

March 14, 2025

## Official notice of 2025 MTA Annual Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of Sections A and H of Article IV of the Michigan Townships Association Bylaws, let this serve as official notice that an [Educational Conference, Expo and Annual Meeting](#) of the Association will occur **March 31-April 3, 2025**, at the Amway Grand Plaza and DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. The MTA Annual Meeting will be conducted on Thursday, **April 3** at 9 a.m. in the Ballroom at DeVos Place to elect the Association's 2025 officers (president, two vice presidents, treasurer and secretary), adopt legislative policies (*see Policy Platform Process and Special Rules of Procedure [here](#)*), and other business including reports from officers and standing committees, along with additional matters as shall be properly brought forth before the delegates, including the right of rejection of a bylaw amendment adopted by the MTA Board of Directors (see [February issue of Michigan Township Focus magazine](#)). All MTA members are encouraged to attend the MTA Annual Educational Conference & Expo, as well as the Annual Meeting. [Read more here.](#)

## Townships must file ARPA report by April 30; portal opens April 1

The vast majority of Michigan townships accepted federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, allocated by the U.S. government in 2021, to support response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Each township that accepted ARPA funds **must** complete their annual "Project and Expenditure Report" by the April 30 deadline, as a "non-entitlement unit of government" (NEU; all but Michigan's eight largest townships are NEUs). NEUs must complete the required report *every year*, even if your township has already fully spent the funds. According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, failure to do so will result in the township returning the funds—even if you've already spent them—to the U.S. government. The reporting portal typically opens around April 1. Resources and guidance are available on [MTA's "Federal COVID Relief" webpage](#), the state's [ARPA webpage](#) and [U.S. Treasury's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds website](#). As a reminder, your township's [SAM.gov](#) registration must be active for the reporting, and must be renewed annually. This is free of charge. Your township does not have to pay or go through a third party to renew your registration.



## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

### [Now You Know](#) lunchtime webinars

April 16: [Cloud Chronicles: Digital Records Management](#)

March 31-April 3: [Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#)

### [Pre-Conference sessions:](#)

- \*\* [Assessing Uniqueness: Best Practices for Assessment](#)
- \*\* [Board Authorities, Responsibilities and Roles](#)
- \*\* [Township Finances](#)
- \*\* [Legal Institute for Township Attorneys](#)

### [Introduction to Planning and Zoning:](#)

- May 7: [Frankenmuth](#)
- May 21: [Gaylord](#)
- May 28: [Kalamazoo](#)

## 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)



## Caucuses to be held at MTA Conference to elect members to MTA Board

Some 20 MTA districts will hold caucus elections at MTA's Annual Conference in Grand Rapids to elect district directors to serve on MTA's Board of Directors, for terms beginning at the MTA Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 3, and concluding immediately following the Association's Annual Meeting in 2029. In accordance with MTA bylaws, a director will be elected from each MTA district, except for districts represented by an incoming MTA officer and Executive Committee member-at-large, who shall serve simultaneously as representatives of their respective districts. This does not apply to the office of president. Based on the slate of candidates being put forth as officers by the MTA Nominating Committee on Thursday, April 3, the following districts will **NOT** convene a caucus: 8, 9, 13, 16 and 22. All other districts are required to convene a caucus to elect a director for their respective district. Qualifications to become an MTA Board member include township service gained through at least one full elected term as a township official. Prior announcement of candidacy is not required. Find district information and caucus locations here, as well as MTA bylaw caucus rules, [here](#).

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

[\\* Consumers Energy](#)

[\\* Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

[\\* Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC](#)

[\\* Hartleb Agency](#)

[\\* ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

[\\* Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

// 2025 MTA CONFERENCE SESSION

**Access Granted:**

### What You Need to Know About the New ADA Website Requirements

DEVOS PLACE, GRAND RAPIDS

TUESDAY, 4/1/2025 1:00PM - 2:15PM



**Kyle Shumaker**  
Shumaker Tech Group



**Michael Bila**  
Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches P.C.

## Bill would preempt local control on wedding/event barns

MTA testified before the House Agriculture Committee this week on a bill that would prohibit a local unit of government from adopting an ordinance that does not allow a barn or another facility located on a property zoned for agricultural use to be used as a commercial venue for weddings or other similar events. While [House Bill 4006](#), sponsored by Rep. Matthew Bierlein (R-Vassar Twp.), would allow local units to regulate noise, advertising, traffic, hours of operation, or other conditions that accompany the use of the facilities or land, MTA outlined a list of concerns with the bill and potential for increased litigation.



