

Nov. 15, 2024

More local preemption bills introduced on mining operations

Four bills were introduced in the House this week to significantly reduce local authority on aggregate mining sites. [House Bills 6108](#) and [6109](#) would establish a centralizing decision-making process at the state level—with minimal input allowed from local jurisdictions. HB 6108 would establish a statewide permitting process for sand and gravel mining, preempting local ordinances and granting the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy authority over mining permits—including environmental impact assessments and mining operation plans. While it would allow local input on site-specific conditions to mitigate nuisances, townships would be preempted from enforcing ordinances that conflict with state law. HB 6109 would amend the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act to limit township and county regulation of the location and operation of mining activities by placing significant restrictions on zoning decisions. Finally, [HB 6110](#) would promote the use of recycled materials in highway projects funded by MI Transportation Fund and [HB 6111](#) would establish criminal penalties for submitting false information that endangers the public (i.e., falsifying mining permit applications). MTA encourages members to [contact your state representative](#) to oppose the bills preempting your township's authority, as action is anticipated in late November/early December.



Litigation filed seeking injunction on MPSC PA 233 implementation order

Last week, litigation was filed with the state Court of Appeals on the Michigan Public Service Commission's (MPSC) October order regarding the implementation of Public Act 233 of 2023 on siting of large-scale renewable energy facilities. The litigation seeks an injunction on the MPSC order. MTA's legal counsel is currently reviewing the claim of appeal filing.

MTA offers essential training for newly elected township officials

New to township office? MTA's comprehensive [New Officials Training](#), available at 13 in-person locations and online in December and January, will help you step confidently into your new role. Learn the essential "hows and whys" of township government—from what townships do (and don't do) to who's in

Plante Moran Cresa is now



Comprehensive real estate solutions.

LEARN MORE



Michigan Township Participating Plan theparplan.com

Safeguarding Michigan Public Entities Since 1985

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDER MTA

Property & Casualty Insurance
Risk Control Support Programs

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy
Property & Casualty Insurance Program

Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

Dec. 13: [Legislative Wrap-up](#)

[Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection](#)

Nov. 19: [Marquette](#)
Nov. 20: [Gaylord](#)
Nov. 21: [Kalamazoo](#)
Nov. 25: [Frankenmuth](#)

[New Officials Training](#)

Dec. 10: [Muskegon](#)
Dec. 11: [Lansing](#)
Dec. 12: [Kalamazoo](#)
Dec. 17: [Frankenmuth](#)
Dec. 18: [Hale](#)
Dec. 19: [Thompsonville](#)
Jan. 6: [Houghton](#)
Jan. 7: [Harris](#)
Jan. 8: [Sault Ste. Marie](#)
Jan. 14: [Port Huron](#)
Jan. 15: [Gaylord](#)
Jan. 16: [Mt. Pleasant](#)
Jan. 17: [Ann Arbor](#)
[Online version](#)

charge, and key insights into township spending—plus get real-life knowledge and skills to help you master your role as a board member. Afternoon breakout sessions cover the duties and responsibilities of your specific office, so you can hit the ground running. Registration is now open and space is filling up fast—[get the full brochure here](#) or [register today](#) to secure your spot!



THE ENTIRE MONTH OF NOVEMBER
50% OFF MTA WEBCASTS FOR MEMBERS!

Give thanks

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

Vote on minimum staffing bill postponed

For townships with police and fire department employees **subject to collective bargaining**, thank you for your outreach to your state representatives this week in opposition to [House Bill 4688](#). The bill to require minimum staffing levels as a mandatory subject of collective bargaining between a public employer and the representatives of its employees was successfully removed from the House agenda this week. In addition to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, minimum staffing would also be subject to arbitration for labor disputes involving public police and fire departments. Minimum staffing levels for police and fire departments would be considered a condition of employment with respect to a bargaining representative's collective bargaining responsibilities. MTA, the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Association of Counties [oppose the legislation](#) due anticipated increased staffing costs at a time when many municipalities are facing staff shortages. The House returns to session on Nov. 26 and HB 4688 can be added to the agenda any time prior to final legislative adjournment.

OMA measure would expand allowed reasons for closed session

MTA testified in support of a bill to expand the reasons a public body could hold a closed session before the Senate Local Government this week. [Senate Bill 1023](#), sponsored by Sen. Veronica Klinefelt (D-Eastpointe) and approved by the committee, would permit a public body to hold a closed session to consult with its attorney on the attorney's legal opinion and to consider a demand made of the public body, among other things. Currently, the Open Meetings Act (OMA) permits public bodies to meet in closed session for specified reasons, such as meeting with a body's attorney concerning litigation involving the public body. However, it does not permit the public body to meet in closed session to discuss potential litigation or demands made of the body without the presence of an attorney. MTA supports expanding the reasons a public body could meet in closed session to allow productive conversations about current or potential judicial matters involving the body. The bill will next be considered by the full Senate.

Early voting clean-up bills reported



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE
2025 MTA CAPITAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 4
LANSING CENTER

MTA QUICK LINKS

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

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATING PLAN

PROPERTY & CASUALTY DIVIDEND PROGRAM

Michigan Township Participating Plan

www.theparplan.com



MERS

Municipal Employees' Retirement System

www.mersofmich.com

* [Baukham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman & Koches PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

* [Foster Swift Collins &](#)

With the beginning of early voting this election year, certain deficiencies in the law were identified by clerks and the Secretary of State. [House Bills 6054](#) and [6055](#), sponsored by Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou (D-East Lansing), amend various provisions of the early voting law to address these deficiencies. Changes include providing more flexibility regarding municipal and county agreements once they are in place. HB 6055 would allow municipalities to enter into a different municipal or county agreement after the presidential primary and allow municipalities to enter into municipal agreements if they are part of a county agreement and the county withdraws. It also sets specific timelines for notifying the Michigan Bureau of Elections regarding the days, hours and locations of early voting sites, and allows early voting sites to serve only a portion of the county or municipality if every voter is served by at least one voting site. Additional changes address the permanent absent voter (AV) list, processing AV ballots, the number of voting booths required at a polling place, electronic pollbooks, and the reporting of election results. Both bills will next be considered by the full House.

House bill would expand use of on-demand ballots

A bill to expand the use of on-demand ballots was approved by a House committee this week. [House Bill 6052](#), sponsored by Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou (D-East Lansing), would expand the use of on-demand ballots to: 1) absent voter (AV) ballots issued to voters who register to vote at the clerk's office on Election Day, 2) ballots issued to voters who register to vote at an Election Day vote center and 3) ballots translated to a language other than English to AV ballots issued to voters who register to vote at the clerk's office on Election Day. Currently, ballots on-demand can only be used at early voting sites. The bill now moves to the full House for action.

Hate crimes bills pass House

Bills making it a hate crime to take certain actions against another individual based in whole or in part on an actual or perceived characteristic of that individual passed the House this week. [House Bills 5400](#) and [5401](#), sponsored by Reps. Noah Arbit (D-West Bloomfield) and Kristain Grant (D-Grand Rapids), would make it a hate crime to use force or violence, cause bodily injury, stalk, damage or destroy personal property, or make a true threat to take any of these actions against an individual because of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, among other characteristics. The penalties increase based on number of violations and other factors. The bills also allow a civil action to be filed against the perpetrator. The bills move to the Senate for further consideration.

BOE reminders

Post-election audits. The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) will be conducting a statewide ballot audit of one statewide race in conjunction with post-election procedural audits. These audits will follow the same process as the audits conducted after the November 2022 election. State and county post-election audits will occur after election results are certified at the county and state levels and after any recounts are completed. BOE will provide more details regarding audits and schedules at a later date.

[Smith, PC](#)

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



New clerks or elections staff. As new clerks and staff come on board in the coming months, remember to complete the [Election Account/Update Request Form](#) to report these additions, deletions and/or changes. New local clerk accounts will not be processed until they take the oath of office starting on Nov. 20.

Reminder on treasurer's office hours

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 Feb. 28, the last day taxes are due and payable before being returned as delinquent under MCL 211.55. (MCL 211.44(2)(b)) In addition, the treasurer (or designee) must be in his or her office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. one business day between Dec. 25 and Dec. 31. However, the requirement to hold hours in December is waived if the township has an agreement with a local financial institution to collect taxes on behalf of the township, and the township provides timely notification to the taxpayers of their ability to pay their taxes at this financial institution. For 2024, the available days for required December office hours are Thursday, Dec. 26, Friday, Dec. 27, and Monday, Dec. 30. Treasurers must choose one day (unless a bank assists in collection). *(Please note: Incorrect dates appeared in the November Township Focus. We regret the error, and apologize for any confusion or inconvenience.)*

We Listen to Our Clients

Check out our Cemetery Plot Finder!

[See Example](#)



Nominations open for 2025 'Spirit of MTA' award

Local leadership that honors the unique individuality of one's community, yet works as a united effort to strengthen township government throughout the state is something to be celebrated! Is there an elected official in your township who leads with a "Unique and United" approach to public service? Nominate them for the 2025 "Spirit of MTA" award by completing [this online form](#) (a nomination form was also included in the November *Township Focus*). Nominations are due by Jan. 6. We'll honor the award recipient at [our Annual Conference in April](#). Our Conference theme of "Unique and United" encapsulates the nature—and strength—of township government, and nominations should highlight how the nominee's public service reflects this philosophy. *(Only current elected township board members are eligible for nomination; to avoid duplication, please consolidate nominations for the same individual from one township.)*



Webinar explores "How to Effectively Navigate BEAD Letters of Support"

With \$1.5 billion in federal funds entering the state, local governments are increasingly approached by providers seeking Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Letters of Support. To help you navigate these requests effectively, Merit Network has developed tailored guidance for local governments to help you through the process. Learn more during a free webinar, held Nov. 20 from noon to 12:45 p.m. [RSVP here.](#)



STG
SHUMAKER TECHNOLOGY GROUP

- Website Development
- Paperless Solutions
- Aerial Drone Photo & Video

Michigan's Experts in
Municipal Web Development

[VIEW PORTFOLIO](#)

Help MTA ensure our database is up to date for new and returning officials

MTA needs your help! With the November election complete, we are seeking updated information for all **NEW** and **RETURNING** officials in your township to update our

Association database. A paper roster was mailed to each township this week listing the names of all officials and personnel in your township currently in MTA's database. **Please provide any updates (or an "OK as is") with us as quickly as possible so that all newly elected officials in your township begin to receive their MTA benefits**—including important information on workshops, publications and additional resources to acquaint them with their new roles and responsibilities serving your community. The **clerk** or **treasurer** [may make changes online](#) to the township's overall contact information as well as for all individuals in the township. Individual officials can also [update their own information](#) on MTA's website (login is required), and [new officials can share their information](#) to be added using an online form. *Thank you for your assistance in helping us serve your township!*



Federal update for week of Nov. 12

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



Made in USA • Recycled Plastic Products • 20-Year Warranty

PollyProducts.com

20 YEAR WARRANTY

[SHOP NOW](#)

HDPE



Try email marketing for free today!