

Nov. 22, 2024

MTA asks members to support Revenue Sharing Trust Fund legislation by Dec. 2

MTA is asking our members to support a critical and timely initiative. In partnership, MTA, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Municipal League and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments are working to gather letters encouraging Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to support the passage of the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund legislation—[House Bills 4274](#) and [4275](#). The Revenue Sharing Trust Fund will benefit our communities by allocating resources in a secure and predictable manner. By supporting this legislation, we can help protect sustainable funding for vital services, economic opportunities and our local infrastructure. Please [download this letter](#), add the date and your name to support the passage of HBs 4274 and 4275, and send to RSTF@michigantownships.org. Should you need more detailed information on the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund, [click here](#).



We ask that letters of support be placed on your township's letterhead and returned to RSTF@michigantownships.org no later than **Monday, Dec. 2**. We need your help to urge the governor to prioritize this critical legislation in the lame-duck legislative session—which has a limited number of session days remaining.

Member engagement needed to oppose local preemption bills

As shared last week, new bills have been introduced to eliminate local authority in the siting of aggregate mining. [House Bills 6108](#) and [6109](#) would establish a centralizing decision-making process at the state level. 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 the proposed 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. While newly introduced, the underlying principle of the bills has not changed—eliminate local authority and engagement in the siting process and place all siting authority with the state. MTA urges members to [contact your state representative](#) to oppose the bills preempting your township's authority, as action is anticipated on the bills in the remaining days of the 2024 session.



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Firearm ban in and around polling places sent to governor

Individuals will soon be prohibited from possessing a firearm in a polling place or within 100 feet of an entrance to a polling place on Election Day while the polls are open, under legislation approved by the Legislature. [House Bill 4127](#), sponsored by Rep. Penelope Tseronglou (D-East Lansing), also applies to an early voting site on any day early voting is conducted, or for the 40 days preceding an election at a clerk’s office or satellite voting site where absentee ballots may be returned. Additionally, firearms will be prohibited within 100 feet of any absentee voter (AV) drop box in the 40 days preceding an election. [HB 4128](#), sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Young (D-Detroit), prohibits possessing a firearm in an AV or combined AV counting location or within 100 feet of its entrance. The bills are pending approval by the governor.

Measure would establish Stormwater Management Utility Act

Local units of government would be allowed to establish a stormwater utility and collect a new stormwater management utility fee to cover the costs of such a utility under MTA-supported legislation. [Senate Bill 660](#), sponsored by Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D-Keego Harbor), would permit a local unit of government to adopt a stormwater management plan and a stormwater management utility fee ordinance. The plan would have to include details about the utility’s service area, the method for calculating the fee as well as an appeals board. The fee ordinance would create a fee for residents who received stormwater management services and provide procedures for the reduction or elimination of the fee. The fee would have to be proportionate to a resident’s use based on methods generally accepted by stormwater management professionals. A stormwater management utility could establish and charge a stormwater management utility fee for the use of a stormwater management system and to recover all the costs of providing stormwater management services, including operation, maintenance, administration, capital or other related costs. SB 660 currently awaits action by the full Senate.

Legislation would establish GEMT in Michigan

Publicly owned or operated ground emergency medical transportation providers for transportation services rendered to Medicaid



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patients would see increased funding under [House Bill 5695](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike McFall (D-Hazel Park) and supported by MTA. The bill, recently reported by the House Local Government Committee, would enable the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' participation in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program to access federal funds available for emergency services. This program provides full federal reimbursement to publicly owned or operated ground emergency medical transportation providers for transportation services rendered to Medicaid patients. By joining the federal program, Michigan can address significant funding deficiencies faced by our public emergency medical services providers and enhance care access for our most vulnerable populations. HB 5695 will next be considered by the full House in early December.

[Smith, PC](#)

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



Public transit authority opt-out for Wayne County municipalities to be eliminated

Legislation was introduced and reported by a House committee last week that would no longer permit municipalities in Wayne County to opt out of the county's public transit authority. Currently, the law permits a political subdivision that is a member of a public transit authority—or the portion of a city, village or township that is a member of a public authority—to be released from membership if certain conditions are met. [House Bill 6088](#), sponsored by Rep. Alabas Farhat (D-Dearborn), would eliminate from these provisions political subdivisions within a county with a public transit authority authorized under the Public Transportation Authority Act and a population of at least 1.5 million (Wayne County). The measure would also remove the five-year limit on taxes levied by public transit authorities. The bill awaits action by the full House of Representatives.



Senate committee reports measure changing election challenger processes

[Senate Bill 1068](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield),

proposes a number of changes to Michigan Election Law that primarily affect election challengers. Changes that would have a direct impact on clerks include requiring them to appoint a challenger liaison at polling places, early voting sites and AV counting boards where the challengers are required to report. They would also need to provide appropriate space for challengers within the public area of the clerk's office to observe Election Day registration. It also sets up a period for when challengers may challenge the voter registration of registered electors prior to the

election. Finally, the bill establishes a voter registration cancellation process for voters who have not voted in 20 years. SB 1068 will next be considered by the full Senate.

STC issues bulletins on board of review, procedural changes and revised form

This week, the State Tax Commission (STC) approved bulletins that contain information for boards of review and assessing officers, interest rates, procedural changes and the revised form to notify disabled veterans of exemption denial:

- [Bulletin 15 of 2024](#)—contains information that boards of review and assessing officers need to be aware of for the 2025 assessment year
 - [Bulletin 16 of 2024](#)—Michigan Tax Tribunal interest rates
 - [Bulletin 17 of 2024](#)—procedural changes
 - [Form 6055 - 11-2024](#)—notice of denial of disabled veterans' exemption
-

Board of review appointments due Jan. 1

The [General Property Tax Act \(MCL 211.28\(1\)\)](#) requires township boards to appoint members to the township's three-, six- or nine-member board of review. Board of review members serve for two years, beginning at noon on Jan. 1 of each odd-numbered year. Both new and reappointed board of review members must take the oath of office within 10 days after his or her appointment. Not more than two alternate members may also be appointed for the same term as regular members of the board of review. Learn more on [MTA's Board of Review webpage](#) (member login is required).

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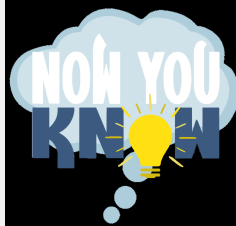
Reminder: Deadline to obligate ARPA funds is Dec. 31

Townships have **until Dec. 31, 2024**, to obligate their allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. If your township has not fully obligated the money, you should do so as soon as possible to meet the deadline. ARPA funds must be fully spent by Dec. 31, 2026. MTA has been told that the federal government may “claw back” the funds from townships that do not obligate the funds or continue to file their annual reporting each April. Townships may still choose the standard allocation option, which allows up to \$10 million to be used for general government services. For additional resources, visit [MTA's “ARPA Resources and Updates” webpage](#).

MTA webinar offers inside scoop on current legislative

issues

Don't miss MTA's next live [Now You Know](#) webinar, "Legislative Wrap-up: What's in, out and what's to come" on Friday, Dec. 13 at noon! Join our Government Relations team as they unpack the 2024 election results, "lame duck" legislative action, and preview key topics for the new session—all in just one hour. Busy that day? No problem—sign up now and we'll send you the recording! [Register online here.](#)



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Federal update for week of Nov. 18

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



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