## Increase in number of parcel splits legislation passes Senate

The first 10 acres of a parent parcel or tract of land could soon be increased from four to 10 parcels under legislation approved by the Senate. [Senate Bill 23](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores), would also allow a municipality to authorize the further partitioning of land into more parcels or tracts than allowed under the Land Division Act if the land met standards established by the municipality. The bill now moves to the House for consideration where similar legislation is being considered.

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## **Bill would allow transfer of ownership of certain property without uncapping**

Legislation to modify the exemption definition of transfer of ownership for transfers of residential real property to a previous owner's immediate family members was approved by a House committee this week. Currently, if there is a transfer of ownership, the property's taxable value is "uncapped" but exemptions exclude a transfer of residential real property to the previous owner's (or their spouse's) mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson or granddaughter, as long as the property is not used for commercial purposes after the transfer. [House Bill 4014](#), sponsored by Rep. Brad Slagh (R-Zeeland Chtr. Twp), would add an exemption that includes transfers to a previous owner's (or their spouse's) grandmother or grandfather and adds these individuals to those eligible for the exemption in transfers involving a trust, as described above. HB 4014 also would provide that the above exemptions apply to a transfer to the previous owner's (or their spouse's) brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson or granddaughter and that individual's spouse, if the transfer occurred on or after Dec. 31, 2021. Similarly, for a transfer to a trust, the designation of the previous owner's (or their spouse's) brother, sister, son, daughter, adopted son, adopted daughter, grandson or granddaughter as a sole beneficiary would include a designation of that individual and their spouse made on or after Dec. 31, 2021. The bill moves to the full House for consideration.

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## **Notification to local fire departments and law enforcement agencies on temporary locking devices**

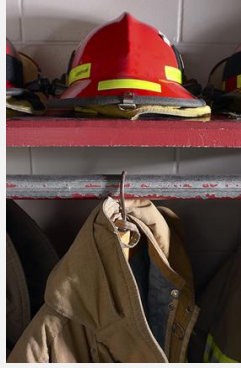
Local fire departments and law enforcement agencies would be notified if childcare centers in their jurisdiction install temporary locking devices to be used in emergency situations under legislation approved by the Senate this week. [Senate Bills 96, 97](#) and [98](#), sponsored by Sens. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), Roger Hauck (R-Union Chtr. Twp.) and Mallory McMorro (D-Royal Oak), would allow childcare centers to follow the same procedure as schools when they install the devices, requiring them to submit their plans to the appropriate enforcing agency for review. The bills now move to the House for consideration.

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## **Volunteer fire personnel asked to complete survey**

All volunteer firefighters, company officers and chief-level officers are asked to participate in an online survey, [Understanding the Role of Training on](#)

[Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention](#). The feedback is essential to help understand the structure and needs of volunteer fire departments, and will be used to enhance and tailor training programs to better serve department needs and improve overall effectiveness. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete, and responses will remain confidential and anonymous. This project is being conducted by researchers from Social Sciences Innovations Corporation, with support from the National Volunteer Fire Council and North American Fire Training Directors.



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## June MCAT course offering

[Applications](#) are now being accepted by the State Tax Commission for the [Michigan Certified Assessing Technician \(MCAT\)](#) program to be held **June 26 and 27** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Okemos Conference Center in **Meridian Charter Township** (Ingham Co.). The exam will be on **June 30** from 9 to 11 a.m. at the same location. Completed [applications](#) must be submitted to the commission by June 6 to be considered. Email [GastW@michigan.gov](mailto:GastW@michigan.gov) with questions.

