

March 7, 2025

Township leaders convene for MTA's 2025 Capital Conference

Nearly 200 township officials from across the state convened in Lansing this week for the MTA's 2025 Capital Conference to gather



insights and information on key township issues at the forefront in Lansing, including the critical need for preservation of local control, and adequate funding and investments in Michigan's communities, local roads and infrastructure. The event also allowed attendees to meet with lawmakers and legislative staff, and hear firsthand from experts on critical issues that impact townships and their residents including an overview of the recent changes to the Earned Sick Time Act, utility-scale renewable energy facility siting and pending litigation, and the impacts of property tax reform on local government funding. Additional session topics included cybersecurity and changes in election administration. In addition to MTA legal counsel and municipal attorneys, expert presenters included staff from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Michigan Bureau of Elections and the Citizens Research Council of Michigan.

Sen. John Cherry honored as MTA's Legislator of the Year

During the MTA 2025 Capital Conference, MTA recognized Sen. John Cherry (D-Flint) for his support of township government by presenting him with the MTA "Legislator of the Year" award. Sen. Cherry received the



award, which honors lawmakers who work diligently on townships' behalf, in recognition of his successful efforts to restore essential funding—statutory revenue sharing—to all Michigan municipalities, including our 1,240 townships. Sen. Cherry, in accepting the award, shared the necessity for reliable, consistent local revenue sources—and his hopes for continued improvements. "Local governments provide the most essential services that citizens rely on every day and making sure that you have the resources to deliver those to the people you represent is extremely important to our state," he said. "I was very happy and proud to be able to partner with many others to advance these improvements to revenue sharing last year, and am hoping to take further steps, with the passage of a revenue sharing trust fund."

Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

March 12: [Payroll Precision: Methods and Records](#)

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](#)

MTA QUICK LINKS

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MTA'S PRE-CONFERENCE CLASSES TAKE YOU ON A DEEP DIVE INTO THESE TOPICS:

Assessing Uniqueness: Best Practices for Assessment Administration

Board Authorities: Responsibilities & Roles
Township Finances

Legal Institute for Township Attorneys

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FY 26 Congressionally Directed Spending Project funding request

Townships can submit Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) project requests for FY 2026 to U.S. Sen. Gary Peters' office by **March 17**. Smaller projects have a greater chance of funding success than larger—especially if they can be completed in one funding cycle. To be considered, a project must be eligible for federal funding within its respective appropriations bill account and comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. Eligible entities submitting a request will be required to provide a detailed budget for the project, letters of support and a letter of certification as described in the electronic application. Information can be found [here](#), including links to the [Programmatic Request Form](#), [CDS \(earmark\) Request Form](#), and [FY 26 Appropriations Handbook](#), which includes a great deal of information on preparing and submitting a CDS request. All requests must be submitted by March 17. Email appropriations@peters.senate.gov with questions.

* [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.



Judicial Protection Act would prohibit information release under FOIA

Townships and other public bodies would be required to not publicly post, display or release under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request certain personal identifying information concerning a judge or certain family members under legislation approved by the Senate this week. [Senate Bill 82](#), sponsored by Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), would create the Judicial Protection Act to allow judges to submit a written request that a public body not publicly post or display certain information and to require compliance with such a request. If a request were made and not complied with, the judge could go to court to compel compliance and recover court costs and attorney fees from the public body. The bill advances to the full Senate for consideration.

EGLE provides recycling improvement opportunities for townships

Material disposed of in Michigan's municipal solid waste each year has an estimated market value of \$500 million to \$676 million.

According to a recent [report](#), if this material were collected for recycling, it would have an estimated economic impact of \$609 million to \$825 million per year, creating as many as 4,500 jobs. To assist townships and other public sector organizations develop recycling or organics recovery programs and infrastructure, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) is accepting grant applications through March 31 for the [NextCycle Michigan cohort program](#). The department also offers recycling resources at Michigan.gov/MIRecycles, assistance with grants and technical support from [recycling specialists](#) assigned by region, and [an education campaign](#) on reducing recyclables and food waste sent to landfills.

Connecting your community—and how your township can be involved

The [Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#) is moving forward and will soon be accepting grant applications. Nearly \$1.6 billion in federal funding has been allocated to deploy infrastructure to unserved and underserved homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions across our state. Final lists and maps of BEAD-eligible locations will be available in the coming weeks from the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI).



Internet service providers (ISPs) will submit applications to MIHI to secure grant funding to build to each BEAD-eligible location. Your township's leadership will be important in helping ensure that the BEAD program works well for your community and residents. Your letters of support will be considered as part of grant application scoring: you can provide a letter of support to one project, multiple projects, or none at all. It is important to know: no BEAD-eligible location will be left out! MIHI indicated that any internet service provider that tells you that you must "act now" so that your community is not left behind is not being truthful. MIHI encourages you to:

- Communicate with ISPs that may approach you to share information about their potential applications.
- Share with the ISPs any input you may have regarding their proposals (e.g., what permits will be required, best construction routes to minimize impact to the community).
- If you have not done so already, work with your township to ensure that you are preparing to review and respond to permit applications that you may receive in 2025 for BEAD-funded projects.

Plumber apprentice ratio taking effect on April 2

Under a new law taking effect April 2 that regulates the ratio of journey and master plumbers to apprentices on job sites, only building officials can [submit a complaint](#) to the state Bureau of Construction Codes. [Public Act 172 of 2024](#) stipulates that master and journey plumbers can supervise apprentices at a 1:2 ratio (one master or journey plumber to two registered apprentices).

Reminders for clerks

May election deadlines. **March 22** is the deadline to transmit ballots for the May 6 election to military and overseas (MOVE) voters who have applied for ballots. As this deadline falls on a Saturday, state Bureau of Elections (BOE) staff will be available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to assist with questions. **March 22** also begins the period during which clerks must make reasonable effort to verify or reject absent voter (AV) ballot application or AV ballot return envelope by the end of the business day after they are received. AV ballots must be available for voters and secure drop boxes must be accessible 24 hours each day by **March 27**.

Inactive voter registrations. Over 300,000 inactive voter registrations are slated to be removed from the voter rolls after they did not respond to the cancellation notice or engage in the two-federal-cycle period. Listed voters have until **March 28** to review and update their registration prior to cancellation.

Training opportunities. BOE is hosting 30- to 45-minute lunchtime virtual sessions on specialized election administration tasks throughout March and April. The first session on **March 13** is designed for new clerks administering their first election, though clerks of all experience levels are welcome to join. Registration for this and future sessions covering MOVE voters, AV ballot processing, Election Day procedures and more is in the [eLearning Center](#).

Update to NATaT Special Reports on executive actions

The National Association of Towns and Townships (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 3.6.25](#) includes recent executive actions and the [Special Report—Impact of Executive Action on Federal Funding, Updated 2.27.25](#) outlines the impact that these executive actions, as well as related litigation, are having on federal grant and loan. Stay tuned for continued updates.

Federal update for week of March 3

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

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

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