

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

March 29, 2024

April 1 deadline to report EMPP, Small Business Tax, and QHERPP Exemptions

Township officials and assessors are reminded the deadline to report parcel information related to new Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property (EMPP) exemptions (Form 5278), EMPP rescissions (Form 5277), and Small Business Tax exemptions of true cash value greater than \$80,000 but less than \$180,000 **are to be reported to the state Department of Treasury by April 1**. Assessors can export through computer-assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) software (find BS&A instructions [here](#)). If your township does not use CAMA software, submit forms to ESAREporting@michigan.gov. If no parcels are claiming or rescinding these exemptions in your township, submit that there is no exemption information to report via CAMA software by emailing ESAREporting@michigan.gov.

Assessors are also required to report all parcels receiving the Qualified Heavy Equipment Rental Personal Property (QHERPP) exemption to Treasury **by April 1**. To report, assessors must submit Form 5819 and a copy of the Page 3 spreadsheet in Excel format (PDFs of Page 3 are not acceptable) to Treas-QHERPP@michigan.gov. If no QHERPP exemptions were granted in your local unit, no reporting is necessary.

Township engagement in BEAD challenge process is critical to the state accessing \$1.6 billion in funding

Townships have a key role in helping the state access \$1.6 billion available in federal funding to get every community and Michigander connected to high-speed internet access and assist the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) locate all non-connected areas. Funding from the Broadband Equity, Access and



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Upcoming MTA Training & Events

April 10 Now You Know lunchtime webinar:

[Public Use of Township Property and Facilities](#)

May 8 Now You Know lunchtime webinar:

[Cemetery Services](#)

April 22-25: [Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#)

April 22 [Pre-Conference sessions:](#)

****Assessor's Renewal:**
[March Madness](#)

****[Understanding Assessing Basics](#)**

Deployment (BEAD) program will allow investment in technologies to serve Michigan residents far into the future. To get to that level, local units of government, residents and others are asked to help during the State Challenge Process, **open now through April 23**. View the [Michigan Broadband Map](#) for served, unserved or underserved locations within your community. The challenge process allows you to confirm whether the areas in your township are served to improve access in your community. You can view MIHI's [Eligible Challenger webinar](#) to learn what types of challenges will be accepted, what type of evidence will be required, and how to use the State Challenge Portal to submit challenges and evidence. A [Community Anchor Institutions webinar](#) is also available for viewing.

Individual members of the public can also provide data issues that they have with a high-speed internet connection or with their speed of service. Concerns can be reported through [a tool developed by Merit Network](#). (The [MIHI portal](#) is for eligible challengers, including townships and other local units of government. The Merit website is specifically for individuals.)

MIHI will hold virtual office hours during the challenge submission phase—no registration is required, and you can join anytime during that window. Links to the MIHI support hours are:

- [Thursday, April 4, 12:30-2:30 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, April 11, 12:30-2:30 p.m.](#)
- [Tuesday, April 16, 12:30-2:30 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, April 18, 12:30-2:30 p.m.](#)
- [Monday, April 22, 12:30-2:30 p.m.](#)

For more on the challenge process, visit MIHI's [BEAD Program](#) webpage. Grants would begin to be issued in 2025 to help get networks to every doorstep in Michigan. Funding would be available to not just internet service providers, but to nonprofits, **local governments** and other private businesses.

**[Defining Your Township's Land Use Future](#)

**[Show Me the Money](#)

**[Legal Institute for Township Attorneys](#)

MTA QUICK LINKS

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[Training](#)

[Advocacy](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Community Connection](#)

[Webcasts](#)

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2024 MTA EXPO
BOOTH 103

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Next MPSC renewable energy stakeholder meeting is April 5

You can join the next Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) stakeholder meeting on **April 5** regarding the implementation of Public Act 233 of 2023—the law that gives siting authority to the commission for utility-scale wind, solar and energy storage facilities. The engagement sessions [scheduled](#) are open to the public to gather input for the implementation of PA 233. Sign up for the MPSC email distribution list on the [Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Facility Siting webpage](#). You can also find the presentations and recordings from the March 7 and March 19 stakeholder presentations [here](#).

Redistricting maps approved by federal court for state House districts

A federal judicial panel ruled this week that the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission’s replacement plan for certain state House districts shows no violations of the Voting Rights Act—thereby approving the new maps for seven state House districts for the upcoming 2024 elections. Last December, the federal panel ruled seven House districts and six Senate districts were drawn with race as a predominating factor in violation of the U.S. Constitution and ordered the commission to redraw the maps. The new maps change 15 House districts—Districts 1-14 and District 16. The commission will begin redrawing the maps for the specific Senate districts next month.

