

Nov. 27, 2024

## REMINDER—MTA asks for letters of support by Dec. 2

MTA is asking our members to support a critical and timely initiative. In partnership, MTA, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Municipal League, and the 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## NEEDED: Member engagement 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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## Upcoming MTA Training & Events

[Now You Know lunchtime webinars](#)

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

### [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](#)

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**2025 MTA CAPITAL CONFERENCE**  
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## Grants available for financially distressed townships

Townships experiencing financial struggles can apply for a grant to help fund special projects, freeing up current township dollars for important services. The [Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships grant program](#) is accepting [applications](#) until Jan. 27 for up to \$2 million. Applicants must demonstrate how the budgeted costs will lead toward financial stability—with priority given to applicants a) with two or more conditions that indicate probable financial distress, b) in which a financial emergency has been declared in the past 10 years, c) that has an approved deficit elimination plan for the general fund, and d) in which the fund balance of the general fund has been declining over the past five years and the fund balance is less than 3% of the general fund revenues.

## Bill extending law enforcement’s obligation to preserve DNA advances

Law enforcement agencies may be required to preserve evidence containing DNA beyond a convicted offender’s completion of their sentence, under legislation sent to the full Senate last week. [Senate Bill 1014](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), includes a provision that would require the investigating law enforcement agency to preserve evidence that could contain a convicted offender’s DNA through their completion of probation or parole. If the offender must register as a sex offender, the investigating agency must retain that DNA for as long as the offender is required to be on the registry. The bill was approved by the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety and awaits a vote by the full Senate.

## Time frame prohibiting election-related civil actions extended

Under current law, civil actions affecting certain election-related activities cannot be brought within 28 days of the affected election. [House Bill 6053](#), sponsored by Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou (D-East Lansing), would extend that timeline to 45 days if they affect dates of elections, candidates, qualifications of candidates, ballots, ballot questions, polling places, drop box locations and early voting locations. If an action is brought within this timeframe, there is a rebuttable presumption of laches, which means that the claim was unreasonably delayed and can be denied on that basis. The bill, approved by the House Elections Committee, now moves to the full House for consideration.

## Bill would provide civil fines for election

### MTA QUICK LINKS

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

### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

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

\* [Consumers Energy](#)

\* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

\* [Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC](#)

## disinformation

Individuals who intentionally and knowingly make a false statement or misrepresentation about an election with the intent to impede or prevent another individual from voting would be subject to civil fines, under a bill reported by the Senate Elections and Ethics Committee. [Senate Bill 707](#), sponsored by Sen. Mary Cavanagh (D-Redford Chtr. Twp.), would provide a civil fine of up to \$1,000 if the false information concerns the time, place or manner of an election, the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility, criminal penalties associated with voting in an election, or an individual's voter registration status. An entity that employed that individual for an election-related purpose would be subject to a maximum \$10,000 civil fine unless they did not have prior knowledge. Local governments would have a rebuttable presumption that they did not have prior knowledge. The bill now moves to the full Senate.

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[\\* Hartleb Agency](#)

[\\* ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

[\\* Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



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## STC holds February MCAT course

The State Tax Commission (STC) is accepting applications for the February 2025 [Michigan Certified Assessing Technician \(MCAT\) program](#), to be held Feb. 6 and 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kent District Library in Kentwood. The exam will be on Feb. 10 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the same location. [Completed applications](#) must be received by the STC no later than Jan. 17 to be considered. Questions can be directed to [GastW@michigan.gov](mailto:GastW@michigan.gov).

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## Unemployment insurance resources and updates

The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) [Resources for Employers page](#) now includes a recording of their in-depth Employer Seminar, designed to increase employers' familiarity navigating unemployment insurance. The UIA is also preparing to roll out a new computer system, MiUI. Employers should confirm their contact details in MiWAM are current to ensure a successful transition. For a step-by-step guide on how to update your contact information in MiWAM, watch this short [how-to video](#).

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## BOE reminders for new clerks

**QVF Access Training.** All new clerks and deputy clerks must complete the Qualified Voter File (QVF) Access Training through the state Bureau of Election's (BOE) eLearning to access your township's QVF. Training curriculums for basic and complete access, along with links to QVF manuals and supplemental resource guides, can be found in a playlist in eLearning.

**New clerks and/or staff members.** As new clerks and staff come on board in the coming months, please complete the [Election](#)

[Accounts Request Form](#) to report these additions, deletions and/or changes (including title changes).



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## Newly elected? MTA training will help you hit the ground running

If you're a new township board member (or serving in a new role), now is the time to get the education you need to lead with confidence. MTA's comprehensive [New Officials Training](#) is in full swing this winter, with sessions available online and at 13 in-person locations. Learn the critical "hows and whys" of township government, from what townships do (and don't!) to key insights into board responsibilities. Tailored afternoon breakout sessions ensure you gain the knowledge required to excel in your specific role. **Seats are filling quickly—[download the brochure here](#) or [register online today!](#)**



welcome

## Federal update for week of Nov. 25

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

## MTA offices closed for Thanksgiving

MTA offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Normal office hours will resume on Monday, Dec. 2. MTA wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving!



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