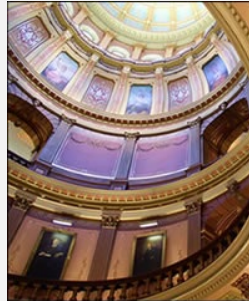


Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Nov. 22, 2023

Nov. 27 deadline for member input on 2024 MTA legislative policy platform

Members can provide input on MTA's legislative policy platform until **Monday, Nov. 27**. The legislative policy objectives, reviewed and updated annually, guide MTA's government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals, MTA members are encouraged to review the current [MTA 2023-24 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed revisions and suggested additions by the Nov. 27 deadline. Member-proposed policy changes will be reviewed by MTA committees for word selection and legality, and to ensure they conform with the Association's overall goals and objectives. The proposed policies will be presented at the 2024 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our Annual Educational Conference in April. Contact the MTA Government Relations Department at legislation@michigantownships.org with questions, comments or suggestions.



Increase in number of parcel splits legislation passes Senate

The first 10 acres of a parent parcel or tract of land could soon be increased from four to 20 parcels under legislation approved by the Senate. [Senate Bill 480](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores), would also allow a municipality to authorize the further partitioning of land into more parcels or tracts than allowed under the Land Division Act if the land met standards established by the municipality. The bill now moves to the House for consideration, but could not take effect until March 1, 2025, if enacted.

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Upcoming MTA Training

Now You Know lunchtime webinar

Dec. 8—[2023 Legislative Wrap-up](#)

December in-person events

Dec. 6, Mt. Pleasant

* [Board Roles & Relations](#)

* [How Boards Make Decisions](#)

[Financial Fundamentals](#)

(Dec. 5, Gaylord; Dec. 7, Lansing)



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Milkweed not to be considered noxious weed

Townships and other municipalities could not classify milkweed, a primary source of nourishment for Monarch butterflies, as a noxious weed, under a bill approved by the full House during the last week of session. Municipalities can regulate the growth of noxious weeds through local ordinances, and current law prescribes a list of plants that are considered noxious weeds. While milkweed is not included in the list, [House Bill 4857](#), sponsored by Rep. Samantha Steckloff (D-Farmington Hills), would prohibit milkweed from being considered a noxious weed. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

Bills provide tax exemptions for enterprise data center

Two bills approved by the House would exempt from sales and use taxes the sale, or the storage, use or consumption of data center equipment under specific conditions related to the equipment's use in an enterprise data center. Under [House Bills 4905](#) and [4906](#), sponsored by Reps. Alabas Farhat (D-Dearborn) and Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph Chtr. Twp.), the exemption would begin 90 days after the applicable bill is enacted and continue through Dec. 31, 2050. For properties on brownfields or former electric power plants, the exemption would expire Dec. 31, 2065. A portion of sales tax revenue (15% of the 4% portion of Michigan's 6% sales tax) collected by the state, in accordance with the state Constitution, is allocated to constitutional revenue sharing payments to all townships, cities and villages. The bills will next be considered by the Senate.

Bill would repeal prohibition on local banning of plastic bags

MTA QUICK LINKS

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[Webcasts](#)
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ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

Burnham & Flower
INSURANCE GROUP
www.bfgroup.com

Michigan Township Participating Plan
www.theparplan.com

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System
www.mersofmich.com

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

Legislation to return the option for local units to consider a ban on plastic bags in their community was reported from committee. Currently, a local unit is prohibited from adopting or enforcing an ordinance that regulates the use, disposition or sale of "auxiliary containers" (such as plastic bags or other single-use plastic containers), prohibits or restricts auxiliary containers or imposes a fee, charge or tax on auxiliary containers. [House Bill 4359](#), sponsored by Rep. Felicia Brabec (D-Pittsfield Chtr. Twp.) and supported by MTA, would amend existing statute that to remove bags. The bill will next be considered by the full House.



Measure authorizing school districts to utilize stop-arm cameras passes House



School districts could install and operate stop-arm cameras on school buses under bills that passed the House earlier this month. [House Bills 4928](#), [4929](#) and [4930](#), sponsored by Reps. Nate Shannon (D-Sterling Heights) and Tyrone Carter (D-Detroit), would also allow school districts to enter into agreements with law enforcement to provide evidence from the cameras when a vehicle passes a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing. Fines would be assessed to the registered owner of the vehicle and the revenue generated would go to the school district. The bills now move to the full Senate.