New construction code forms will impact local code compliance programs

Beginning April 1, updated construction application forms for [building permits](#), [electrical permits](#), [mechanical permits](#), [plumbing permits](#), [plan examinations](#), [school building projects](#) and [premanufactured units](#) will be required by the state Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC); previous versions of these forms will not be accepted **after March 31, 2024**. The new forms, prescribed by the State Construction Code Commission (SCCC), will also impact local code compliance programs. For local units of government, the SCCC also prescribed plan review application forms and permit application forms be



* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

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

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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substantially similar to the updated BCC forms. BCC encourages local units of government to ensure their forms contain language and seek information required under state law, in substantial conformity with the updated BCC forms prescribed by the SCCC. Any local units of government using electronic versions of their forms through an online plan review and permitting system should maintain consistency for all application form formats. The new state forms can be located at [Permits](#) and [Plan Reviews](#). Questions should be directed to BCCpermits@michigan.gov or (517) 241-9313.

Reminder to clerks: BOE presidential primary EV survey closes April 19

Clerks and election staff are encouraged to complete the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) survey in e-Learning by **April 19** to provide feedback on administering early voting (EV) in the February election. It contains questions on early voting technology, procedures, training sessions and materials. We encourage all clerks and election staff to complete this survey, especially those who were early voting coordinators or site supervisors during the presidential primary.



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Measure would expand prevailing wage requirements on state projects to include solar, wind and energy storage projects

Prevailing wages and fringe benefits, required by law on state projects, could soon be expanded to include solar, wind and energy storage projects with nameplate capacities of two megawatts or more. [Senate Bill 571](#), sponsored by Sen. John Cherry (D-Flint), would require prevailing wage for state renewable energy projects and ensure the state Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) has authority to enforce the requirements. These include implementing a state project registration system for contractors and subcontractors, requiring

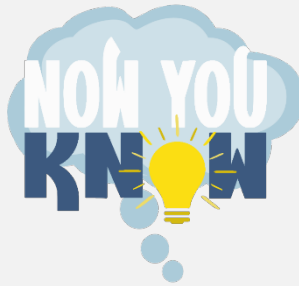
contractors and subcontractors bidding or working on state projects to have a state project registration, prescribing requirements for contractor and subcontractor payroll records, and requiring LEO to create and maintain a certified payroll database. The measure would have no fiscal impact on local units of government. The bill was reported by the Senate Labor Committee last week and will next be considered by the full Senate.

MTA's April webinar reviews *Public Use of Township Property and Facilities*

Every township board member needs to be aware of the legal issues regarding township real estate, facilities and equipment.

Do you know who “owns”

township property? And does “publicly owned” mean “open to the public?” Spend an hour with MTA Staff Attorney Catherine Mullhaupt at noon on **April 10** as she explores the complicated topic of who decides how a township’s property will (or will not!) be used or accessed. You’ll walk away with a better understanding of the board’s role and responsibilities. *Bonus:* [MTA Online Premium Pass](#) subscribers get free access (discount is applied automatically at checkout). [Click here to register now!](#)



DNR seeking conservation officers for January training academy

Applications are being accepted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a [conservation officers training academy](#) that starts in **January 2025**. Applicants must meet the [Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement licensing standards](#) and be at least 21 years of age by the time they graduate from the

training academy (July 3, 2025). The posting closes **May 23, at 11:59 p.m.** and recruits will begin the 26-week academy Jan. 5 at the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing. Previous law enforcement, fishing or hunting experience or a college education are not required.

Upcoming webinars and workshops

Food waste. A workshop for local officials and staff on food waste reduction planning and collaboration opportunities with other local governments will be held on **May 15**. The free, in-person [Catalyst Communities Food Waste Workshop](#), hosted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), will be held in Lansing and feature topic experts. Space is limited and [registration is required by May 8](#).

Drinking water. Attend a webinar on **April 16, 9 to 10 a.m.**, to learn how your township can receive funding to protect your drinking water. Receive information on grant eligible funding, activities and tips to ensure your application meets EGLE requirements. The training will include a demonstration of the grant application process, common application errors, and tips to increase the likelihood your grant request is awarded. [Register here](#).

Spring weight restrictions adjusted as of April 1

Effective **Monday, April 1** at 6 a.m., weight restrictions will be lifted on all state trunkline highways from the southern Michigan border north to and including US-2/US-141 at the Menominee River bridge west of Iron Mountain then east on US-2 to St. Ignace, then north on I-75 to M-134, then east to and including M-134 on Drummond Island. Frost restrictions remain in effect for the remainder of the state and will be imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways north of US-2, I-75, and M-134 and on M-185 on Mackinac Island. State routes typically carry M, I or US designations.



Federal update for week of March 25

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