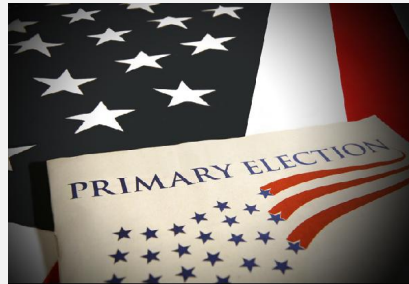


Nov. 21, 2025

## Bills would move primary to May

Legislation to move the state's statewide August primary election to May was recently introduced in the Senate. [Senate Bill 691](#), sponsored by Sen. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), would set the primary election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, eliminate the August election and reinstate an election on the fourth Tuesday in February. Currently, a February election only occurs in a presidential primary year when Michigan has a presidential primary. The primary election is when major political parties nominate their candidates for offices. If passed, the bill would not impact the 2026 election, but would take effect Jan. 1, 2027. Additional bills in the package would move up election filing dates, update campaign finance filing deadlines and align petition thresholds for statewide candidates without party affiliation in compliance with a federal court ruling. The legislation is currently before the Senate Committee on Elections and Ethics.




## Minimum staffing measure introduced in House

Legislation to require minimum staffing levels be a mandatory subject of collective bargaining between the public employer and the representative of its police and fire department employees was recently introduced in the House. [House Bill 5290](#), sponsored by Rep. Dave Prestin (R-Cedarville Twp.), would amend the Public Employment Relations Act to require minimum staffing levels be included as a subject of collective bargaining. 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. While contracts are typically multi-year agreements, HB 5290 would allow a public employer to not collectively bargain on minimum staffing levels if 1) there was a reduction in constitutional revenue sharing or property tax collections in the prior fiscal year or 2) the public employer would need to seek a millage increase to implement minimum staffing levels. This legislation would have a negative impact on municipalities across the state as it would create further risk and uncertainty to the financial security of a municipality. MTA encourages members with collective bargaining contracts to consider the impact on your township and [contact your state representative](#) with concerns. The bill, similar to [Senate Bill 319](#) passed by the Senate in June, was referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.

**CiviClarity**  
WEBSITE SERVICE

**Schedule Your Demo**



Assess the Service in Real Time

**15 - 60 Minutes**



**Michigan Township Participating Plan**

Customized Insurance Solutions  
for Michigan Public Entities

[theparplan.com](http://theparplan.com)



## Upcoming MTA Training

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

## ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



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



MICHIGAN  
TOWNSHIP  
PARTICIPATING  
PLAN

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



## FY 2026 Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

The state Office of Rural Development has announced the applications are being accepted for fiscal year 2026 Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants. The grant program is to help rural communities prepare for or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Eligible projects may take place in communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such a decline is considered imminent. No match is required. Find details, including how to apply, at the USDA Rural Development [program information for the emergency community water assistance grants](#). The program has a rolling application period.

## Guidance for local leaders on responding to marijuana complaints

Environmental challenges associated with marijuana, including odors, water discharges, land use and waste, can cause concerns and complaints from residents. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's next Local Leaders [webinar](#) on Dec. 17 will provide guidance from the Cannabis Regulatory Agency on how local agencies can manage the impacts of marijuana in their communities.



## 'Getting Grant Ready' webinar Dec. 4

[Register today](#) for the state Department of Treasury's next [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) webinar, "Getting Grant Ready," on Dec. 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The webinar will help local governments align grant opportunities with community goals, assess capacity to manage grants, and develop proactive policies and procedures. Participants will learn best practices for identifying, applying for and managing grants to strengthen fiscal sustainability and maximize funding impact. Questions can be submitted in advance to [TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov](mailto:TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov), with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."

