

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

July 29, 2022

Stay issued on minimum wage/paid sick time ruling

A stay has been issued in the recent Michigan Court of Claims ruling that would put into effect an increased minimum wage and mandatory paid sick leave for employees. This means that the ruling would not go into effect until that date or further action by the courts. Townships do not need to make any changes to their minimum wage or sick leave policies at this time. We will keep members updated on the issue as it moves through the appeals process.

Plan to attend FREE online federal grant training Aug. 24 and 25

Township officials can gain a basic understanding of the federal grants process and how to prepare for the grant solicitations—particularly now that we are in the first of five years of grant programs funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. A two-part, free online training program, sponsored by the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT), will be available live on Aug. 24 and Aug. 25 at 1 p.m. and include 60 to 75 minutes of training. Click on the following links at 1 p.m. to access via Microsoft Teams the [Aug. 24 session](#), which will provide grants basics and identification, an overview of the federal grants landscape, required registrations, and how to search for federal grants and strategically position projects ahead of a solicitation. The [Aug. 25 session](#) will offer an overview of common grant narrative elements with tips and tricks for writing and submitting a competitive grant application. The sessions will also be recorded and available on [NATaT's website](#) and MTA's website for those unable to participate on those dates.



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MTA Training Opportunities

**** August 10 Now You Know** webinar: [What Every Board Member Needs to know about the Tax Rate Request form \(L-4029\)](#)

Hot Topics in Planning and Zoning Attend in-person on:

****August 16** [in Mt Pleasant](#)

****August 24** [in Gaylord](#)

****August 31** [in Lawrence](#)

**** Or attend online** ([includes access to live stream on Aug. 31 & recorded version](#))

MTA QUICK LINKS

[MTA COVID Relief Webpage](#)

[Members-only Website](#)

[Answer Center](#)

[Training](#)

[Advocacy](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Community Connection](#)

[Supreme court discrimination ruling may impact township policies](#)

Townships may need to review and update their anti-discrimination policies, following a Michigan Supreme Court ruling this week that the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act's prohibition against discrimination based on sex also prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation. The ruling stated, "Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation necessarily constitutes discrimination because of sex. Accordingly, the denial of 'the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of a place of public accommodation or public service' on the basis of sexual orientation constitutes discrimination 'because of . . . sex' and, therefore, constitutes a violation" of the state civil rights law.

[Extension for neighborhood enterprise zone certificate](#)

The holder of a neighborhood enterprise zone certificate issued before March 23, 2020, may now request a one-year automatic extension. Public Act 188 of 2022 was signed into law this week by the governor. The measure amends the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act to allow the holder of a neighborhood enterprise zone certificate to request in writing to the qualified assessing authority not later than one year after the certificate expired a one-year automatic extension of the deadline, in addition to any extensions already used by the holder. A loss of state and local property taxes could occur due to the one-year extension, and the potential loss would depend on the specific characteristics of the projects eligible for the extension. The change was effective July 25, 2022.

[Updated information on required I-9 documentation](#)

A [temporary, pandemic-related policy](#) allowing employees to present an expired List B [identification document to complete their I-9 form](#) expired May 1. Employees who presented an expired List B document (which establishes identity) between May 1, 2020, and April 30, 2022, must present an unexpired List B document by July 31, 2022, to update their Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification. Employees can present the replacement of the expired document or a different



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List B document, or present a List A document (which establishes both identity and employment authorization). Updated documentation is NOT required if the employee is no longer employed as of May 1, 2022, OR if the employee presented a List B Identity document that was auto-extended by the issuing authority. All U.S. employers (including townships) must complete and retain a Form I-9 for each individual hired for employment, including elected officials. On the form, the employer must verify the employment eligibility and identity documents presented by the employee and record the document information.

Certain township residents may be able to get reduced internet

Certain township residents can receive reduced internet access through the [new Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#) . Administered by the Federal Communications Commission, the program provides eligible households up to \$30/month off internet bills, as well as a one-time \$100 discount off a connected device. Certain internet service providers will also offer high-speed plans that are fully covered by the ACP. To qualify for the program, residents must meet one of three conditions: have an income at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines, participate or have someone in the household participate in a program such as Medicaid, Pell grant, supplemental nutrition assistance, among others, OR meet eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider existing low-income internet program.

'Managing Internal Controls' focus of Fiscally Ready Communities webinar

The Michigan Department of Treasury and Michigan State University Extension are hosting a free [Fiscally Ready Communities webinar](#) on **Aug. 4 at 10:30 a.m.** The training will include a deep dive into internal controls—what they are, why you need them, how they help your community, how to implement them, and where to start. Topics will include building a culture of fiscal sustainability, the role of internal controls in fiscal sustainability, understanding internal controls and their importance, how internal controls help strengthen your community and best practices for internal controls implementation. For more information, check out Treasury's [Fiscally Ready Communities webpage](#) , including its [Fiscally Ready Communities Best Practices document](#).



