

May 9, 2025

## MTA urges you to **ACT NOW: Help preserve the tax exemption for municipal bonds**

Tax-exempt municipal bonds have helped fund critical

infrastructure projects for townships and other local governmental entities for decades by reducing the cost of borrowing, thereby reducing the cost to taxpayers. However, there is serious discussion about federal action to eliminate the tax exemption for municipal bonds. The elimination of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds will increase borrowing costs to fund projects, increase taxes and reduce services for residents, and cause the delay or cancellation of projects, impacting public safety and impeding economic growth. Per the Government Finance Officers Association, the elimination would correspondingly raise borrowing costs \$823.92 billion—a cost that would be passed onto taxpayers, resulting in a \$6,554.67 tax and a rate increase for each household over the next decade.



MTA urges you to contact [your member of the U.S. House of Representatives](#) as soon as possible to garner their support to **preserve the federal tax-exemption for municipal bonds**—a critical tool that enables state and local governments to fund essential infrastructure projects efficiently and affordably. It is imperative that they recognize the profound benefits that tax-exempt municipal bonds provide to our communities and constituents.

## Voters approve overwhelming majority of township ballot proposals

Townships received voter approval of 75% of the proposals they placed before residents on Tuesday's ballot. Of the new or renewal township proposals presented to voters, funding for public safety, roads and operating millages represented the majority of millage requests. Funding for parks and recreation, senior services, mosquito abatement, street lighting and library requests completed the list.

## MTA participates in NATaT Fly-in

MTA leadership brought the township message to Washington, DC this week, where they met with members of Michigan's congressional

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## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

### [Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

May 14: [The Perks of the Job: Understanding Municipal Benefits](#)

June 11: [Preventing Chaos: How to Manage Records](#)

### [Introduction to Planning and Zoning](#)

May 7: [Frankenmuth](#)

May 21: [Gaylord](#)

May 28: [Kalamazoo](#)

June Double Header: [Earned Sick Time Act \(morning\) and Cemetery Challenges & Solutions \(afternoon\)](#)

June 10: [Jackson](#)

June 17: [Marquette](#)

June 18: [Gaylord](#)

June 24: [Mt. Pleasant](#)

## MTA QUICK LINKS

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delegation to discuss key issues of importance to townships and local governments in the state and across the nation.

Participating in a federal advocacy and educational event organized by our national organization, the National Association of Towns and Townships, were 2025 MTA President **Harold Koviak**, Immediate Past President **Connie**



**Cargill**, MTA Second Vice President and District 22 Director **Malinda Cole-Crocker**, and MTA District 23 Director **Don Rogers**. They spent their time on Capitol Hill sharing insights and perspectives on critical federal issues, including retention of tax-exempt municipal bonds (*see related article above*), broadband, transportation considerations, cybersecurity funding and reauthorization of grant programs. The members met with U.S. Reps. John Moolenaar, Tim Walberg, Jack Bergman and Haley Stevens, and staff with U.S. Sens. Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin and U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga. MTA thanks them for their interest in and support of Michigan's townships and the value of local government.

## Senate unanimously approves legislation to modify term of office

All elected township officials would begin their term of office on Dec. 1 under legislation passed the Senate unanimously this week. [Senate Bill 240](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), would change all terms for elected township officers to commence at noon on Dec. 1 following the officer's November election. The bill is part of a bipartisan package that would move the beginning of the term of office for newly elected township, city and village officials to Dec. 1. The date change is to ensure elected officials' election results are certified prior to taking the oath of office. The proposed change would impact township officials elected *after* Dec. 31, 2024. The bill next moves to the House for consideration.

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

### JUNE BRINGS MTA'S NEWEST DOUBLE FEATURE

9-11:30AM EARNED SICK TIME ACT & YOUR TOWNSHIP

1-5PM CEMETERY CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

## Ice storm disaster funding measure approved by House

Funding was approved by the House this week to provide \$100 million to address the recent storm damage in northern Michigan by a vote of 107-1 this week. [House Bill 4328](#), sponsored by Rep. Parker Fairbairn (R-Harbor Springs), would provide funding for storm disaster relief grants. The grants would be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis to counties to administer and assist local units of government, individual residents and businesses that realized a significant financial hardship caused by recent storm

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## ARPA reporting portal remains open; all NEUs must file annual report



If your township did not complete its required 2025 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) "Project and Expenditure Report" by the April 30 deadline, the portal remains open at this time, and the township **must** still complete its report. All non-entitlement units of government (NEUs—all but eight of Michigan's largest townships) that accepted ARPA funds must complete the annual reporting requirement by April 30 each year. Every NEU must complete the report, even if your township has already fully spent the funds. Even if your township missed the April 30 deadline, it is important to complete the report, as the federal government has indicated its intentions to "claw back" funds from municipalities that do not comply with program requirements, including annual reporting. A [one-hour webinar recording](#) from the U.S. Department of Treasury offers a portal demonstration and overview of NEU reporting and compliance obligations. MTA-member officials can reach out to MTA's Member Information Services Department for assistance or with ARPA questions at (517) 321-6467 (press option 1). State Treasury can also assist townships continuing to have issues completing reporting or accessing U.S. Treasury's reporting system; email them at [treas-arpa@michigan.gov](mailto:treas-arpa@michigan.gov).

