

March 28, 2025

## See you in Grand Rapids!

The MTA office will be closed March 31-April 4, while MTA staff is at the [2025 Annual Educational Conference & Expo in Grand Rapids](#). You may call the MTA office and leave messages for staff at (517) 321-6467 or contact staff via email; responses will be delayed. The office re-opens on Monday, April 7.



On-site registration is available for the township event of the year, including one-day options. Not able to join us in person? You can still get the education and inspiration with our [Conference On-Demand](#), with recordings for 10 educational sessions and three main-stage events.

## U.S. Treasury issues notice on unobligated or impermissibly used ARPA funds

The U.S. Department of the Treasury issued an alert to all recipients of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)—also called American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA—awards that it will be vigorously monitoring recipients' methods of obligating funds by the Dec. 31, 2024, deadline. For non-entitlement unit (NEU) townships (all but Michigan's eight largest townships), your next report must be submitted to Treasury **between April 1 and April 30, 2025**, covering obligations through the Dec. 31, 2024, deadline. U.S. Treasury plans to conduct enhanced compliance checks on the obligation data to ensure funds are used in accordance with program requirements, and **to recoup funds obligated or expended impermissibly and recapture funds that were not obligated by the deadline**. For local units that did not fully obligate their funds by the deadline, you will receive "Financial Instructions to Return Unobligated Funds" based on the latest data available to Treasury. The instructions will:



- Inform the recipient how much it owes, based on its most recently submitted report.
- Provide a date by which funds must be repaid.
- Require recipients to use Pay.gov to process the repayments.

If recipients do not repay amounts owed by the specified date, U.S. Treasury will establish a debt and follow standard debt collection policy and procedures in coordination with the federal Bureau of the Fiscal Service. Interest and penalties will accrue once the debt is established.

**INTRODUCTION TO PLANNING & ZONING**  
An evening workshop exploring key elements of an effective planning & zoning program

FROM 5 to 8 P.M.  
MAY 7 | FRANKENMUTH  
MAY 21 | GAYLORD  
MAY 28 | KALAMAZOO

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

## 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](#)

## Next 'Fiscally Ready Communities' webinar explores capital project planning

[Register now](#) for the state Department of Treasury's next [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) webinar, "Capital Asset Management and Planning," on **April 10** at 10 a.m. The webinar will cover the basics of a capital improvement program, best practices for organizing major projects, and give participants a chance to share techniques that have worked for their community, as well as policies, procedures and accounting for capital asset management and planning. Questions can be submitted in advance to [TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov), with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."

// 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.

## Renewables Ready Community dollars available

Local governments that have permitted or hosted utility-scale renewable energy projects since October 2023 are eligible for up to \$5,000 per megawatt (MW) through the state's [Renewables Ready Community Award](#). Applications remain open until all the funds, which total \$30 million, have been awarded. Twenty-nine municipalities hosting and permitting 4,500 MW have received a combined \$20.6 million since the program began. A [dashboard](#) containing participating municipalities and the intended uses of their awards is now available for reference.

## New laws taking effect on April 2

Numerous new laws, including election-related changes, increased unemployment benefits, emergency services and environmental issues, passed in 2024 and signed into law will take effect on April 2:



**PA 6: Environmental protection**—Provides criminal penalties and civil fines for unlawful dumping of garbage.

**PA 13: Noxious weeds**—Prohibits classification of milkweed as a noxious or exotic weed by local governments.

**PA 16 & 17: Asbestos**—Requires disclosure of environmental violations for public contracts for asbestos abatement projects, and modifies provisions related to civil penalties for repeated violations and asbestos-related violations.

**PA 33: Speed limits**—Modifies the procedures for establishing speed limits on public highways and provides for the establishment of speed limits lower than the general 85th

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



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



\* [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](#)



percentile standard in specified circumstances.

**PA 47: Court operations**—Requires the state Supreme Court to determine court operation costs and propose a new funding system.

**PAs 55 & 56: Asbestos**—Requires certain local government contracts to contain a provision allowing the withholding of payment to asbestos abatement or demolition contractors for environmental violations, requires disclosure by said contracts and specifies minimum rates of inspection.

**PA 58: Asbestos**—Requires annual report on sufficiency of number of inspectors for asbestos emissions program for demolition or renovation activity.

**PA 59: Asbestos abatement**—Requires background investigation, public posting and public hearings for public contracts for asbestos abatement projects in certain circumstances.

**PA 64: Emergency service authorities**—Allows emergency services authorities to serve partial municipalities.

**PA 68: Energy**—Invalidates and makes unenforceable the prohibition of energy-saving home improvements by homeowners' associations for an association member to install certain energy-saving improvements or modifications.

**PAs 74 & 75: Election recounts**—Modifies recount process and recount filing fees, modifies ballot canvassing deadlines under certain circumstances, and requires an expedited ballot canvass in certain circumstances.