Become an 'Asset Management Champion'

The Michigan Infrastructure Council is welcoming a new cohort of leaders into its [Asset Management Champion Program](#) . This program will establish a network of talented individuals and organizations to help strengthen and “champion” best-practice asset management across Michigan’s complex infrastructure environment. Township officials and employees, and public-sector asset owners interested in joining the next cohort or any future iterations of this program should fill out [the application form](#) by **Aug. 18** .

Applications accepted for MAAO program

The State Tax Commission (STC) is accepting [applications](#) for the October 2022 Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer (MAAO) program through **Aug.**

19 . All sessions and exams will be held in **Meridian Charter Township** (Ingham Co.). Review the [MAAO Program Summary](#) and visit the [STC website](#) for more information.



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Reminder: HAVA election security grant session

Clerks can review the state Bureau of Election’s Help America Vote Act (HAVA) security grant information session that provides answers and guidance to frequently asked questions on submitting a reimbursement request. The full presentation is available on E-Learning under [2022 Election Security Grant—Program Overview](#) .

New surface water limits for two PFAS compounds released

For townships with regulated facilities discharging to surface water and for monitoring purposes, new values have been released by the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The revised PFOA water quality value and a new PFBS water quality value are established through the risk assessment method under Rule 323.1057. PFOA now has maximum standard of 66 ppt in drinking water and 170 ppt in nondrinking water (formerly 420 ppt and 17,000 ppt respectively). New values were set for PFBS of 8,300 ppt in drinking water and 670,000 ppt in nondrinking water. More information and FAQs are available on [EGLE's website](#).

Comments sought on Treasury's Numbered Letters update

Local governments receive direction on accounting and auditing in the form of number letters and Michigan Committee on Governmental Accounting and Auditing Statements from the Michigan Department of Treasury. To ensure this information is up to date and useful, Treasury is updating and removing these documents—beginning with 20% each year and then updating every five years. Updates will include changing to Treasury's current format and to refreshing links, including websites and Michigan statutes while many will need to be revised more substantially or even removed. Township officials and staff are encouraged to review the [first 20% of numbered letters under review](#) and submit written comments by **Aug. 25**. Written comments should be submitted to lafd_audits@michigan.gov with the subject line "Numbered Letters Exposure Draft." Comments may also be submitted to Michigan Department of Treasury, Community Engagement and Finance Division, PO Box 30728, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8228.

Reconnecting Communities Grant program now open

Communities previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure can apply to take advantage of a new grant program. The [Reconnecting Communities Pilot](#) discretionary grant program is a new \$1 billion program established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to provide planning grants and capital construction grants as well as technical assistance to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit,

mitigation or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities. The [Fiscal Year 22 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Reconnecting Communities Program](#) is available through **Oct. 13** . All applications must be submitted through [grants.gov](#) ; search for "Reconnecting Communities" or Opportunity Number: DOT-RCP-FY22-01. You can also [sign up for email updates](#) , including upcoming webinars.

Consumers Energy Foundation offers grants to help end poverty

Local governments can submit a letter of intent to Consumers Energy Foundation for the [2022 PEOPLE Award](#) for projects that address poverty by meeting Michigan residents' basic needs. A total of \$500,000 is available, with a maximum award of \$250,000. Applications can be submitted [online](#) by **Aug. 12 by 5 p.m** . Review the [project details](#) for additional information.

Be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly

The public is being asked to help monitor for spotted lanternfly, an invasive species that can damage fruit, hops, grapes and hardwood trees. No live spotted lanternfly have yet been spotted, but dead ones have been confirmed coming in from packaging material out of state. Lanternfly lay eggs on any object, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is asking residents to check vehicles, firewood and any other outdoor furniture or equipment coming from infested areas. Pictures of the various life stages of the spotted lanternfly and links to report sightings are available [online](#) . If you see a spotted lanternfly, please take a photo with date, time and location and if possible, collect a specimen in a container for verification.

MDOT to open public comment on five-year transportation program

Beginning Aug. 1, officials can [submit comments](#) on the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) [2023-2027 five-year transportation program](#). The comment deadline is **Aug. 31**. The draft plan, approved by the State Transportation Commission in July, outlines more than \$14 billion in planned investments on state-owned roads as well as transit, rail, marine and aeronautics.

Get a handle on hot topics facing your township fire department

Join MTA on **Sept. 12** in Frankenmuth for a full-day event exploring [Emerging Issues in Emergency Services](#). Hear from a variety of experts—including State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehmeyer—on hot topics like the new continuing education requirements in the recently updated Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules, recruitment and retention, situational awareness, threat assessment and more. Get tips for recognizing and managing post-traumatic stress as well as wellness strategies to support your team. Space is limited so don't delay, register today! [Get a registration form here](#) or [register online now](#).



Federal update for week of July 25

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