Michigan Township INSIGHTS

May 8, 2026

Housing preemption bills scheduled before House committee next week



MTA is asking all township officials to help in opposing the zoning preemption legislation, House Bills 5529-5531 and 5581-5585, that is scheduled before the House Government Operations Committee next week. While all agree affordable housing is essential across the state, it should not come at the expense of local input by requiring local governments to follow one-size-fits-all requirements from the state—which is what the pending legislation will do. The bills would strip your township of decision-making authority on key housing considerations, dismiss extensive community planning work and investment, and override local voices and voter-backed decisions. As township leaders, it is essential to stand united and speak out in opposition to this proposal. Please add your signature today to a joint letter of opposition, and reach out to your state representative to ask them to oppose this harmful legislation.

Public Safety Revenue Sharing grants issued

The Public Safety Revenue Sharing (PSRS) grants from the state should now be received by townships. The one-time grant payment for fiscal year 2026 was approved in the state budget last fall to each local unit based on their violent crime counts, reported to the Michigan State Police for calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024. Payments were issued through the SIGMA system and were available on May 7. No application or reporting is required for the PSRS grant.

All local public safety initiative expenses must be related to public safety and designed to reduce identified risks to public safety and cannot include unproven intervention solutions to community violence. Local units must use these funds only for operational or capital expenses that serve the purposes of public safety. At least 75% of the distribution must be used to fund a law enforcement agency or law enforcement officers. Up to 25% of the distribution must be used to fund other non-law-enforcement related public safety purposes. The requirements, restrictions and prohibitions, per the appropriation on the use of these funds can be reviewed on the Public Safety Revenue Sharing webpage.

To view your township's grant amount and reported crime statistics, you can download the payment report: FY 2026 Public Safety Revenue Sharing Payment Amounts - May 2026. Questions can be directed to the Revenue Sharing and





UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

Planning & Zoning Primer, 4-8 p.m.:
May 13—Frankenmuth, Bavarian Inn Lodge
May 18—Harbor Springs, The Highlands

May 13: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Dig up Your Township's Cemetery Ordinance

Coming in 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 PM

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

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

Grants Division at (517) 335-7484 or TreasRevenueSharing@michigan.gov.



Court of Appeals issues opinion in PA 233 renewable energy lawsuit

The Michigan Court of Appeals this week issued a published opinion in *In re Implementing Provisions of Public Act 233 of 2023*, an appeal filed by dozens of local governments challenging certain provisions of an order issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) concerning renewable energy legislation and local regulation. MTA Legal Counsel filed a brief in support of townships on behalf of the Association. The court affirmed some parts of the MPSC's order and struck down other parts. PA 233 of 2023 remains in effect.

A summary of key provisions of the court's holdings include:

- **Compatible renewable energy ordinance (CREO):** The court held that the MPSC correctly interpreted the statute to limit a CREO to only those provisions contained in Section 226(8). A CREO may not contain requirements in categories beyond those set forth in 226(8).
- **Affected local unit (ALU):** The court held that the MPSC incorrectly interpreted the statute to limit an "affected local unit" to only those municipalities with zoning jurisdiction. Instead, an ALU includes all local units of government where a proposed energy facility will be located, regardless of whether the local unit has zoning jurisdiction.
- **Hybrid facilities:** The courts held that the MPSC correctly interpreted PA 233 to allow for "hybrid" facilities, meaning that the total megawatt (MW) value of multiple renewable technologies can be combined to determine whether the MPSC can assume jurisdiction over a project. For example, a wind project could include solar components, and the MW values of both would be used to calculate the threshold for MPSC jurisdiction.
- **Meeting timelines:** The court held that the MPSC incorrectly interpreted timing requirements for a meeting within the affected local unit. PA 233 requires that at least 60 days before the mandatory public meeting in a local unit, a renewable developer must offer to meet with the chief elected official of the ALU. Within 30 days of that meeting, the chief elected official must notify the developer whether the local unit has a CREO and is therefore required to file for siting approval with each ALU. The MPSC's order slightly altered this to say that the chief official must notify

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* Adna Technologies

* 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

MTA QUICK LINKS

Answer Center
Training
Advocacy
Classifieds
Community Connection
Webcasts
Store
Township Governance Academy
Allied Service Providers
NATaT

within 30 days of the offer to meet, but the statute says within 30 days of the meeting itself.
- **Administrative Procedures Act:** The court held that the MPSC's order was not subject to the Administrative Procedures Act because it was merely an interpretive statement and/or establishing application filing requirements, both of which it has the authority to do without engaging in formal rulemaking.

