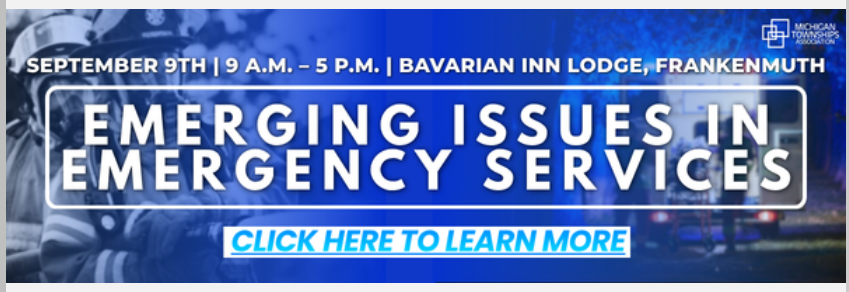
Township officials and staff looking to deepen their understanding of the infrastructure that moves and treats wastewater are invited to join the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for its next Local Leaders webinar, held on Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. Department staff will cover how a treatment system works, the impact of proper wastewater treatment on public health and safety, and how EGLE regulates different facilities.

---

## MDOT seeks feedback on non-metropolitan consultation plan

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) maintains a non-metropolitan consultation plan to guide its engagement with local officials from communities outside of its 15 metropolitan planning organizations. Non-metropolitan areas include more than one-third of Michigan's population and more than 1,200 local jurisdictions whose feedback is critical to the establishment of MDOT's long-term transportation plans. Interested individuals may review the draft non-metropolitan consultation plan and submit comments via a comment form or by email at MDOT-PublicComments@michigan.gov through Sept. 21.

---




---

## Archives of Michigan workshops help train 'cultural heritage first responders'

To ensure the preservation of historical records following natural and human-made disasters, the Archives of Michigan have partnered with the Northeast Document Conservation Center to host workshops for local officials, staff and volunteers with the goal of recruiting 150 "cultural heritage first responders." Upon completion of the workshops, the Archives of Michigan will manage the cohort of volunteer first responders to be called upon to support the mitigation and salvage recovery of historical records from cultural heritage repositories (e.g., museums, libraries and archives) and local government offices impacted by disasters. Workshops are held in-person from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; registration is $25 and includes lunch. Dates and locations include:

- Aug. 11 in Marquette
- Oct. 6 in Roscommon
- Oct. 8 in Lansing

Interested individuals should register as soon as possible, as space is limited to 30 registrants per workshop. Email govarchives@michigan.gov with questions.

---

## EGLE updates public participation policy

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) recently updated its public participation policy, which guides how it will involve the public in its decision-making processes. The policy, which was last updated in 2020, outlines EGLE's approach for providing information, seeking public input and encouraging public participation. According to EGLE, updates are intended to provide greater clarity on how and when public input will be sought, as well as improving communication to ensure that processes are accessible for individuals with varying needs

and abilities. Email EGLE-Engage@Michigan.gov with any questions on the policy.

---

## Election reminders

- **Technical Qualified Voter File (QVF) and election administration support** is available during early voting and the Aug. 4 election by contacting the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) at (800) 292-5973 and following the prompts for local clerks or election administrators. Support will be available:
  - July 24: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  - July 25: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - July 26-30: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - Aug. 1: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  - Aug. 2: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - Aug. 3: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
  - Aug. 4: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- BOE invites all local election officials to participate in an **Election Day information sharing room** to report and stay informed on election security-related information. Election officials may access this optional resource as needed throughout Election Day. Registration is required via the BOE's eLearning center.
- If an **emergency** occurs within your township that could interrupt the voting process or close a polling location, clerks should take direction from local law enforcement and contact BOE as soon as possible. Should an emergency require evacuation of a polling place, ensure election inspectors take possession of the pollbook before leaving if it is safe to do so. If an emergency takes place outside of your township that may impact voting, contact local emergency management but do not change procedures without direction from BOE. Reminder: Polling hours cannot be shortened or extended without direction from the proper legal authority.
- **Early voting offline backup** must be provided for each polling site and may be distributed via a PDF document or downloaded from the Early Voting Electronic Pollbook at first login as a spreadsheet. Guidance on QVF backup procedures is available via eLearning.

---

## MTA's August webinar clarifies *Ethics in Everyday Decisions*

Township decision-making is no walk in the park! You face conflicts of interest, confidentiality concerns and differing opinions on what's "right" in just about every decision you make. MTA's August lunchtime *Now You Know* webinar—led by MTA Legal Counsel Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC—offers real examples of ethical decision-making, fiduciary responsibility and respectful governance, including the emerging debate over non-disclosure agreements (NDAs). Join us at noon on Aug. 12 and get real-world strategies for strengthening public trust in your board's decisions. Can't attend live? Catch the recorded version later. Click here to register online now!

## Federal updates for week of July 20

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships Weekly Legislative Update for the latest on federal actions impacting townships.




MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

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

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice