

March 6, 2026

## Partnership over preemption housing option introduced

In an effort to address housing needs through partnership, [House Bills 5660](#) and [5661](#), sponsored by Reps. Mark Tisdell (R-Rochester Hills) and Samantha Steckloff (D-Farmington Hills), were introduced this week in the House. The legislation, supported by MTA, would create programs designed to encourage communities to adopt various zoning policies and provide financial support for developers and employers to build or rehabilitate housing for income-qualified households. The measure would provide grants to local units of up to \$50,000 to help with planning work for zoning ordinance updates, master plan revisions or consultant assistance. Developers and builders could apply to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for financial assistance to construct or rehabilitate housing. The grants would provide up to one-third of construction costs or \$100,000 per new housing unit, whichever is lower, as well as grants for rehabilitation projects for up to one-third of costs or \$50,000 per unit, whichever is lower. An additional provision would create a low-interest revolving loan program to fill financing gaps for housing projects. Both bills are now in the House Government Operations Committee.



## Help protect local decision-making and community-led housing solutions

As local leaders, we have a chance to stand united in opposition to zoning preemption legislation that has been introduced in the state House of Representatives and is currently before the House Government Operations Committee. [House Bills 5529-5531](#) and [5581-5585](#) would strip local elected officials and planning commissions of their decision-making authority and dismiss years of community input and planning work. A clear override from Lansing on local voices and voter-backed decisions, the legislation would preempt local governments on key zoning issues, including duplexes, accessory dwelling units, minimum setbacks, lot sizes and dwelling unit sizes.

MTA needs your voices **now** to join our efforts and share your opposition to this attack on local decision-making. Officials can add their signature to [our joint letter of](#)

**BLKRK** | **BLACK ROCK TECHNOLOGIES**  
MICHIGAN BASED IT TECH SUPPORT FOR TOWNSHIPS

**AFFORDABLE AND RESPONSIVE TECH SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPALITIES**

**(734) 338-8658**  
**info@black-rock.tech**

**CiviClarity**  
WEBSITE SERVICE

**Save time publishing Meetings and Events**  
with our Intuitive Calendar app

Stop by Booth 102 at the Expo

### UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

**March 10:** FREE live Q&A, 11 AM [The Compliance Countdown: Is Your Website Ready?](#)

**March 17:** [2026 MTA Capital Conference](#)

**March 18:** *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar [Squeaky Wheel Maintenance: Using Policies to Turn Complaints into Constructive Input](#)

**April 20-23:** Registration is open for [MTA's 2026 Annual Educational Conference & Expo](#) at the Grand Traverse Resort

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



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

**opposition**—adding your voice to the more than 1,900 local leaders who have already signed. In addition, please contact your [state representative](#) and [state senator](#) today to ensure residents and locally elected leaders have the freedom to engage in vigorous debate on matters that impact their community every day.

The legislation does not consider the full scope of factors impacting attainable housing, including labor shortages, rising labor, material and land costs, and state mandates, and instead places the blame solely on local governments. We ask lawmakers to instead work toward a true, comprehensive solution to help resolve the housing shortage (*see above article*).

MTA urges you to **act now to voice your opposition**. As locally elected and appointed officials, we must be united and engage with legislators to ensure land use planning remains a local decision. Visit [MTA's website](#) for additional details on the legislation and co-sponsors, and for more information and resources, including a press conference where MTA, southeast Michigan local leaders and organizations representing local government voiced their opposition.



**BLKRK** | **BLACK ROCK TECHNOLOGIES**  
**AFFORDABLE AND RESPONSIVE  
TECH SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPALITIES**  
(734) 338-8658 | info@black-rock.tech

### Bill restricting millage questions approved by House committee

Townships and other taxing authorities could soon be limited in their ability to place millage questions to voters under a bill that was approved by the House Election Integrity Committee this week. [House Bill 4583](#), sponsored by Rep. Matt Maddock (R-Milford), would amend the General Property Tax Act to stipulate that a taxing unit could only put a millage question on a regular November ballot. MTA opposed the legislation as it limits the ability of local units of government to respond to township needs in a timely manner and creates voter fatigue due to ballot length. This bill touches a variety of services township residents utilize—from public safety and libraries to senior services, parks and transit. [HB 4584](#), which would place the same restriction on school districts, also was approved by the committee. The bills advance to the House floor for a vote by the full chamber.

### House approves bills on annual food truck fire inspections/prohibiting local fees and ordinances

Standardizing the fire inspection process for mobile food establishments could soon change and local units would also be prohibited from adopting any rule, regulation, code or ordinance that imposes a fee, tax or assessment for the operation of a food truck. [House Bill 5450](#), sponsored by



**MI Par Plan**  
MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATING PLAN  
www.theparplan.com/



**MERS**  
Municipal Employees' Retirement System  
www.mersofmich.com

\* [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](#)

### Michigan Township Participating Plan



Safeguarding Michigan Public Entities Since 1985  
[theparplan.com](#)

### MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)  
[Training](#)  
[Advocacy](#)  
[Classifieds](#)  
[Community Connection](#)  
[Webcasts](#)  
[Store](#)  
[Township Governance Academy](#)  
[Allied Service Providers](#)  
[NATaT](#)

Rep. Timothy Beson (R-Kawkawlin Twp.) and opposed by MTA, and [HB 5451](#), sponsored by Rep. Joseph Aragona (R-Clinton Chtr. Twp.) were approved by the House this week. MTA opposed HB 5450 as it would **prohibit local units of government from all regulations and fees**, including electrical inspections, permits and protections to public water and sewer systems, on mobile food establishments. MTA sought an amendment to HB 5450 to place the limitation only on annual fire inspections. HB 5451 requires an annual fire inspection with specific notification and inspection timelines, which MTA did not oppose. Both bills will now be considered by the Senate.

---



**Half Off Webcasts!**  
**ALL OF MARCH!**  
USE CODE **MARCH2026** [CLICK HERE TO START SHOPPING!](#)

---

### **Committee approves bill expanding liability exemptions for shooting ranges**

MTA opposed legislation this week that would expand liability exemptions for sport shooting ranges. [House Bill 4949](#), sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Wortz (R-Quincy Twp.), was approved by the House Judiciary Committee. Currently, an owner, operator or user of a sport shooting range that conforms to generally accepted operation practices is exempt from civil liability in any matter relating to noise, noise pollution or nuisance, as long as the range is in compliance with any noise control laws or ordinances that applied to it at the time of its construction or initial operation. HB 4949 would provide these exemptions apply if the sport shooting range was updated or modified—including range expansion. The expansion of geographical boundaries with no limits is a major concern, creating issues for local units of government. Additionally, MTA believes the definition is broad and by itself can lead to dispute and litigation regarding what is considered a sport shooting range. MTA is working with the bill sponsor on changes before the bill is considered by the full House.

---

### **Deadline for candidate replacement bill advances**

The deadline to get a replacement candidate on a ballot after a vacancy caused by the death, withdrawal or disqualification of a candidate would change under legislation approved by the House this week. [House Bill 5467](#), sponsored by Rep. Rachelle Smit (R-Wayland Twp.), states that a candidate could be replaced on the ballot only if the vacancy occurs 55 or more days before the election. For a township office, the 55-day requirement under HB 5467 would apply if a candidate dies and the political party is without a candidate before a primary election or if a candidate dies, moves out of the township or becomes disqualified for any reason before a general election. The bill would also require that replacement ballots be printed no later than 55 days before the election. The names of candidates who die, withdraw or become

disqualified 54 days or less before an election would stay on the ballot. The bill moves to the Senate for further discussion.

---

## **Paid military leave requirement legislation moves to Senate**

Townships may soon be required to provide at least 26 days of paid military leave for full-time firefighters and law enforcement officers under legislation approved this week by the House. [House Bill 5233](#), sponsored by Rep. Ron Robinson (R-Utica) and opposed by MTA, would establish a state requirement without funding that law enforcement agencies and organized fire departments provide a minimum of 26 days of paid military leave at the beginning of each year for employees who are enlisted in the Army or Air National Guard or in the reserves (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard). The state-required military leave time would not roll over at the end of a calendar year and would be used for military training or performance of military duty as well as a preinduction physical for those seeking to enlist. The employee seeking use of the paid military leave would have to be paid at their regular rate of pay and, if covered by a collective bargaining agreement, provided all contractually required benefits and accruals. MTA was able to obtain two clarifying amendments to HB 5233—clarification that it is applicable to full-time employees only and that there is no payout of the military leave upon separation of employment. The bill moves to the Senate for consideration.


---

## **Modernizing Michigan**

Our Government Banking forum featuring:  
**Payments, Fraud Protection and Infrastructure Financing**  
March 26, 10am – 3 pm, Troy, Michigan



To RSVP, scan the QR code to email  
[GovernmentBanking@flagstar.com](mailto:GovernmentBanking@flagstar.com)

 **flagstar** | INSTITUTIONAL BANKING

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

## **Nominating petition requirements could change under bill**

By a vote of 103-3, the House approved legislation that would remove the requirement for a candidate's street address to be present on nominating and qualifying petitions. [House Bill 5468](#), sponsored by Rep. Rachelle Smit (R-Wayland Twp.), would also require a space for a candidate's website address if they have one and an indicator of if a congressional candidate is a resident of the district they seek to represent. Testimony heard by the House Election Integrity Committee earlier this year focused on safety issues that candidates have encountered because of their addresses being public. The bill advances to the Senate for consideration.

---

## **Public alert for missing veterans passes committee**

Under legislation approved by the House Committee on Families and Veterans, law enforcement could utilize the

existing missing senior and vulnerable adult alert system for missing veterans who do not otherwise qualify for an alert. [House Bill 5387](#), sponsored by Rep. Cam Cavitt (R-Mullett Twp.), would define “missing



veteran at risk” as an active-duty member or veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who is reported to be missing and have a physical or mental health condition by a person familiar with that individual. Upon receiving a report of a missing veteran at risk, a law enforcement agency would follow the public alert and reporting requirements currently in place for missing seniors and vulnerable adults. The bill was reported to the House floor for further action.

// FREE MTA Q&A WEBINAR ON WEBSITE ADA COMPLIANCE  
🕒 TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 @ 11:00AM

**The Compliance Countdown:  
🕒 Is Your Website Ready?**

[CLICK TO BEGIN REGISTRATION NOW](#)



Kyle Shumaker



## MTA 2026 Capital Conference—last week to register

With housing, zoning and property tax issues at the legislative forefront, it is more important than ever for you to attend [MTA's 2026 Capital Conference](#). Join us in Lansing to engage in critical discussions on the current legislation that will affect both your township’s decision-making for your community and your township’s funding for years to come. You will also get insight on what’s coming and learn how these state-level proposals impact your township. The event puts you in the room with decision-makers shaping Michigan’s future—legislators, state departments and MTA policy experts. You’ll gain the knowledge, clarity and tools you need to navigate the evolving policy landscape and better position your township. Discover how you can [benefit from attending](#) and engage, advocate and influence the legislative issues impacting townships in 2026. **Learn more about [MTA's 2026 Capital Conference](#)** and register today.

## Local marijuana payments issued, but at lower level due to decreased sales

Based on marijuana revenues collected in Fiscal Year 2025, the Michigan Department of Treasury announced that each local government with a marijuana retailer will receive \$54,017 per retail store or microbusiness license in their boundaries. This is a decrease of over \$4,000 per license from the previous fiscal year due to lower sales and the lowest payment since FY 22. The list of municipalities that will receive these funds and their expected payment is available [online](#).

## STC announces MCAO and June MCAT courses

The State Tax Commission (STC) is now accepting applications for the upcoming [Michigan Certified Assessing Officer \(MCAO\)](#) and [Michigan Certified Assessing Technician \(MCAT\)](#) programs. The nine-month MCAO program covers 10 chapters, with weekly virtual classroom sessions on either Monday or Tuesday evenings with breaks scheduled into the program. [MCAO applications](#) must be received (not postmarked) by the STC by April 24. Specific classroom dates will be given after acceptance to the program.

Two MCAT programs will be held in June:

- June 4-5 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in **Meridian Charter Township** (Ingham Co.), with the exam on June 8 from 9 to 11 a.m. [Applications](#) must be received by May 27.
- June 25-26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Gaylord, with the exam on June 29. [Applications](#) must be received by June 5.

Email [GastW@michigan.gov](mailto:GastW@michigan.gov) with questions.

---

## Upcoming webinars cover sewer overflows, recycling solutions

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is offering upcoming webinars for local leaders:

- **Sewer system spill information portal:** Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are required to be publicly available because of their impact on water quality and public health. On March 24 at 10 a.m., EGLE will host a [webinar](#) on how to find information about CSO and SSO events quickly through the [MiEnviro Portal](#).
  - **Innovative recycling solutions:** On March 24 at 1 p.m., EGLE will share examples of creative and replicable approaches to recycling service delivery from across Michigan. [Register online](#) for this 90-minute session for local officials.
- 

## Michigan Green Communities hosts office hours

Townships can still register for the annual [Michigan Green Communities \(MGC\) Challenge](#), which serves as a guide to help communities embed environmental sustainability into their operations, policies and programs. Complete a Challenge application by May 1 detailing actions your township undertook in 2025 to earn recognition as a participating community and gain access to technical assistance, resources and networking opportunities. Got questions or need assistance? [Virtual office hours](#) will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. on March 12, April 9 and 30 before the application period closes. MTA is an MGC partner.

---

## Catch up on the latest MIHI news

In January 2026, the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) launched a new web series called [MI BEAD Breakdown](#) to provide updates on the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program in Michigan and

what it means for communities across the state. The most recent episode highlights a number of different state and federal broadband programs and helps listeners answer the question: "Where's my



internet?" View current and future episodes on the [series webpage](#), where interested individuals may also [sign up](#) to receive episodes and program updates via email.

---

## Reminders for clerks

- **New reporting form for election mail issues:** If clerks are experiencing mail being held or another problem delivering election mail to their office, submit the issues to the U.S. Postal Service via this [form](#). After completing the form, forward confirmation to [MDOS-EASupport@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOS-EASupport@michigan.gov) to allow the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) to follow up on the issue.
- **Election inspector training materials:** Clerks can access a Train-the-Trainer course via the BOE's [eLearning Center](#). Additional materials to support election inspector training classes, including a new eLearning page, are coming soon.
- **AV ballots:** Absent voter (AV) ballots for the May 5 election must be available for voters by March 26. If ballots will not be available on time due to reasons beyond the clerk's control, clerks should post a notice at the office, and website and social media (if applicable) indicating when ballots will be available.
- **Early AV processing via absent voter counting board (AVCB) deadlines for May elections:**
  - o **April 7:** Written notice due to the secretary of state by completing Early Tabulation Declaration form via the eLearning Center. (If notice is not submitted by this date, early tabulation is not permitted.)
  - o **April 17:** Deadline to post notice at office and on website (if applicable) of location, dates, hours and number of election inspectors for AV counting.
  - o **April 24:** Deadline for clerks to post revised location, dates, hours and number of election inspectors if needed.
  - o **April 27:** Townships with a population of at least 5,000 with an AVCB that has provided appropriate notice may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.
  - o **May 4:** Any township with established AVCB that has provided appropriate notice may begin processing AV ballots.

Townships should notify their county clerks ASAP if they intend to process and tabulate AV ballots before Election Day. The Early AV Ballot Processing and Tabulating Guide is available in the eLearning Center.

- **May 5 election deadlines:** Several key responsibilities are due by **Saturday, March 21**, including:

- o **MOVE ballots:** Unlike other deadlines, the military and overseas voter (MOVE) ballot transmission deadline does not get bumped back to Monday, despite falling on a Saturday, including those who have chosen to receive an electronic ballot via the Electronic Delivery and Return Portal. At least one person in your township must complete EDARP training to access the system. [Virtual classes](#) are available at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on March 11, or the EDARP Access Training Module can be completed via the eLearning Center. Clerks should download their MOVE compliance report via the Qualified Voter File and verify that all applicable voters are appropriately entered. If something will prevent your township from meeting the deadline, email [MDOS-BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDOS-BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov) ASAP. If a MOVE ballot must be sent out late, the voter receives an extension equivalent to the number of days that the clerk was late to return the ballot if it is postmarked for Election Day.
- o Clerks should begin verifying and rejecting AV ballot applications or return envelopes by the end of the business day after receipt.
- o County clerks must provide programming for electronic voting equipment.
- o Deadline for county clerks to deliver AV ballots to township clerks.
- o Notice of polling places or early voting sites newly established or changed by 60 days before Election Day.

---

### Federal updates for week of March 2

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

---



**BLKRK** | **BLACK ROCK TECHNOLOGIES**

**AFFORDABLE AND RESPONSIVE  
TECH SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPALITIES**

 (734) 338-8658  [info@black-rock.tech](mailto:info@black-rock.tech)



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



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!