Voters approve overwhelming majority of township ballot proposals

Townships received voter approval of over 87% of the proposals placed before residents on Tuesday's ballot. Of the new or renewal township proposals presented to voters, over two-thirds were for public safety with roads and library requests completing the list.



UIA offers one-time waiver for penalties and interest

The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) is providing a one-time waiver of penalties and interest for employers who missed the April deadline to file the 2026 first quarter wage report and make their quarterly payment to give employers time to adjust to the new unemployment insurance system, MiUI. Employers and third-party administrators now have until May 31 to submit their wage report and make full payments to avoid having penalties and interest charged to their unemployment insurance account. Employers can direct their questions about waivers, MiUI, wage reports, payments, and more to the Office of Employer Ombudsman at (855) 484-2636 (select Option 4) or via email to UIA-MiUIEmployerSupport@Michigan.gov.

Public comment opportunity on proposed campaign finance rule updates

The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) is seeking public comment on two proposed campaign finance ruleset updates, on complaints and investigations and general filing provisions. Key changes include defining "frivolous" complaints, allowing consolidation of similar complaints, warnings for minor violations, when declaratory rulings may be issued and online posting of a list of certain filing information. Submit comments by 5 p.m. June 8 to Elections-PublicComment@Michigan.gov . Individuals may attend a public hearing on the rulesets, at 10 a.m. on June 8 at the Binsfeld Office Building in Lansing. BOE encourages all clerks to submit feedback on the rules.

Neighborhood Enterprise Zone 'new facility' state average tax rates for 2026

The State Tax Commission released the 2026 tax year Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) tax rates for “new facility” certificates this week. The rate, based on the issuance date of the certificate and the property owner's principal residence exemption (PRE) status, is equal to one-half of the preceding year's commercial, industrial and utility property state average tax rate or PRE state average tax rate. For the 2026 tax year non-PRE is 27.070 mills and PRE is 17.550 mills.



Updates for clerks

May 5 election deadlines and reminders

- **Monday, May 11:**
  - Last day ballots for submitted by military and overseas (MOVE) voters on or before election day to be deemed timely received and counted.
  - Local clerks must deliver ballots with signatures cured after election day to the county clerk.
  - Voter history updates should be completed immediately after the election but no later than May 11.
- **Tuesday, May 12**
  - Last day MOVE ballots received within six days of election day may be submitted to the county clerk.
- **Post-election audits**: The *Post-Election Audit Manual* and associated checklists have been revised and are available via the Bureau of Elections (BOE) eLearning center in the post-election audit playlist.
  - **Upcoming post-election audit training:** To prepare for the May election audit, register for a brief “How to Ace your Audit” training, scheduled for May 14 at noon.

Braille voter information displays will be shipped to counties on May 11. One will be provided for each precinct and early voting site; local clerks should work with their county on distribution.

New challenger rules in effect: On May 6, the BOE’s Election Challengers and Poll Watchers administrative rules took effect. The rules are in larger part consistent with the existing Appointment, Rights, and Duties of Challengers and Poll Watchers manual. The BOE will update the manual to fully incorporate the rules ahead of the August election.

DNR warns of elevated fire danger

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) warns that dry, windy conditions are resulting in elevated fire danger. The northern Lower Peninsula faces especially high risk because of downed trees and branches from the 2025 ice storm. Townships can remind residents that, as nine out of 10 Michigan wildfires are the result of human activity, it is important to check out DNR resources for burn permits and fire safety before lighting fires.

Ergonomics training for employers

Small changes in workspaces can have a big impact on employee health and well being. On May 20 at 1 p.m., the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration will host a free webinar for employers to learn how ergonomic decisions can help prevent injuries, reduce discomfort and support long-term health in their workplace.

State Christmas tree search begins



The state has launched its search for the official Christmas tree to occupy the Capitol grounds for the 2026 holiday season. To be considered, the tree must be spruce or fir, and at least 60 feet tall with a maximum crown of 24 feet and a 30-inch maximum trunk diameter. It also must be easy to access from the road without interference from wires and be available at no cost to the state. Email nominations by Aug. 17 to ChristmasTree@michigan.gov, including the name of the tree, a telephone number, a photograph, its size and location.

Federal update for week of May 5

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



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

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