

July 22, 2025

Updated ESTA FAQs impact townships

The Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA), effective on Feb. 21, 2025, established changes to the state's earned sick time laws. This week, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity released [updated ESTA FAQs](#) providing clarification for volunteers under certain circumstances. For townships, it clarifies the exemption for volunteer firefighters—even if paid—are generally not considered employees (see [29 C.F.R. §553.100 \(2025\)](#)). Additional clarification was also included regarding out-of-state employment. Find more resources and links, including an MTA fact sheet, on [MTA's Earned Sick Time Act webpage](#) (member login is required).



Website Announcements Delivered by Text Messaging



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Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

Aug. 13: [Coverage Matters: Surety Bonds and Insurance 101](#)

[MTA's Summer Academy](#)

Aug. 18: [Making Meetings More Effective](#)

Aug. 18: [Fundamentals of Assessment & Taxation](#)

Aug. 19: [Managing Your Township Team](#)

Sept. 10: [Emerging Issues in Emergency Services](#)

[Professional Development Retreats](#)

Sept. 29-30: [Clerks](#)

Oct. 1-2: [Treasurers](#)

Oct. 14-15: [Supervisors](#)

Oct. 27-28: [Trustees](#)

Oct. 29-30: [Planning & Zoning Team](#)

MSC: Foreclosing governmental unit must return surplus proceeds

Jackson v Southfield Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, ___ Mich ___ (July 16, 2025, Docket No. 166320)—In *Rafaeli, LLC v Oakland County*, 505 Mich. 429 (July 17, 2020), the Michigan Supreme Court held that when a property has been offered for sale at a public auction, just compensation requires the foreclosing governmental unit to return any proceeds from the tax-foreclosure sale in excess of the delinquent taxes, interest, penalties and fees reasonably related to the foreclosure and sale of the property. In a unanimous opinion, the state Supreme Court has now held that the same principles apply when, as in *Jackson*, there is no sale by public auction because a governmental unit exercises its right of first refusal under former MCL 211.78m(1). The governmental unit still commits a taking if the value of the property retained exceeds what the government was owed. Read more about the case [here](#).

Federal disaster declaration approved for northern Michigan

The federal disaster declaration was approved this week for the ice storms in northern Michigan this spring. The declaration provides the path for Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance funding to support emergency efforts, including debris management needs, in Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Kalkaska, Mackinac, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle Counties, and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

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STGNOTIFY

KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED

Send instant updates directly to your residents' phones

Sewer maintenance will be conducted on Maple Avenue today between 9:00AM - 3:00 PM.

[MORE INFO.](#)

STC offering MAAO and MMAO programs in October

The State Tax Commission (STC) is accepting applications for the October 2025 [Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer \(MAAO\) program](#) and [Michigan Master Assessing Officer \(MMAO\) program](#). The MAAO program is limited to a maximum of 25 students. Applications for both programs must be received by Sept. 5. Find more information on the [STC website](#).

Reports issued on federal 'OBBBA' and impact to state

A National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) [comprehensive summary](#) of the provisions included in the federal "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA)—H.R. 1, [Public Law 119-21](#)—was released this week providing an overview of the multi-trillion-dollar reconciliation package. Highlighted sections indicate NATaT's specific priorities, but the [report](#) also includes other provisions that may be of interest to or have impact on local governments.

Additionally, the nonpartisan Michigan House Fiscal Agency released its [Fiscal Brief of the OBBBA](#) this week on the federal tax and spending changes projected. For the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year, state revenues are expected to be reduced by \$677 million, with an additional \$613 million decrease in FY 2026-2027. The revenue impact from the tax changes will decrease over time to a \$46 million reduction in FY 2033-2034.



EMERGING ISSUES IN EMERGENCY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 10 | BAVARIAN INN LODGE in FRANKENMUTH

SPACE IS LIMITED — CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!

Solid waste law changes require new permits

While most counties oversee material management plans, townships with administrative responsibilities for materials utilization facilities are reminded to obtain a general permit after [changes to the solid waste law](#) took effect this spring. General permits are now required for compost facilities with over 10,000 cubic yards of compostable materials or 500 cubic yards when more than 10% is a class 1 material, compost facilities with any

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biosolids or controlled substances, materials recovery facilities with more than 100 tons of material on site, anaerobic digesters managing material produced entirely offsite, and innovative technology facilities converting solid waste into energy or other usable products. If you have questions about whether your facility requires a general permit or how to apply, contact your local district office [material utilization facility staff](#) and complete the [Materials Management Facility Inquiry Form](#).

Reminder: Aug. 8 deadline to apply for Asset Management Champions

The Michigan Infrastructure Council is now accepting applications for Cohort 8 of the [Infrastructure Asset Management Champions Program](#), which will launch on Aug. 12, with an application deadline on Aug. 8. This free, robust and resourceful program is available to local government employees aimed at promoting infrastructure asset management across the state. Continuing education credits are available for drinking water operators as well as professional engineers. Program participants must complete approximately 25 hours of training, and the program is asynchronous for participants to learn at their own pace.

MIOSHA hosting workplace violence workshop

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) is offering, both virtually and in person, a full-day workplace safety workshop on Aug. 12. “Beyond the Active Shooter” will help employers and employees identify, assess and manage workplace situations of concern in alignment with OSHA’s Workplace Violence Guidelines. Early [registration](#) is encouraged as spots are limited for the event, held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The in-person option will be held at the Vistatech Center, 18600 Haggerty Rd. in Livonia.

Public hearing on overburdened municipal system standards

The state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy is seeking public comment on its proposed updates to the criteria for overburdened municipal water and wastewater systems, which are available for review [online](#). The criteria impact water systems’ ability to qualify for the State Revolving Fund (SRF). A [virtual public hearing](#) is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Aug. 11. Written comments are accepted through Aug. 29 to EGLE-WIFFS@michigan.gov with the subject line “SRF Overburdened Criteria Comment.”



Reminders for clerks

MiLogin. The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) is actively implementing new technology and improving existing security. With the improvements, BOE is aligning applications with the state’s single sign-on MiLogin and cybersecurity standards. All

clerks and public applications will eventually transition behind this security solution. All townships should ensure a [MiLogin for Business account](#) exists for their organization.

Continuing education. The BOE's 2024-2025 Continuing Education Curriculum is available in the bureau's eLearning Center. Continuing education is required by Michigan Election Law for all township clerks to renew their accreditation status every two years.

Bellaire bound: Building better boards

Join MTA next month at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire for our [Summer Academy](#). On Aug. 18, we'll explore expert tips for *Making Meetings More Effective* and dive into the *Fundamentals of Assessment & Taxation*. Our Aug. 19 program features legal guidance for *Managing Your Township Team*. Whether you're a newcomer or a seasoned official, these confidence-building courses are designed to deepen your knowledge of three topics every official should understand. *Early-bird rates end Aug. 4 so don't wait—[learn more here](#) or [register online now!](#)*

Federal updates for week of July 22

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

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