

# Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

March 8, 2024

## Township engagement critical in BEAD State Challenge Process



Townships and other local governments have a critical role in the process in which the Michigan High-speed Internet Office (MIHI) will determine the unserved, underserved and served status of every home, business and community anchor institution (such as schools, libraries and other similar organizations.) in the state. Michigan's State Challenge Process was approved this week, and will launch on March 25. MIHI is hosting upcoming webinars to provide further information on the process:

- **[Eligible Challengers—Tuesday, March 12, 1 to 2 pm](#)**: Local units of government are among eligible challengers, and can 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.
- **[Community Anchor Institutions \(CAIs\)—Thursday, March 14, 1:30 to 2:15 p.m.](#)**: CAIs are local units of government and organizations that serve as hubs for digital access in their communities and, as a result, have increased connectivity. This session will cover how CAIs can verify whether they are correctly represented on the map, and how they may monitor and respond to any challenge about whether they fit the definition of a CAI.

Additional information on the challenge process can be found on MIHI's [Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#) webpage.

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## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

March 22 *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar: [Legislative Insights](#)

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

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

\*\*[Assessor's Renewal](#):

[March Madness](#)

\*\*[Understanding](#)

[Assessing Basics](#)

\*\*[Defining Your](#)

[Township's Land Use](#)

[Future](#)

\*\*[Show Me the Money](#)

\*\*[Legal Institute for](#)

[Township Attorneys](#)

## Townships have until April 15 to change their early voting plan

If your township provided early voting as a single municipality for the presidential primary and would like to alter your early voting method, you have until **April 15** to do so. Under the [law](#), a local unit has until that date to enter into a municipal or county agreement to provide early voting for the remaining state and federal elections in 2024 and 2025. The agreement may be a new agreement or an amendment to an existing agreement as long as all parties involved agree to the amendment. After April 15, the only change that can be made to an existing agreement in 2024 is withdrawal from the agreement—which is allowed until June 7, 2024; a municipality that withdraws during this time must provide early voting as a single municipality for the remainder of 2024 and 2025. Contact [elections@michigan.gov](mailto:elections@michigan.gov) with any questions.



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## Proposal would exempt EV charging stations from property taxes

Local governments would lose personal and real property tax revenue under legislation being considered in the House Tax Policy Committee. [House Bill 4708](#), opposed by MTA, would exempt qualified charging stations from property taxes that are levied after Dec. 31, 2023. Under the bill, assessors would be required to exclude any increase in the true cash value of a property that results from the installation, replacement or repair of one or more qualified charging stations. With the anticipated increase in electric vehicles (EVs), charging stations will also increase, as would the revenue loss to local units of government. MTA opposes legislation creating a statewide tax exemption without revenue replacement for local units of government.

### MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)  
[Training](#)  
[Advocacy](#)  
[Classifieds](#)  
[Community Connection](#)  
[Webcasts](#)  
[Store](#)  
[Township Governance Academy](#)  
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\* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

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

\* [Hartleb Agency](#)

## Townships could distribute naloxone or other opioid antagonists

Townships and other government entities would be allowed to obtain and distribute naloxone or other equally safe and effective drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a drug overdose. Under [House Bills 5077](#) and [5078](#), sponsored by Reps. Curt VanderWall (R-Ludington) and Carrie Rheingans (D-Ann Arbor), as long as an employee or agent of the government entity has been trained in administering that opioid antagonist, they can distribute that drug to any individual. The bills would provide immunity from civil and criminal liability for injury, death or damages from the administration or failure to administer an opioid antagonist as long as the person's conduct is not willful or wanton misconduct. The bills passed the House Health Policy Committee and next will be considered by the full House.

## Bill would allow EGLE rule-making authority

Legislation approved by committee this week would provide the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) authority to promulgate rules under the Water Resources Protection provision of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. EGLE has been prohibited from promulgating rules regarding water resources since 2006 under an agreement between the administration and the Legislature regarding water withdrawals by Ice Mountain Water. [Senate Bill 663](#), sponsored by Sen. Sue Shink (D-Northfield Twp.), would remove this prohibition. While it is uncertain what rules would change, significant concern exists that floodplain maps could be redrawn creating challenges for individuals and communities. The bill passed the Senate Energy and Environment Committee and now moves to the full Senate.

