

June 7, 2024

## Legislation would codify locals' ability to establish stormwater utility

Local governments would have clear statutory authority and a required process to establish a stormwater management fee under a measure considered by the Senate Local Government Committee this week. [Senate Bill 660](#), sponsored by Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D-Keego Harbor) and supported by MTA, would allow a local unit of government to create a stormwater management utility by adopting a stormwater management plan and a stormwater management utility fee ordinance. The plan would have to include details about the utility's service area and the method for calculating the fee. The fee ordinance would create a fee for residents that received stormwater management services, would have to be proportionate to a resident's use based on methods generally accepted by stormwater management professionals, and would be required to provide procedures for the reduction or elimination of the fee according to the owner's use of the utility's service. The legislation is permissive and would not mandate a local unit to establish a stormwater management fee.



## PREVENT WATER DAMAGE

The Michigan Township Participating Plan offers member entities a free water sensor kit.

[theparplan.com](http://theparplan.com)



## Website Accessibility: More Than a Widget

Learn why Civic Clarity promotes manual review



CiviClarity  
WEBSITE SERVICE

Learn Why

## Bill muzzling loud mufflers passes committee

Fines would be increased for individuals who equip their vehicle's exhaust system with certain devices that increase the decibel level under a measure reported by the House Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure Committee this week. [House Bill 5696](#), sponsored by Rep. Natalie Price (D-Berkley), is intended to crack down on vehicles that are intentionally modified to create excessive noise and would increase fines for these violations from \$100 to \$500 with further increase for multiple violations. The bill would permit a grace period to allow the owner of the vehicle to

## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

### [Election Prep: Beyond the Bureau:](#)

June 17: [White Cloud](#)

June 18: [Kalamazoo](#)

June 19: [Frankenmuth](#)

June 25: [Marquette](#)

June 26: [Online](#)

June 27: [Gaylord](#)

prove that the vehicle is now in compliance. HB 5696 would also assess fines on dealers and mechanics who install such devices. The bill now moves to the full House for further consideration.



## Bill to modify downtown district definition approved by Senate

Townships that have more than one separate geographic area—on the mainland and one or more islands with a body of water between the two separate and distinct areas—are one step closer to having statutory clarification to include an island's downtown in their downtown development authority. [Senate Bill 700](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores), was passed by the Senate this week and would allow a municipality's downtown district to include an island's downtown if water were between the island's and mainland's downtowns. The legislation would enable the municipalities to expand the coverage of their downtown development authorities, which use tax increment financing to fund improvements to buildings or infrastructure within downtown districts. The expansion under SB 700 would help attract businesses to the additional districts, finance desired projects, and enable the community to access grants previously unavailable to them. The bill now moves to the House for action.

## STC Board of Review Training in July

The State Tax Commission (STC) is offering two virtual *Board of Review Training* courses in July that satisfies the biennial training requirement for all board of review members. Held via Zoom, the sessions are scheduled [July 8 from 6 to 9 p.m.](#) and [July 10 from 8 to 11 a.m.](#) Each training is limited to 300 people and is free of charge. Attendees must have video capability and remain on video throughout the training. If watching as a group, an assessor or other local unit official must be present to ensure attendance throughout the three hours and an attendance sheet must be

**Now You Know** lunchtime webinar:

July 10: [Summer Legislative Update](#)

July 23-24: [UP North Summit](#)

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

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

**Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning:**

Aug. 14: [Frankenmuth](#)

Aug. 21: [Lawrence](#)

Aug. 28: [Cadillac](#)

### MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)

[Training](#)

[Advocacy](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Community Connection](#)

[Webcasts](#)

[Store](#)

[Township Governance Academy](#)

[Allied Service Providers](#)

[NATaT](#)

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



[www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes](http://www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes)

returned to the State Tax Commission. Email [State-Tax-Commission@michigan.gov](mailto:State-Tax-Commission@michigan.gov) to request a sign-in sheet.

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## June 22 MOVE deadline for August election

Both federal law and the Michigan Constitution require that no later than 45 days before the election, clerks transmit ballots to military and overseas (MOVE) voters who have applied for ballots. The deadline to transmit ballots for the Aug. 6 election is Saturday, June 22. This deadline requires strict compliance, and unlike other deadlines in the election law, does not get bumped back to Monday because it falls on a Saturday. The Qualified Voter File Helpdesk is available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 22 to assist clerks. Email [MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov) as soon as possible with questions or if something occurs in your township that prohibits you from meeting this deadline (for example, litigation delays or ballot printing).

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## Be an Asset Management Champion

Township officials seeking to gain the knowledge, skills and networks needed to navigate the complexities of infrastructure management effectively are encouraged to [apply](#) by **July 26** for the [Asset Management Champions Program](#). More than 500 asset managers and decision-makers from 70 counties have completed the program, which cultivates collaboration and expands asset management education, helping them learn effective infrastructure management. The program is approved for drinking water operator continuing education credit by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and offers industry learning, interactive training and peer networking to educate participants on identifying, assessing and maintaining infrastructure assets, delivering more effective and efficient community decisions.



\* [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](#)



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## Free fishing weekend expanded to include off-roading and state park entry

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has announced a “Three Free” weekend this weekend, allowing both residents and non-residents to fish, ride off-road trails and visit state parks at no charge. Fishing licenses, ORV licenses or permits, and the recreation passport are not be required to participate in these activities June 8-9.

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## June Township Focus is online and in mailboxes now

Your [June issue of Township Focus](#) can be read online now. Meet MTA’s 2024 President **Connie Cargill** in this month’s cover story, which also includes a look back at MTA’s Annual Conference—with keynotes highlights, photos from the week, introduction of new MTA Board members and more. Learn about recipients of two MTA high honors: our “Spirit of MTA” and “Township of Excellence” awards. In our Q&A columns, “Hello, MTA ... ?” explores cemetery management while “Financial Forum” discusses how townships can use their audit Management’s Discussion and Analysis to promote local transparency.



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## Summertime means *UP North Summit* time!

Team MTA is packing up our experts, plus loads of resources and heading north this summer! Join us July 23-24 in Harris for our *UP North Summit*, two days of intensive learning, networking—and fun—in the splendor of the Upper Peninsula. The agenda is packed with timely township topics ranging from finances and managing transitions, to fire services and even a legislative update! [Learn more here](#) or [register online now](#).

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## Three timely township topics over two days in one great location

MTA can help your township identify what’s important to the residents you serve, techniques for improving transparency and

credibility and even explore elements of strategic planning. Join us for a session, a day or both days, choose from:

- **Creating a Vision for Your Township**—A morning class held July 31 designed to help you identify core community values and rekindle your township’s mission.
- **Linking with the Community**—An afternoon class on July 31 offering techniques for building trust and enhancing transparency in your township.
- **Strategic Planning for Townships**—This morning class held Aug. 1 will help you develop a solid plan that aligns township resources and creates positive outcomes, even in a politically charged environment.

[Click here for all the details](#) or [register online now](#).



### Artificial Intelligence and Software Consulting

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- Software Development
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[jpeters@govtechinnovators.com](mailto:jpeters@govtechinnovators.com)