

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

July 26, 2024

New laws affecting local government

A number of bills recently passed by the Legislature—and previously reported in *Township Insights*—that impact local government were signed by the governor this week:

- [Public Act 82 of 2024](#)—Increases insurance withholding amount for fire-damaged homes and allows for abandoned funds to be used for repairs.
- Public Acts [84](#) & [85](#) of 2024—Extends the time for which a temporary license for a medical first responder, emergency medical technician (EMT), EMT specialist or paramedic is valid from 120 days to one year
- [Public Act 97 of 2024](#)—Modifies penalties for failure to file a property tax transfer affidavit
- [Public Act 102 of 2024](#)—Allows Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to issue emergency orders concerning structure or fill on inland lake or stream bottomlands
- [Public Act 106 of 2024](#)—Provides that a vehicle with a gross weight of up to 82,000 pounds can exceed applicable axle loading and weight load maximums by a total of up to 2,000 pounds for all axles of the truck, truck tractor or power unit
- [Public Act 110 of 2024](#)—Requires prevailing wage on certain solar and wind energy projects, requires contractors to obtain a registration to perform work on certain projects and modifies enforcement
- [Public Act 112 of 2024](#)—Modifies definition of a normal lake level for an inland lake and provides for specific actions to finance projects to maintain the established normal level of that lake
- [Public Act 121 of 2024](#)—Provides appropriations for the state budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 and supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2023-2024

Ballot initiative to return local control for large-scale renewables suspended

[Citizens for Local Choice](#) (CLC), the organization seeking signatures for a ballot proposal to restore local control over the siting of large-scale utility renewable energy operations, announced this week they have suspended the campaign to secure placement on the 2026 ballot. They plan to pursue additional resources for a potential restart next spring.



Upcoming MTA Training & Events

July 31: [Creating a Vision for Your Township & Linking with the Community](#)

Aug 1: [Strategic Planning for Townships](#)

Aug. 7: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar: [Prudent Policies](#)

[Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning:](#)

Aug. 14: [Frankenmuth](#)

Aug. 21: [Lawrence](#)

Aug. 28: [Cadillac](#)

[Emerging Issues in Emergency Services](#)

Sept. 10 [Frankenmuth](#)

Sept. 12 [Cadillac](#)

Elections reminders from BOE

- The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) is holding technical Qualified Voter File (QVF) and election administration support July 27-Aug. 4, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Aug. 5, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Aug. 6, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Voters have until 4 p.m. on the fourth day before Election Day to cure a signature deficiency on an absent voter (AV) ballot application and 5 p.m. on the third day after Election Day to cure a signature deficiency on an AV ballot return envelope. Templates for the [Absent Voter Ballot Application Signature Cure Notice](#) and [Absent Voter Ballot Return Envelope Signature Cure Form](#) are available in the BOE's eLearning Center.
- County clerks must initiate, and local clerks must complete deceased voter cancellations in the QVF, according to a schedule that becomes increasingly frequent as the election approaches. When an election is more than 15 days away, these cancellations take place on a weekly or monthly basis, according to the schedule described in [MCL 168.510](#). If a township clerk receives notice that one of its electors has died and was issued an AV ballot, the clerk must make their best effort to remove the AV ballot envelope or ballot from processing and to reject the ballot. If the Secretary of State updates the QVF to cancel the voter registration of a deceased voter, it will, within 24 hours, send an inbox notification to the local clerk. In these cases, no further action is needed by clerks.
- Aug. 2 is the deadline for clerks to post on the township's website, if available, where the precinct canvass of early votes for the township will take place and the time the canvass will begin. This is required even when a township is participating in a combined site.

Plan, plant and protect public trees with community forestry grants

Is your township looking for resources to plan, care for and increase tree canopy in your community? The Michigan Department of Natural Resources annual Community Forestry Grant Program is providing up to \$125,000 in federal grant funding from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program. Reimbursement grants of \$5,000 to \$30,000 for tree-related projects are available to local units that increase tree canopy through planting and care, improve planning and management of public trees, and/or engage and educate community members in these activities. A one-to-one match is required and can be nonfederal cash, volunteers and/or in-kind services. Applications are due by Sept. 20, and all projects must be completed by Sept. 1, 2026. For the handbook and grant application, visit [Michigan.gov/UCF](https://www.michigan.gov/UCF). Email GrayK12@michigan.gov or call (734) 691-1806. with questions A [one-hour webinar](#), on



MTA QUICK LINKS

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* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

Thursday, Aug. 1 at 1 p.m., will cover eligibility requirements, tips on applying and answer questions on the grants.

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



Stay ahead of hot EMS issues with MTA's fall workshops

Prepare for tomorrow's EMS challenges today with MTA's annual [Emerging Issues in Emergency Management](#) workshop, now in two locations! Join us on Sept. 10 in Frankenmuth or Sept. 12 in Cadillac for a full day of learning on hot topics facing township fire departments. We'll dive into topics like recruitment and retention for the new generation, the latest updates from the state fire marshal, the impact of battery storage systems, Critical Incident Stress Management and more. Our expert-led sessions will equip your team with the knowledge to tackle emerging challenges. [Learn more here](#) or [register online now!](#)

Is your township home to Michigan's biggest tree?

The Michigan Big Tree Hunt is underway! The contest offers prizes for identifying the biggest trees in Michigan and is open to participants of all ages. Winners of the biggest trees are determined by circumference. [ReLeaf Michigan](#) created the Michigan Big Tree Hunt in 1993 to celebrate our state's beauty and create a fun way to gather information about Michigan's biggest trees. Participation is free. The current Michigan Big Tree Hunt has received over 200 entries from 62 of the 83 counties across the state. The last contest received over 650 entries from 79 of Michigan's 83 counties, with over 100 certificates and prizes awarded. The contest closes Aug. 22, 2025. For more information, check out bigtreehunt.com or reach out to bigtreehunt@releafmichigan.org. How many entries has your township submitted? Contact ReLeaf Michigan to find out if your township is represented in the entries, and for information to help you challenge your residents to get out and hug a tree!

Federal update for week of July 22

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

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

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