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## BEAD permitting webinars with state departments

To assist with permitting considerations for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program projects, the Michigan High-speed Internet Office (MIHI) is hosting webinars in conjunction with the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources (DNR), Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Transportation (MDOT) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Register for the upcoming webinars using the links below:

- [DNR Threatened and Endangered Species webinar](#), **March 18** at 10 a.m.
- [EGLE Water Resources Division webinar](#), **March 18** at 11 a.m.
- [MDOT Permitting webinar](#), **March 18** at 3 p.m.
- [DNR Easement webinar](#), **March 24** at 1 p.m.
- [SHPO Process Review webinar](#), **March 24** at 2 p.m.
- [DNR Archaeology Permit Review and Retaining Cultural Consultants webinar](#), **March 24** at 3 p.m.

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## EGLE solid waste report offers insight into Michigan's landfills

In its 29th annual solid waste report with data from 2024, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) documented a 5.43% increase in solid waste disposed of in Michigan landfills from the previous year. Michigan residents and businesses contributed 7.05% more than 2023, while imported waste from Canada and other states declined 1.15%. Imported waste makes up 18.97% of waste in Michigan's landfills, with the largest source of waste outside Michigan being Canada. Ohio ranked first among the 12 states importing waste into Michigan in 2024, five of which did not import waste into Michigan the year prior. The full report containing data from all 67 of Michigan's landfills is available [online](#).

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## MPSC Renewable Energy Siting webpage offers updated resources

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has updated its [Renewable Energy and Storage Facility Siting webpage](#), which contains information for the public, landowners, local government officials and project developers. The page now includes updated Frequently Asked Questions documents, process flowcharts, setbacks graphics, as well as information of relevance to project developers preparing applications. **Documents and information shared on the webpage are not an official determination of the commission, nor are they a substitute for legal advice.**

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## Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program enrollment open

The Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) is accepting enrollments for the 2025 [Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program](#) (CLMP) season, with trainings to prepare new volunteers kicking off in April. CLMP volunteers play a key role in monitoring Michigan's lake health by monitoring water quality, invasive species and habitat conditions in Michigan lakes. Volunteers receive detailed instructions, training and equipment, and the data they collect are added to the [MiCorps Data Exchange](#), a public database that includes lake information dating back to 1974. An in-person volunteer training will be held in Muskegon on **April 25-26**, with an online training scheduled for **April 30**. [Register](#) for the training and learn more about the [CLMP program online](#).



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## Michigan risk-based corrective action process webinar series

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy [Remediation and Redevelopment Division](#) is preparing a guidance document related to incoming changes to corrective actions required under Part 213 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), which relates to underground storage tanks. The first two [webinars](#) in their four-part series covering the Michigan-specific risk-based corrective action process are scheduled for **March 24** and **March 31** from 1 to 3 p.m.

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## Rural readiness grant program informational webinar

The Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP) is offering an informational [webinar](#) on the Rural Readiness Grant Program on **March 20** at 11 a.m. Grant funding can assist rural development efforts including housing and infrastructure improvements, workforce development, education, and other capacity-building community advancements.

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## March 31 deadline for recycling and composting expansion program

Funding and technical support for expanded recycling and composting capacity is available for intergovernmental initiatives and public-private partnerships through [NextCycle's I2P3 Accelerator Track](#). New and ongoing eligible projects must be submitted by **March 31**.

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## BOE reminders for clerks

**Preregistration mailer.** By **April 1**, the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) will send nearly 100,000 [preregistration mailers](#) informing eligible Michiganders between the ages of 16 and 17.5 who have a Michigan driver's license or state ID of their option to preregister to vote. Clerks will receive an inbox notification when the individual turns 17.5 years old and is registered to vote.

**Business reply mail permit renewal.** BOE will process all the yearly business reply mail (BRM) permit renewals. If you receive a notification from USPS regarding BRM annual maintenance, you can disregard the notification, as the Bureau has also received the invoice. If you need an updated address list provided to your vendor or there is an error with your address information, email [BOEOperations@Michigan.gov](mailto:BOEOperations@Michigan.gov); Subject: Business Reply Permit. For more information on how to use the permit, review [Pre-paid Postage Guide and FAQ](#).

**Early voting reimbursement updates.** The early voting makeup period for all jurisdictions that missed the original submission period for Early Voting Grant 1, Grant 2, August and/or November wages will open in **mid-March**. If you applied for reimbursement and the bureau has requested additional documentation, please respond to requests for supplemental information as soon as possible. The election security/Help America Vote Act grant will open in April once early voting reimbursement is processed.

**Required weekend hours for May election.** All townships must report the hours the clerk's office will be open for absentee voting the Saturday and/or Sunday prior to the May 6 election. The hours must be added to the Qualified Voter File and posted alongside township notices in a central location by **April 7**.

**Absent voter (AV) ballot availability.** AV ballots must be available to all voters by **March 27** when clerks should be issuing ballots over the counter and processing ballots for voters who requested a ballot by mail. If factors outside the clerks' office control, like litigation, prevent you from having ballots available by March 27, post a notice in your office and on your township webpage and through social media accounts, if you have them. The notice should indicate the date ballots will be available, if that date has been provided to you.

### Important dates:

- **March 22**—Clerks must transmit ballots to military and overseas (MOVE) voters who have applied for ballots. Beginning of period during which clerk must make reasonable effort to verify or reject AV ballot application or return envelope by the end of the business day after it is received. Notice of polling place or early voting site must be provided for sites newly established or changed.
- **April 8**—Clerks intending to process or tabulate AV ballots before Election Day must submit written notice to the

Secretary of State.

- **April 18**—Deadline to post notice of the location, dates, hours and number of election inspectors for AV counting place if processing and tabulating AV ballots before Election Day.
  - **April 25**—Deadline for clerks processing and tabulating AV ballots before Election Day to post revised notice of location, dates, hours or number of election inspectors if needed.
  - **April 28**—Municipalities with a population of at least 5,000 may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.
  - **May 5**—Any municipality may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.
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## Technostress webinar recordings available

All three parts of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's (LEO) mental health in the workplace webinar series covering technostress are now available online. View recordings of past webinars on LEO's [YouTube playlist](#).

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## Coffee with MIOSHA in Lansing

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) and Incompass Michigan are hosting a [networking event](#) focused on workplace safety and health for Michigan employers. Employers are invited to ask questions and discuss workplace safety challenges, as well as learn about MIOSHA's programs and services to enhance safety and health in the workplace. The event is scheduled for **March 24** from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at 335 Seymour Ave. in Lansing.

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## Spring into learning with MTA this month

MTA's March classes offer something for everyone on your township team! Join us in Grand Rapids on **March 31** (before we kick off our [Annual Conference & Expo](#)) for:

- [Assessing Uniqueness](#): Explore best practices for effective assessment administration, approved for four hours of assessors renewal credit.
- [Board Authorities, Responsibilities and Roles](#): In-depth insights into board authority, who does what and keeping a productive focus on what matters most.
- [Township Finances](#): Dive deep into financial oversight, protecting financial assets, powerful budgeting and warning signs of potential financial trouble.
- [Legal Institute for Township Attorneys](#): Changes, updates, and trends impacting township government, loaded with insights to help you serve your municipal clients.

[Online learning sale](#): Can't spare the time to attend MTA workshops in person? Our [Online Learning Library](#) has more than 100 webinars available on demand. Purchase before **March 31** and you'll have up to one year to watch when it works for you. Use promo code March2025 at checkout to receive half-off!

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## Federal updates for week of March 10

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships

[Weekly Legislative Update](#) for an update on federal actions impacting townships.

Additionally, NATaT continues to closely track the executive actions on the federal level of importance to local communities and has updated its two special reports. The [Special Report: Trump Administration Executive Action—Updated 3.6.2025](#) includes recent executive actions and the [Special Report: Impact of Executive Action on Federal Funding—Updated 3.12.2025](#) outlines the impact that these executive actions, as well as related litigation, are having on federal grant and loan.

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