## Emergency preparedness training for local personnel

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, also known as SARA Title III, facilities with chemical storage onsite are required to report storage information to local governments so they can be equipped to protect their community's health and safety. In the new year, Michigan Department of Environment,

[\\* 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](#)

Great Lakes, and Energy is hosting four in-person SARA Title III Tier II Workshops around the state for planning professionals, emergency managers and fire department personnel. They are scheduled for Jan. 14 in Gaylord, Jan. 21 in Grand Rapids, Jan. 29 in Lansing, and Feb. 3 in Ann Arbor. The training will cover program regulations, reporting requirements and tutorials, and emergency management best practices. The workshop is approved for 0.4 Drinking Water and Wastewater continuing education credits in the managerial category and four credit hours for certified fire inspectors. Spots are limited.

---

### **PFAS Summit Dec. 2-4**


Township officials and staff can attend the sixth annual virtual [Great Lakes PFAS Summit](#) at no cost. The summit, with [programming](#) across Dec. 2-4, is hosted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy through a combination of Zoom and the event app Whova. Registrants will have access to recorded sessions and can network with fellow government leaders, exhibitors and speakers. Participants and presenters include policy experts, researchers and contractors from around the world to share new methods of addressing this contamination and present innovative technical solutions developed to address these “forever” chemicals. [Registration](#) closes Dec. 1 at 11 p.m.

---

### **Water and wastewater professionals webinars, continuing education**

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has several upcoming opportunities for continuing education credits for drinking water and wastewater operators during [Water and Wastewater Professionals Workforce Week](#).

- Municipal wastewater operators can earn 0.1 continuing education credits (CEC) through participation in a Dec. 8 [webinar](#) that examines solids inventory control methods for activated sludge treatment plants.
  - Drinking water **and** wastewater operators can earn 0.1 Managerial CECs by participating in a Dec. 9 [webinar](#) highlighting how to work with industry partners and find resources and training opportunities.
  - Drinking water **and** wastewater operators can earn 0.1 Managerial CECs at a [webinar](#) on Dec. 11 at 10 a.m., which will cover how different funding programs can aid water supply systems in addressing cybersecurity threats.
  - Drinking water operators can earn 0.1 CECs in the technical category by attending a Dec. 11 [webinar](#) discussing future well site considerations to help operators maintain a resilient drinking water supply.
- 



**MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION**

# **GIVE THANKS WEBCAST SALE**

**HALF OFF IN NOV WITH PROMO CODE: THANKS**

**CLICK HERE TO BROWSE OUR ONLINE LIBRARY!**

The banner features a background of small envelope icons and a laptop on the right side.

---

## BOE reminders for clerks

- **Maintaining accreditation certification:** All clerks who completed their initial accreditation prior to Jan. 1, 2024, need to complete the 2024-2025 Continuing Education Curriculum in the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) eLearning Center. The only way to maintain an accredited status is to complete all sections of the curriculum before Jan. 1, 2026.
  - **November early voting wage reimbursement:** The early voting wage reimbursement for those jurisdictions that conducted early voting for the November election is now available. 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.
- 

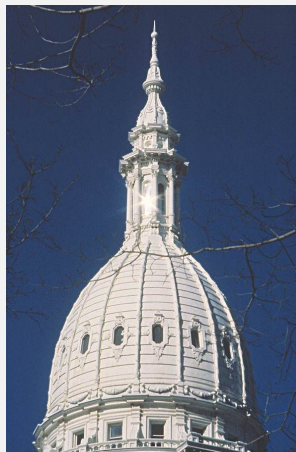
## Workplace violence survival plan webinar

It can be difficult to think about what would happen in your workplace if there was an outbreak of violence, but preparedness is key to protecting employee safety and well-being. The Michigan Occupational Health and Safety Administration (MIOSHA) is sponsoring a virtual training session to help workplace leaders develop a survival plan in the event of an active assailant or active shooter incident. The [webinar](#), held from 9 a.m. to noon on Dec. 3, will cover federal guidance, research-backed response plans and MIOSHA's workplace violence guidelines for prevention programs. In addition to the best steps to take during a workplace attack, the session will also cover concerning behavior to look for before violence breaks out and tactics to reduce employee trauma after an event.

---

## Monday is 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.

---

## Federal updates for week of Nov. 17

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!