**PA 97: Property tax transfers**—Modifies penalties for failure to file a property tax transfer affidavit.

**PA 102: Inland lakes**—Allows the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to issue emergency orders concerning structure or fill on inland lake or stream bottomlands.

**PA 106: Weight restrictions**—Provides that a vehicle with a gross weight of up to 82,000 pounds can exceed applicable axle loading and weight load maximums by a total of up to 2,000 pounds for all axles of the truck, truck tractor or power unit.

**PA 110: Prevailing wage**—Requires prevailing wage on certain solar and wind energy projects, requires contractors to obtain a registration to perform work on certain projects, and modifies enforcement.

**PA 112: Inland lakes**—Modifies definition of a normal lake level for an inland lake and provides for specific actions to finance projects to maintain the established normal level of that lake.

**PA 126: Public services**—Provides authority for certain townships to purchase, own or operate a public service facility that provides transportation to the township and its residents.

**PA 153: Housing**—Requires a local unit's master plan to forecast and consider housing needs and adds housing to the list of major interests for the membership of a planning commission.

**PAs 157 & 158: Firearms**—Prohibits possession of firearms at a polling place and within 100 feet of an absent voter counting

board while ballots are being counted.

**[PAs 164 & 165](#): Traffic control**—Allows use of automated traffic enforcement devices in work zones to enforce speed limit reductions and reflects distribution of said fines.

**[PA 173](#): Unemployment**—Increases maximum number of weeks and level of benefits of unemployment.

**[PAs 181 & 207](#): Data centers**—Extends sunset for sales and use tax exemptions for data center equipment and modifies to include enterprise data center as qualified data center. *PA 207 is effective April 17, 2025.*

**[PA 196](#): Youth employment**—Modifies work permit issuance procedures for youth employment.

**[PA 197](#): Employment notification**—Requires an employer to display a poster at their place of business containing information related to certain services available to veterans.

**[PA 203](#): Transportation Funds**—Modifies urban county population ranges used in distributing Transportation Economic Development program (TEDF) funding for transportation for projects on local roads.

**[PA 204](#): Land banks**—Exempts a land bank authority's property, income and operations from all taxes, special assessments and user fees imposed by the state or a local unit of government unless the authority—or its tenant—enters an express contract for those services.

**[PA 221](#): Elections**—Expands list of allowable uses for on-demand ballot printing systems for early voting.

**[PA 222](#): Elections**—Modifies period for election-related civil actions.

**[PA 227](#): Canvassing**—Prohibits an individual from serving on Board of State Canvassers or county canvasser boards if convicted of an elections-related offense.

**[PAs 231 & 232](#): Controlled substances**—Provides for distribution of naloxone under the Administration of Opioid Antagonist Act and provides the distribution of opioid antagonists by employees and agents of agencies under administration of the act.

**[PA 234](#): Elections**—Modifies procedure by which local clerks are provided the required material for a statewide ballot question and process for designating those proposals for the ballot.

**[PA 236](#): Transportation authorities**—Modifies public transportation authority millages and ends ability of certain political subdivisions (in Oakland and Wayne Counties) to opt out of membership in public transportation authorities.

**[PA 237](#): Drains**—Allows a drain commission to assess a drainage district \$5,000 per mile or fraction of a mile for a drain and increases the figure used to determine a drainage fund's insufficiency to less than \$10,000 per mile or fraction of a mile of a drain.

**[PAs 259 & 260](#): Hate crimes**—Modifies hate crime provisions to prohibit a hate crime, prescribes the actions that constitute a hate

crime, and provides penalties.

### **[PA 275: Emergency Medical Transport Reimbursement Program](#)**

—Requires the state to establish a program to provide supplemental reimbursement for eligible ground emergency medical transportation services.

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### **May 6 election reminders for clerks**

**Official ballots for May election** must be sent to the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) for archiving purposes; email to [MylesM5@Michigan.gov](mailto:MylesM5@Michigan.gov).

**Notice of registration for May election** must be posted in a newspaper of general circulation by Monday, April 7. A sample notice of registration is available in the BOE's eLearning Center.

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### **State shares info to help combat spread of bird flu**

The state of Michigan has asked MTA to share information on how to combat the spread of avian influenza (HPAI), aka bird flu. This information may be helpful to share with residents. Michigan has been battling HPAI for over three years, and the virus has heavily impacted our backyard and commercial poultry farmers and, in March 2024, crossed over into Michigan's dairy cattle. While the virus is primarily spread by migratory wild birds, it can also be moved to new areas by people on their shoes, clothes, car tires and more. Anyone has the potential to spread HPAI, particularly if they move between farming locations on the same day. [Read more from the state here.](#)



### **Federal updates for week of March 24**

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships [Weekly Legislative Update](#) for an update on federal actions impacting townships.

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Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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