Townships eligible for EGLE grants

Township can apply to two grant programs through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE):

- **Lead line replacement:** [Community Technical, Managerial, and Financial Support for Lead Line Replacement grants](#) fund physical verification of

[* Consumers Energy](#)

[* Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

[* Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

[* Hartleb Agency](#)

[* ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

[* Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



lead service lines and assist communities in using federal dollars for lead line replacement. A informational [webinar](#) will be held **Nov. 29** at 2 p.m. Applications will be available Dec. 15, and accepted **Jan. 1-31**. Email EGLE-DWGrants@michigan.gov with questions.

- **Watershed Council Support.** The [Watershed Council Support Grant Program](#) funds general organizational support, conservation and educational activities. Individual grants are capped at \$40,000 and should be completed in a 12-month timeframe. No local match is required. Proposals are due **Jan. 19, 2024**, to EGLE-NPSGrants@michigan.gov. A **Nov. 28** webinar will explain program details, the application process, and answer questions. [Registration](#) is required.

Election reminders

Train the trainer. The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) is holding 12 in-person training sessions throughout the state in December and January to provide accreditation for county clerks and their staff, and for clerks and staff in jurisdictions over 10,000 in population. The sessions will prepare clerks and staff to train election inspectors for the upcoming election year. While county clerks are required to provide the training, townships with over 10,000 in population may *choose* to provide the training. Find dates and locations, and register on the [eLearning Center](#). Virtual sessions will also be scheduled later.

Precinct boundary changes. For the 2024 presidential primary, the deadline to notify voters of a polling place change is **Dec. 29**. With increased precinct size limits and the impact this will have on the Qualified Voter File, ballot programming and processing of absentee ballot applications, the **BOE asks that precinct boundary changes be submitted ASAP** to ElectionData@Michigan.gov, with SUBJECT: Precinct Boundary Change. Include a brief description of the request and, if necessary, the approved resolution and marked-up street index (including maps is also helpful and appreciated).

2024 presidential primary calendar. The [2024 presidential primary calendar](#), which includes all dates associated with Proposal 2022-2 legislation, has been updated to reflect the Feb. 27 election date.

2022 post-election audit report. A [2022 November Election Post-Election Audits](#) report is now available, describing the work of municipal and county clerks, as well as the BOE, to conduct recounts, procedural audits and a statistical ballot audit of the 2022 elections. Recounts and audits confirmed that Michigan's election system performed effectively in 2022 and that election officials' work and preparation resulted in a smoothly conducted election with record turnout.



Input sought for Michigan Healthy Climate Plan

In preparation for competitive federal funding, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy is seeking feedback to prioritize key strategies in the state's [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#) (MHCP). In-person and virtual events will allow officials to learn about the MHCP and progress on goals, and offer input on top priorities in your community, barriers to implementation, and environmental justice considerations in formulating potential implementation projects. [Register here](#) for in-person sessions, which will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on **Nov. 29** in Detroit; **Nov. 30** in Grand Rapids; **Dec. 5** in Flint; **Dec. 6** in Marquette; and **Dec. 12** in Petoskey. [Register here](#) for virtual sessions, held **Dec. 14** and **Dec. 18** from 6 to 8 p.m. Input or a project idea can also be sent to EGLE-OCE@michigan.gov.

Still time to take advantage of MTA's November webcast sale

MTA's half-off webcast sales runs through the end of November, so time is running out to save money and get township education when it works best for you! (And, you can purchase now, but watch anytime within the next



year!) With dozens of courses on township-specific topics, the [MTA Online Learning Center](#) has the information that you and members of your township team want and need. Be sure to apply the code "Thanks" during checkout to get the savings.

Federal update for week of Nov. 6

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

MTA offices closed for Thanksgiving

The MTA office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Normal office hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 27. MTA wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving!



MT. PLEASANT | DECEMBER 6

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ASSOCIATION

The banner features a teal background on the left with white text. On the right, there is a photograph of a long, empty conference room with rows of chairs facing each other. The Michigan Townships Association logo is in the top right corner.