

Nov. 14, 2025

## Updates on Public Safety Revenue Sharing, fire equipment grants

MTA recently met with staff from the Michigan Department of Treasury on two programs in the state's fiscal year 2026 budget that impact townships. The first is a new grant program, **Public Safety Revenue Sharing Grants**, to provide \$35 million annually (the stated intent is funding for three years) to townships, cities and villages, and an additional \$7.5 million in one-time funding. The department shared the grants will be provided in one annual payment to townships, cities and villages, projected to be issued in late March or early April 2026. The department is in the process of putting together timelines, guidance and estimates to be made available in advance of the payments. Until Treasury posts its grants estimates, townships can view the House Fiscal Agency's [public safety grant estimates](#). Treasury further indicated there will not be a grant application or reporting requirements for these funds. The funds must be used only for operational and capital expenditures for public safety purposes. Of the amount, 75% must be used to fund directly or indirectly law enforcement agency or officers. Up to 25% may be used to fund other non-law enforcement-related public safety initiatives, such as improving recruitment or retention efforts, training programs, equipment purchases, programs designed to reduce identified risks to public safety, crime diversion programs, operational emergency medical or firefighter services, and capital improvements to public safety buildings/structures. If a township currently does not provide direct or indirect law enforcement, they will have the opportunity to do so. MTA will provide further guidance and estimates as additional information becomes available.



The budget also included one-time funding of \$8 million to assist with the purchase of **fire equipment or fire gear**. From this amount, \$4 million must be distributed to local units of government with predominately on-call, part-time or volunteer fire departments. Treasury is working on applications and reporting requirements for the grant program, but does not anticipate applications to be available until late spring 2026. MTA will continue to monitor and provide updated information on the application, reporting requirements and timelines when available.

## Tougher penalties for disarming officers approved

Increased penalties for using force or violence to disarm a lawfully carrying law enforcement officer received bipartisan support by the full House this week. Under current law, taking a firearm from a law enforcement or corrections officer is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$5,000, or both. [House Bills 5079](#)

## Prevent Water Damage

FREE Water Sensor Kit and Monitoring for All Members of the Michigan Township Participating Plan



For details and to order, scan the QR code or visit [sensorsignup.com/parplan](https://sensorsignup.com/parplan)



CiviClarity  
WEBSITE SERVICE

## Feature Rich, Priced Right

Offering genuine value for your township website.



Request a quote

## Upcoming MTA Training

Nov. 19: *Now You Know* Lunchtime Webinar [Wait, Who's Supposed to Do That?!](#)

Dec. 17: *Now You Know* Lunchtime Webinar [Legislative Wrap-up](#)

Jan 13-14: Hone your [Board Leadership Skills](#) at MTA's Winter Academy in Frankenmuth

## MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)  
[Training](#)  
[Advocacy](#)  
[Classifieds](#)  
[Community Connection](#)  
[Webcasts](#)  
[Store](#)  
[Township Governance Academy](#)  
[Allied Service Providers](#)  
[NATaT](#)

and [5080](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Fenton Chtr. Twp.), would add an enhanced penalty—a felony punishable for up to 20 years or a fine of up to \$5,000—if force or violence is used when an individual takes or attempts to take the firearm. The bill now moves to the Senate.



## Legislation would amend election petition provisions

The Senate approved four bills this week largely along party lines to amend the election law. [Senate Bill 529](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), would prohibit petition circulators from being paid a per-signature rate or per-petition signature page for gathering signatures; it would allow circulators to receive an hourly wage or do so as a volunteer. If enacted, Michigan would join 10 states that have banned petition circulators from being paid per signature. [SB 530](#), also sponsored by Sen. Moss, would require the circulator of a petition to provide a summary of the petition or read it to voters so they are aware of the petition's proposed amendment or question. [SB 531](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), would allow individuals who have signed a petition more than once to have only the first valid signature count rather than having all of their signatures disqualified. The bills are intended to protect voters and candidates by addressing signature fraud and deterring circulators from misrepresenting a petition's purpose. The three bills now await action by the House.

## Expanded confidentiality for critical incident stress management services

Privacy protections in place for emergency service providers seeking critical incident stress management (CISM) services would be extended to all recipients of these services under legislation approved unanimously in the House this week. [House Bill 4857](#), sponsored by Rep. William Bruck (R-Erie Twp.), amends the Public Health Code to expand the scope of confidentiality and liability provisions currently covering the work of a CISM team with first responders. CISM services are being utilized in workplaces beyond emergency response providers to help individuals process traumatic events, but because CISM team members are not licensed mental health professionals, they are not currently bound by typical privacy and malpractice measures that recipients may expect. The bill, which now moves to the Senate, would allow non-first responder recipients of CISM services the same privacy protections as first responders.

## Bill would allow dogs in outdoor dining areas

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



[www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes](http://www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes)



[www.mersofmich.com](http://www.mersofmich.com)

\* [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](#)



Leashed dogs could be permitted in outdoor dining areas under a bill approved by the Senate Economic and Community Development Committee. [Senate Bill 200](#) would allow restaurants and food establishments to welcome their customers to bring their dogs into outdoor dining areas only.

