Member Programs and Services

Knowledge

- MTA's Member Information Services staff—which currently includes an attorney and two experienced former local government officials—answer *your* questions on all facets of township governance and administration.
- *Township Focus* magazine offers news, features, and in-depth coverage of emerging issues and township accomplishments.
- Dozens of educational programs, as well as our Online Learning Center, offer training to fit every schedule and budget, covering topics from accounting to zoning, and everything in between.
- Our Township Governance Academy offers advanced seminars to give officials the knowledge and skills needed to make effective decisions for the benefit of their township.
- MTA's Annual Educational Conference & Expo features more than 50 workshops, unparalleled networking opportunities and inspirational affirmation of local democracy.
- Our website, www.michigantownships.org, provides samples, resources, legal information, legislative updates—and more.
- MTA's invaluable publications offer guidance and insights, targeting topics such as planning and zoning, administrative policies and budgeting, among others.
- Upon request, MTA staff visit MTA County Chapter meetings, offering "mini" seminars on a variety of topics.

Advocacy

- MTA lobbies on behalf of townships—advocating for new laws that are beneficial to local government and fending off legislation harmful to townships. In a typical legislative session, MTA exerts its influence on more than 600 pieces of legislation.
- On its own and as part of coalitions, the Association supports or battles ballot proposals impacting townships.
- The MTA Legal Defense Fund intervenes in litigation where court decisions have a statewide impact on local government.
- Friends of MTA supports Michigan House and Senate candidates who value townships, and helps the Association forge positive relationships with state lawmakers.
- MTA shares information and updates on legislation impacting townships through e-newsletters, alerts and conferences, to allow members to appropriately and effectively communicate with lawmakers.
- MTA members are also members of the National Association of Towns and Townships, which monitors and influences federal legislation and regulations impacting small communities.

Community

- MTA's educational programs and conferences provide ample opportunities to meet and network with fellow officials.
- *Community Connection*, our members-only online networking site, allows officials to share ideas and insights with one another.
- MTA's online directories are invaluable in connecting township officials with one another.
- MTA facilitates meetings of officials facing similar issues or from similar township characteristics.

MTA: Working for You

Every day, the Michigan Townships Association supports townships in their efforts to serve their constituents in a way that reflects their community's values. By offering useful tools, innovative programs and supportive services, we help move your township's vision from a dream to reality.

Dedicated, reliable and committed to serving you . . . that's YOUR MTA.

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

(517) 321-6467 phone | (517) 321-8908 fax
michigantownships.org

Welcome to the Michigan Townships Association

Welcome to township government, and welcome to the Michigan Townships Association! MTA is here to help as you endeavor to be the best local leader you can be.

Our programs and services are tailored with only townships in mind—offering targeted news, updates and information to help officials govern their townships with confidence, purpose and pride.

Serving township officials is what we do. We look forward to working with you, as you serve your community.

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

knowledge **advocacy** community













Knowledge

Public service as a township official requires knowledge that most people do not have prior to being elected to office—including hundreds of state and federal statutes, and duties prescribed by those laws. **MTA is a township official's best place to learn.** MTA provides members with timely information on all facets of township operations, crafting analyses and recommendations tailored to the unique needs of townships in response to an ever-changing economic, legal, political, cultural and social environment. When you have questions about any aspect of township governance and administration, our Member Information Services team is here to help. Our in-person and virtual educational opportunities, conferences, publications and resources offer targeted news, updates and information to assist township officials as they lead their communities as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The **value of knowledge** to township officials? Knowing that you are doing things right—and doing the right things, while maintaining credibility and confidence from your constituents for a job well done.

Advocacy

MTA provides a unified voice advocating for local authority that the broadest spectrum of township officials need to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of life for township residents. MTA's experienced lobbyists represent township government before the Michigan Legislature, executive office and state agencies, while initiating and monitoring legislation that is in the best interest of townships.

Local democracy is frequently under attack. Legislative efforts often undermine local officials' ability to govern their communities as they best see fit, and special interest groups seek preferential treatment that erodes local revenue sources. MTA debunks the myths, distortions and fuzzy logic with data, studies and an accurate portrayal of the value of citizen-led township government. **MTA is the only statewide advocacy organization that unconditionally puts the best interests of townships above all.**

The **value of advocacy** to township officials? The protection and survival of township government.

Community

MTA membership is about the township government community. When you network with township officials, you talk to people who know you, your traditions and your culture. When you participate in an MTA educational program, you hear content that is specific to the issues you face—issues you need not face alone. When you read MTA publications, you read content that has been created specifically for you, which allows you and your board to plan and respond, rather than react. MTA helps you control your township's destiny.

MTA connects you with a community of dedicated township officials. MTA, like no one else, speaks your language, knows your history, and values you as an essential part of the form of local government closest to the people.

The **value of community** to township officials? Assurance, confidence, recognition and affirmation as you lead your community.

Our **mission**

The Michigan Townships Association advances local democracy by fostering township leadership and public policy essential for a strong and vibrant Michigan.