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## Next Fiscally Ready Communities webinar explores internal controls

[Register now](#) for the state Department of Treasury's ext [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) webinar, "Internal Controls" on **May 19** at 2 p.m. The webinar will take a deep dive into internal controls including a culture of fiscal sustainability, the role and importance of internal controls, how they strengthen your community, and best practices for implementation. You can submit questions in advance to [TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov), with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."

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## STC releases NEZ "New Facility" state average tax rates for 2025

The Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) Act authorizes a specific tax to be levied on real property (excluding land) with a valid NEZ certificate in lieu of the ad valorem tax. The NEZ tax rate for "New Facility" certificates, 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 2025 tax year, the [NEZ State Average Tax Rates](#) for "New Facility" certificates are: Non-PRE = 27.080 mills, PRE = 17.590 mills. This and other property tax exemption information can be found on the [Property Tax Exemption website](#).

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## DNR warns of danger of outdoor burning,

## provides debris collection locations

Dry, warm and windy weather in the upcoming days has [state conservation officials](#) encouraging residents in the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula to refrain from outdoor burning. No [permits](#) for outdoor burning will be issued in the U.P. at this time. Take precautions with campfires, including clearing the area of dry or dead vegetation, containing the fire within a metal ring, keeping water, a rake and a shovel nearby, and never leaving a fire unattended until it is completely extinguished.

Additionally, residents needing to dispose of ice storm debris are encouraged to utilize one of the 17 [debris collection locations](#), chip the debris and use it as landscaping or garden material, or if burning is the only option, pile it and delay burning.

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## MTA's May webinar reviews municipal benefits

Do you know the differences between fringe, health and retirement benefits? Or what it takes to present and manage these options for your township team? MTA can help! Join us May 14 at noon for the next live webinar in our *Now You Know* series, [Understanding Municipal Benefits](#). Can't make the date? We'll record it so you can also watch it on-demand. This one-hour session will review responsibilities and common pitfalls, and offer tips to ensure your township remains compliant and competitive. Don't delay, [register today!](#)

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## One week remaining to complete Michigan Green Communities Challenge

Municipalities have until May 15 to log their 2024 sustainability actions with the [Michigan Green Communities \(MGC\) Challenge](#). Participation offers access to technical assistance, sustainability and planning resources, free conference registrations, and networking with other recognized communities. MTA is an MGC partner.



## Upcoming EGLE webinars of interest to townships

- **Beach monitoring.** The state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has launched a new [Beachguard tool](#) within the [MiEnviro Portal](#) to help local units and others monitor beach closures, advisories and water quality alerts statewide. A [webinar](#), held on May 13 at 1 p.m., will share how to use Beachguard to stay informed about the health of local beaches.
- **Coastal flood zones.** Coastal flood zones determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) come with development requirements and considerations. On May 14 at 10 a.m., EGLE will host a [webinar](#) covering where the new zones are located, how to interpret FEMA maps and other resources for coastal areas, and requirements for developments in coastal floodplains.
- **Blight removal.** Scheduled for May 27, EGLE's next Catalyst Communities [webinar](#) will share how repurposing construction materials during blight removal on abandoned

and contaminated properties can reduce waste heading to the landfill and capture value from the materials removed.

- **Watershed conservation.** In recognition of Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week, which runs from May 31 to June 8, an EGLE [webinar](#) set for June 4 will feature a virtual panel of professionals sharing how community leaders can explore their local watershed and engage in local stewardship efforts.

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## Workplace violence prevention trainings

The Center for Workplace Violence Prevention is hosting two free training sessions on May 28 for employers looking to learn more about preventing and responding to workplace violence. The first [session](#), from 9 a.m. to noon, will offer examples of institutional policies and practices that help address threat assessment, investigation and management. The second [session](#), from 1-4 p.m., will discuss privacy and safety concerns and best practices for highly visible figures who have increasingly been targeted by threats and violence. Both sessions will take place in the Patrich Auditorium at Wayne State University Law School located at 471 W. Palmer Avenue in Detroit.

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## Read the May Township Focus—online now!

Your [May issue of Township Focus](#) is here!

This month's cover story includes a look-back at our 2025 Annual Conference, including a profile of newly elected MTA President **Harold Koviak**. Learn about Koviak's dedication to public service, his focus on inspiring the next generation of township leadership, and hopes for MTA and townships this year and beyond. Additional Conference highlights include an excerpt from our keynote speaker, adopted legislative policy platform, complete MTA Board listing, Spirit of MTA award winners and TGA graduates. We also revisit MTA's Capital Conference where township leaders convened in Lansing to gather insights on township issues and network with state lawmakers. In our Q&A columns, "Hello, MTA ... ?" discusses the township board's fiduciary responsibilities, while "Financial Forum" explains bank reconciliation.



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## Updated NATaT special reports

In response to the evolving pace of federal policy developments, the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) has once again updated its special reports on executive actions and their impact on federal funding. [Special Report - Trump Administration Executive Action](#) and [Special Report - Impact of Executive Action on Federal Funding](#) reflect announcements and information as of May 1. NATaT will continue to track executive actions and provide updates on the federal level of importance to communities.



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