Michigan Township INSIGHTS

May 29, 2026

House advances bill to allow contracted election administrator



Townships could soon be able to contract for election administration when their township clerk and deputy clerk are not available to perform the election duties. House Bill 5717, sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Wortz (R-Quincy Twp.) and supported by MTA, was overwhelmingly passed (104-4) by the House last week. Currently, if a township clerk and the deputy clerk are unavailable to perform necessary election functions related to an election, the township board must appoint a qualified person who is a registered elector of the township to perform those functions until the clerk or a deputy resumes their duties. HB 5717 would permit the township board to contract with an individual who is accredited to conduct elections under the act if they live in a reasonable proximity to the township to perform election functions until the township clerk or a deputy resumes those duties or a new township clerk is appointed or elected. The bill has been transmitted to the Senate for consideration.

Fire inspection changes considered for certain childcare facilities

Childcare centers located in school buildings would no longer be required to seek a separate fire inspection under legislation approved unanimously by the Senate this week. Senate Bill 313, introduced by Sen. Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing), would allow superintendents to certify that a childcare center located in a school district building meets fire safety requirements if the school building was certified as compliant. The bill grants a district superintendent the authority to certify the childcare center's approval in the same manner that they certify the entire building to reduce the administrative burden of inspecting a center twice. The legislation advances to the House for continued discussion.

Do you want your township to be accurately counted in the 2030 Census?

An accurate census count matters for your township as Michigan uses the census count to direct funding of state dollars to local governments, including the amount of constitutional revenue sharing available for your township. Join a training on Wednesday, June 3, 1 to 3 p.m. offered by the U.S. Census Bureau to learn more about the 2030 Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) operation. LUCA is





UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

June Election Ready afternoon workshops:
- **June 4** – Kalamazoo, WMU Fetzer Center
- **June 16** – Marquette, NMU
- **June 17** – Gaylord, Treetops Resort
- **June 23** – Frankenmuth, Bavarian Inn Lodge
- **June 25** – Online, 1-5 p.m.

June 10: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Meeting Misconceptions

July 14-15: Summer Academy, Bay Valley Resort in Bay City:
- Creating a Vision
- Linking with the Community
- Strategic Planning

July 15: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Summer Update: Legislative News from the Capitol

used to address updates to identify where people live, where to mail census questionnaires, and where to conduct non-response follow-up for a more complete count. Register today to get an overview and demonstration of key LUCA tools and resources, including the Participant Address List Template, LUCA Geocoder and Address Block Count Comparison, and the Census Housing Unit Change Viewer. Questions can be emailed to 2030LUCA@census.gov.



Bills advance for low-income housing tax credit

A three-bill package, sponsored Reps. Joe Aragona (R-Clinton Chtr. Twp.) and Kristian Grant (D-Grand Rapids) and supported by MTA, to create new state tax incentives for affordable housing development was approved by a House committee last week. House Bills 5805, 5806 and 5807 would establish the Michigan Housing Opportunity Tax Credit, allowing developers, investors and insurers to claim a credit against their individual income, corporate income or flow-through entity taxes. To qualify for the proposed state credit, a development must first qualify for the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. The bills would also reserve at least 30% of annual awards for rural areas. The legislation builds on the federal credit by adding a state incentive designed to reduce barriers to private investment in affordable housing and help close financing gaps that often stall development projects. A similar package of bills, Senate Bills 966, 967 and 968, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D–Ann Arbor) and supported by MTA, were recently before the Senate Housing and Human Services Committee. The House bills move to the full House for consideration, and the Senate bills are expected to be reported to the full Senate.

STC updates

- **2026 Property Tax Calendar correction:** The 2026 Property Tax Calendar stated interest should be applied to unpaid summer taxes on Sept. 16, 2026, however, since the due date for summer taxes is Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, interest should be applied to unpaid summer taxes beginning on Sept. 15, 2026. The 2026 Property Tax Calendar has been revised to reflect the correction.
- **2026 county multipliers.** The State Tax Commission (STC) approved Bulletin 6 of 2026—2026 County Multipliers for 2025 *Assessor's Manual* Cost Schedules. These multipliers are to be used in the 2026 equalization appraisal studies whose purpose is to set the 2027 base. While the STC will continue to approve county multipliers annually, the multipliers will automatically be included through computer-assisted mass appraisal software providers' direct connection



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MTA QUICK LINKS
Answer Center
Training
Advocacy
Classifieds
Community Connection

to the Marshall Swift System. Assessors will not be required to manually input or select their county multiplier.