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

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

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



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The advertisement features a collage of various website designs on the left, including one for "WRIGHT TOWNSHIP" and another for "PORTFOLIO". The background is a light blue with a subtle grid pattern.

## Complete your MGC Challenge by May 1

The [Michigan Green Communities](#) (MGC) Challenge reporting period is open now through May 1. Complete the challenge and receive recognition for your township's sustainability progress! MGC, in which MTA is a partner, is hosting [virtual office hours](#) on March 21 and April 18 from 11 a.m. to noon to answer questions and assist communities in completing the MGC Challenge. Sign up or log into your MGC account [here](#).



## EGLE training and webinars

- [Lake monitoring training](#). The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), in collaboration with the [Michigan Clean Water Corps \(MiCorps\)](#), is accepting enrollments for the 2024 [Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program](#) (CLMP). CLMP volunteers monitor water quality, invasive species and habitat conditions in Michigan lakes, and receive detailed instructions, training and equipment. [Three free training opportunities](#) will be held: Muskegon on April 26-27, Crystal Falls on May 18, or online on April 30. Training is required for new volunteers.
- [Storm recovery](#). Held April 9, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., [Storm Recovery: Do you know what to do with storm debris?](#) will share regulations for managing storm debris; EGLE's authority and Michigan's process for obtaining an Emergency Solid Waste Disposal Authorization in response to a natural disaster; and new online tools to help prepare for and respond to a natural disaster.

APRIL 22 - 25, 2024

## MTA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXPO

REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 25 TO SAVE!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



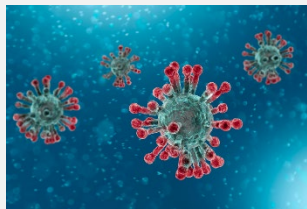
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## Active shooter survival training

Funded in part by MIOSHA, two free in-person trainings will be held March 27 to help organizations understand best practices and develop strategies to prepare, train and survive active shooter and workplace violence incidents. [Active shooter survival—What is your plan?](#) will held from 9 a.m. to noon and [Verbal De-Escalation Techniques with the Difficult Individual](#), held from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Livonia Civic Auditorium (3300 Civic Center Dr., Livonia). For more information, call (734) 466-2368.

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## Review township COVID policies following updated CDC recommendations

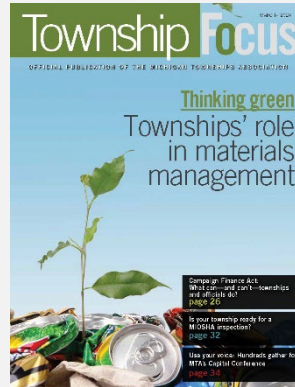


Townships may need to update their policies or guidelines for COVID-19, following updated recommendations released by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The new guidance brings a unified approach to addressing risks from a range of common respiratory viral illnesses, such as COVID-19, flu and RSV, in community settings. The recommendations suggest returning to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, symptoms are improving overall, and if a fever was present, it has been gone without use of a fever-reducing medication. Once people resume normal activities, continued CDC recommendations are to take additional prevention strategies for the next five days to curb disease spread, such as taking more steps for cleaner air, enhancing hygiene practices (such as hand washing), wearing a well-fitting mask, keeping a distance from others, and/or getting tested for respiratory viruses. Enhanced precautions remain important to protect those most at risk for severe illness, including those over 65 and people with weakened immune systems.

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## Read the March issue of *Township Focus*—online now!

Your [March issue of \*Township Focus\*](#) can be read online now and will be in mailboxes in just a few short days! In this month's cover story, *Townships' role in materials management*, learn about the new Part 115 guiding solid waste management that requires all counties to develop a new materials management plan, with a focus on efforts like recycling and composting, and how townships can play a role in the process. The feature stories dive into the "cans and cannots" of the Campaign Finance Act, and preparing your township for MIOSHA inspections. Our Q&A column "Hello, MTA ... ?" discusses the township role in road maintenance and liabilities, while "Financial Forum" explores process mapping as a way to deliver effective township services.



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## Federal update for week of March 4

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