

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

July 5, 2024

Emergency action allowed for bottomlands

An owner of a structure or fill located in the bottomlands of an inland lake or waterway can soon be ordered to take emergency action to repair or remove the structure or fill if found to be in violation, under legislation now pending signature by the governor. [Senate Bill 398](#), sponsored by Sen. Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo), allows the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to take necessary action and recover costs in a civil action if the owner fails to comply with EGLE's order.



Bill expands housing options for MSHDA bond program

A measure making several modifications to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) [Pass-Through Bond Program](#) received final passage last week and now goes to the governor for her signature. [Senate Bill 417](#), sponsored by Sen. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), will allow multi-family housing projects that include independent living, congregate care and assisted living units for those 55 years and older to be eligible for the program. The bill also relaxes the income limits and outstanding loan limits so more projects can qualify.

Bill on setting lake levels approved

Legislation to streamline setting inland lake levels received final passage last week. [Senate Bill 662](#), sponsored by Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D-Keego Harbor), redefines "normal lake level" to allow for temporary fluctuations caused by weather conditions and water control structure construction or repair activities. Current statute and a recent court decision to require counties to maintain a static lake level or petition circuit courts to amend lake level orders

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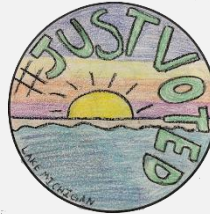
when deviations occur result in a time-consuming and costly process. The bill now goes to the governor for signature.

Prevailing wage soon to be required for renewable energy projects

Prevailing wage requirements will soon be extended to energy facility projects with a nameplate capacity of two megawatts or more, under [Senate Bill 571](#), sponsored by Sen. John Cherry (D-Flint). Currently, the act generally defines state project as construction and improvement projects for public buildings, schools and other infrastructure authorized by a contracting agent. Under SB 571, the term means those projects when authorized by a public contracting agent and sponsored or financed in whole or in part by the state, in addition to an energy facility project. The bill also requires contractors and subcontractors to annually register with the state to be eligible for prevailing wage projects and require those contractors and subcontractors to submit certain wage and benefit information to a payroll database. The bill has been forwarded to the governor for signature.

Cast your vote for 'I voted' sticker design contest

Calling all clerks, election workers, township officials and residents! [Cast your vote now](#) for your favorite student- and resident-designed "I voted" sticker that may be distributed to voters during the November election. Check out the top designs in three categories (elementary/middle school, high school and general public) from the first-ever design contest, which saw more than 480 total entries. Voting ends July 31. Winning stickers will be available for election clerks to order for the Nov. 5 election.



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Reminders from BOE

July 8 deadline to post/enter into QVF. July 8 is the deadline for clerks to publish in the newspaper a notice of days and hours for voter registration at the clerk's office for the Aug. 6 election, and to enter into the Qualified Voter File (QVF) the hours the clerk's office will be open the Saturday or Sunday (or both), and any additional locations and hours the clerk will be available, if applicable, immediately before Election Day to issue and receive absent voter (AV) ballots.

E-pollbook documentation of AV ballot tabulation. Electronic pollbook functionality has been updated to allow the recording of a voter-tabulated AV ballot at the precinct on Election Day. Refer to the guide in [the eLearning Center](#).

Postage due for returned mail. The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) reminds clerks what returned mail is eligible for the state prepaid postage permit. When a **voter** returns a ballot, ballot application or signature cure form that includes the BOE's business reply permit, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will generate a receipt to the township of postage charged to the state's account. **USPS**-returned mail because of an unsuccessful delivery is a USPS service provided with the cost of first-class mail. If the township has used a nonprofit postage permit and requested "returned mail" service, return service of mail that was not successfully delivered will incur a fee the township must pay.

Early AV ballot tabulation. All communities can authorize an AV counting board (AVCB) to process and tabulate AV ballots on the Monday before Election Day. Townships with a population of at least 5,000 and those with a combined AVCB may process and tabulate AV ballots on any of the eight days before Election Day. Townships must notify the Secretary of State by July 9 if it intends to participate in early AV ballot tabulation. An [August 2024 Absent Voter Ballot Early Tabulation Declaration Form](#) is available [in the BOE's eLearning](#). No later than **Friday, July 19**, clerks participating

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

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

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

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



in early tabulation must post on the township website and in their office the dates and hours, location and number of election inspectors who will be participating in processing and tabulation.

MDOT updates: Seeking public input, road restrictions lifted for holiday travel

- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is [seeking comments](#) by Aug. 15 on the draft [2026-2029 STIP Public Participation Plan](#) for the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), which lists rural road, bridge and transit projects that the state plans to fund with federal aid.
 - MDOT removed lane restrictions on 60% of its road and bridge projects statewide to ease traffic delays for July 4 holiday travelers, through 6 a.m. on July 8.
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