Public voting on “I Voted” stickers opens June 1

Throughout June, members of the public can vote for their favorite designs for the 2026 “I Voted” stickers from 75 semifinalists selected from more than 2,000 submitted designs. Voting opens on June 1 for the sticker contest website. The winning sticker designs will be provided to local clerks for the November 2026 election to give to voters in their jurisdictions.

Free learning opportunity: Condition Assessment Strategies for Water Systems

The Michigan Technological University Center for Technology & Training is offering a free webinar for operators, managers and board members of drinking water utilities on June 30 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Participants will learn assessment strategies for aging water mains, storage facilities, pumps and treatment equipment, as well as strategies for capital improvement planning. Register by June 29 to participate in the webinar.



Available grants for townships

- **Historic preservation.** Funding is available to local governments through the National Parks Service Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization program to support historic preservation projects in their jurisdiction and foster economic development of rural communities. Eligible properties can be on the National Register of Historic Places or in an area defined as “rural” by the U.S. Census Bureau with populations less than 50,000. The local government will act as the grant administrator and is not required to own the property

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that would be rehabilitated with the funding. Applications are due June 23.

- **Pipeline emergency training.** Townships can apply for grant funding to support training of emergency responders in high-consequence areas (HCAs) to protect people, property and the environment from accidents involving gas or hazardous liquid pipelines. Through the Pipeline Emergency Response Grant Program, both direct and online trainings for individuals with statutory responsibility to respond to pipeline incidents in HCAs are eligible for funding. Applications are due June 19.
- **Recreational boating.** Apply now for the next round of the Waterways Grant Program, which funds projects that improve recreational boating and waterway infrastructure at grant-in-aid harbors and public boating access sites. A 50% match is required to access the funds. Applications are accepted until April 1, 2027.

Reminders for clerks

Upcoming August election deadlines:

- **June 5**—Final day for townships to complete the following tasks: establish, move or abolish a polling place for the August election; inform county clerk that absent voter counting board has been authorized by the local board of election commissioners; establish a location for each early voting site.
- **June 8**—Last date to withdraw from an early voting agreement.

AVP/AVR project: Updates to the Automatic Voter Preregistration (AVP)/Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) process will go live in early June. While the impact to clerks and township staff overall should be minor, there is a new process. If the opt-out mailing is returned to the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) as undeliverable by the post office, the voter's status will be set to "Verify – Confirm AVR" by BOE, and the Qualified Voter File will generate an inbox notification (in the Voter mailbox) to the local clerk stating "Action Required: Change status to Verify - Confirmation Notice and send cancellation notice." If you do receive an inbox notification, you will need to update the status for the voter and mail out the cancellation notice.

How is your township celebrating America's 250th birthday?



America is turning 250 this year, and MTA is looking to include stories (and photos if available) about what your township is doing to celebrate! Are you (or your area/county or community group) hosting a special community gathering or event, an amped-up July 4th celebration, an exhibit highlighting your own township's history, undertaking an historical project or other way to commemorate this special year? We want to hear about it! We are planning to highlight some township stories in our July issue of *Township Focus*

(as well as potentially subsequent issues and on our social media). Simply email details to MTA Communications Director Jenn Fiedler at jenn@michigantownships.org or call (517) 321-6467, ext. 229. Thank you for sharing!

DNR warns of increased fire danger

With dry weather conditions persisting across the state, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges extreme caution with any outdoor activity that could spark a wildfire in the northern Lower Peninsula and throughout the Upper Peninsula. Warm temperatures, dry vegetation and limited rainfall in the forecast are increasing risk of wildfires. Current fire danger ratings are high to very high across much of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula. Due to elevated fire conditions, the DNR will not issue permits for burning yard debris in the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula at this time. Residents in southern Michigan should check with their local fire department or municipality before conducting any outdoor burning.



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

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

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