Restaurants would have to notify the local health department at least 30 days before beginning the practice and follow various health

requirements to maintain food safety. The dog owner would be liable for any damage or injury caused by the dog to the restaurant, employees or other customers. The bill, which would allow local governments to adopt and enforce a more restrictive ordinance, advances to the full Senate for a vote.



---

## BOE reminders for clerks

- **Continuing education:** The [2024-2025 Continuing Education Curriculum](#) is available in the Bureau of Elections (BOE) eLearning Center. Continuing education is required by Michigan Election Law for county, city and township clerks to renew their accreditation status every two years.
- **November early voting wage reimbursement:** The early voting wage reimbursement opportunity for all counties and jurisdictions that conducted early voting for the November election was available beginning Nov. 7. Previously, counties had to submit on behalf of their locals. However, going forward, if a local jurisdiction conducted early voting on its own/without the county, it may submit its request directly to BOE. Eligible counties and jurisdictions will be contacted directly via email with submission instructions and availability.
- **System maintenance:** The last remaining Windows servers will be updated Nov. 18 and 19, with no expected downtime as they will be updated and stabilized one at a time.

---

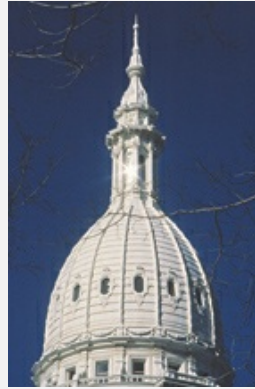
## Special report on federal continuing resolution and minibus package

With the enactment of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 ([PL 119-37](#)), this week, the 43-day federal government shutdown ended. The act provides continuing appropriations for most federal agencies through Jan. 30, 2026, and provides appropriations through the end of fiscal year 2026 (Sept. 30, 2026) for agriculture, military construction, veterans affairs and legislative branch programs. It also extends various expiring programs and authorities through Jan. 30 or later. A National Association of Towns & Townships [special report](#) covers relevant provisions in the enacted continuing resolution (CR) and the FY 2026 and minibus package. The enactment of the continuing resolution provides federal lawmakers an additional 11 weeks to finish work on the remaining nine FY 2026 spending bills: Commerce-Justice-Science; Defense; Energy-Water Development; Financial Services-General Government; Homeland Security; Interior-Environment; Labor-Health and Human Services-Education; National Security-State; and Transportation-Housing

---

## Nov. 24 deadline for member input on MTA's 2026 legislative issues

As a member township official, you can review and provide input on the MTA legislative policy platform. The legislative policy objectives—reviewed, updated and approved annually—guide the Association's government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members are encouraged to review the current [2025-2026 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed additions and revisions by Monday, Nov. 24. Member-proposed policy changes will be reviewed by MTA policy committees and will be presented at the 2026 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our 2026 Annual Educational Conference in April. Contact [legislation@michigantownships.org](mailto:legislation@michigantownships.org) with questions, comments or suggestions.



---



---

## Reminder on tax collection office hours/*Township Focus* correction

The township treasurer, or their designee, must be in his or her office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to receive tax payments on the last day taxes are due and payable before being returned as delinquent under MCL 211.55 (the last day of February). The last day to pay 2025 property taxes before they are returned as delinquent is **Monday, March 2, 2026** (*the last day of February is a Saturday*). (MCL 211.45) Treasurers **must** hold office hours.

In addition:

- The treasurer (or designee) also must be in his or her office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. one business day between Dec. 25 and Dec. 31. For 2025, the available days for required December office hours are **Friday, Dec. 26, Monday, Dec. 29 or Tuesday, Dec. 30**. Treasurers **must** choose one day (unless a bank assists in collection and taxpayers receive timely notification of such arrangement). (MCL 211.44(2))
- The last day to pay 2025 property taxes without incurring any interest or penalty is **Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026**. (*Feb. 14 is a Saturday, Feb. 15 is a Sunday, and Feb. 16 is a holiday. Please note that the November issue of Township Focus noted an incorrect date. We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.*) Treasurers **may** choose to hold office hours.
- The treasurer also **must** be in his or her office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to receive tax payments for the collection of a summer tax levy, on **Monday, Sept. 14, 2026** (the last day

taxes are due and payable before interest is added under MCL 211.44a(5)).

---

## MTA's Winter Academy: three topics, two days, one location

MTA returns to Frankenmuth on Jan. 13-14 with expert-led classes designed to help you clarify and strengthen *Board Roles & Relationships*, offer insights and strategies for *Better Board Decisions*, and explore techniques to ensure your services are *Meeting Township Needs*. Attend two courses and save \$50, or save \$75 by attending all three. [Register now](#) to secure your seat or [download the full brochure](#) to learn more. *Need lodging?* [Make your reservation online](#) or call 888-775-6343 (mention group number 1417NQ) by Dec. 12 to secure the discounted rate.

---

## Federal updates for week of Nov. 10

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

---

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!