

Nov. 8, 2024

Township residents approve majority of local proposals

On Tuesday, 85% of more than 200 township proposals on the ballot were approved by voters. The proposals included road, public safety, library, senior services and marijuana proposals. The highest number of millages before township voters were public safety and local road increases and renewals. Statewide, 82% of all the proposals on the ballot—township, city, village, county, schools—were approved.



Bill would allow appointed members who are disabled to participate remotely

Disabled individuals who serve as an **appointed member** of a public body could soon be permitted to participate remotely if they request to do so. [Senate Bill 870](#), sponsored by Sen. Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo), defines disability as “a determinable physical or mental characteristic” that may result from disease, injury, congenital condition of birth or functional disorder, if the characteristic substantially limits one or more of the individual's major life activities. Participating would include discussing, debating and voting. The bill was passed by the Senate this week after being amended to limit the bill to only disabled individuals who are appointed members of a public body. As introduced, the bill was applicable to all members of public bodies who were disabled, but was amended prior to Senate passage to narrow the scope. The bill moves to the House for debate.

Bills changing youth employment standards head to the House

Changes to the employment standards for all employers hiring minors passed the Senate this week. [Senate Bills 963, 964](#) and [965](#) would create a registration system under the state Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) and increase penalties for violations of the Youth Employment Standards Act. The main bill, SB 964, would transition the issuance and administration of youth work permits from school issuing officers to LEO, require LEO to establish registration systems for minors and employers who employ minors, and modify the number of hours and times of day that a minor under the age of 16 could work—depending on whether school was in session. Minors and employers would have to provide certain personal and work-related information to the department, which would be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. The bills will next be considered by the House.

School districts soon will be able to utilize

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

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Nov. 20: [Gaylord](#)

Nov. 21: [Kalamazoo](#)

Nov. 25: [Frankenmuth](#)

[New Officials Training](#)

Dec. 10: [Muskegon](#)

Dec. 11: [Lansing](#)

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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](#)

stop-arm cameras

School districts will soon have the option to install and operate stop-arm cameras on school buses under bills that passed the Senate this week. [House Bills 4928, 4929](#) and [4930](#), sponsored by Reps. Nate Shannon (D-Sterling Heights) and Tyrone Carter (D-Detroit), 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 will be assessed to the registered owner of the vehicle and revenue generated will go to the school district for transportation-related purposes. HB 4929 has been forwarded to the governor for signature and HBs 4928 and 4930 await concurrence votes by the House.

Automated speed enforcement systems closer to becoming law

A bill allowing automated speed enforcement systems in work zones on Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) highways and roads passed the Senate this week. [House Bill 4132](#), sponsored by Rep. Will Snyder (D-Muskegon), and [HB 4133](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Fenton Charter Twp.), allow MDOT to install and use automated speed enforcement systems in work zones on highways or streets under their jurisdiction. The legislation also creates a new unit in MDOT to oversee the use of these systems and set up the Work Zone Safety Fund to cover system costs, with excess funds used to help pay for further work zone safety issues. The bills go to the House for concurrence of the Senate changes.

Jan. 17: [Ann Arbor](#)
[Online version](#)



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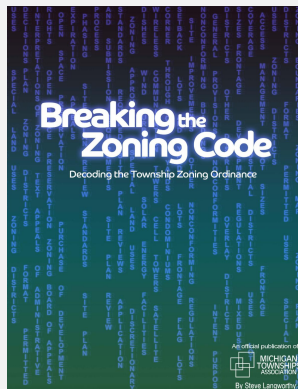


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NEW MTA book explores *Breaking the Zoning Code*

MTA's newest publication, *Breaking the Zoning Code*, decodes the complexities of the zoning ordinance—the basis of the township's zoning authority. A zoning ordinance helps to implement the township's vision, guide the future of the community, and ensure that local land uses are located and operated in a way that



protects the public's health, safety and general welfare. Authored by land use and planning expert Steve Langworthy (who also wrote MTA's additional planning and zoning books), *Breaking the Zoning Code* shares an exploration of zoning regulations, why they exist, what they are intended to accomplish, and how they may be used to the benefit of your township. **Order your copy today!** Order online on [our Store](#) (MTA members only), download [an](#)

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STC issues 2025 property tax appeal procedures, calendar and inflation rate multiplier

The State Tax Commission (STC) released bulletins of interest for townships and assessors this week:

- [Bulletin 11 of 2024](#)—2025 Property Tax Appeal Procedures
- [Bulletin 12 of 2024](#)—2025 Property Tax and Equalization Calendar
- [Bulletin 14 of 2024](#)—2025 Inflation Rate Multiplier

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December deadlines for comments on Treasury's Numbered Letters

Townships and other local governments receive guidance from the state Department of Treasury on accounting and auditing through Numbered Letters and Michigan Committee on Governmental Accounting and Auditing Statements. Treasury is updating and removing documents and is seeking comment on selected [Numbered Letters](#) until Dec. 2, and on [Numbered Letter 2024-2](#) on accounting for state pension and OPEB grants until Dec. 9. Submit comments to lafd_audits@michigan.gov, with the subject line "Numbered Letters Exposure Draft" or "Numbered Letter 2024-2 Accounting for State Pension and OPEB Grants PA 119 of 2023," or mail to PO Box 30728, Lansing, MI 48909-8228.

Coastal Management Program seeks input

Coastal townships are encouraged to participate in a survey from the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy [Michigan Coastal Management](#) program to assist with the development of the program's 2026-2030 Enhancement Strategies. [Access the survey here.](#)

MTA welcomes new officials to township government—and the Association

Following Tuesday's election, MTA looks forward to welcoming hundreds of new officials to township government—and the Association—as the new term of office begins. Help your township's newly elected leaders get started right by ensuring their access to MTA programs and services, including:

- [Letting MTA know about changes on your board](#) so new officials can begin receiving their MTA benefits (*see related article below*), including access to our Member Information

- Services staff and the [Members section](#) of [our website](#).
- Registering for our next *Now You Know* one-hour lunchtime webinar, [Onboarding New Officials: Getting Started Right](#), held at noon on Nov. 13—a helpful review for both current and new officials on what can, should and must be done when welcoming new members to your board.
- Registering new treasurers for our full-day [Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection](#), coming to four locations around the state later this month, and signing up all new officials (or those assuming a new role on the board) for an essential learning opportunity, [MTA's New Officials Training](#). We're hosting these events at 13 in-person locations, and there is an online option, too.
- Sharing our [Welcome New Officials](#) webpage, which outlines who we are and the MTA services, programs and resources available to help local leaders throughout their time in public service.

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!*



Proposed changes to 2025 GAAMPS approved

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approved proposed drafts of the [2025 Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices](#) (GAAMPs), which include: edits to the Care for Farm Animals GAAMPs language around apiaries; inserting an appendix and updated definitions to the Farm Market GAAMPs; and restructuring of the Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities GAAMPs for clarity. Learn more at www.Michigan.gov/RighttoFarm or contact (877) 632-1783.

Reminders from the Bureau of Elections

- **Voter history updates.** Clerks should update voter history for the Nov. 5 election no later than Tuesday, Nov. 12.
- **Grace period for MOVE ballots.** Ballots returned by military and overseas (MOVE) voters must be accepted if received

within six days after Election Day, so long as they are postmarked by Election Day. Since the sixth calendar day after the November election is Veterans' Day, the deadline has been moved to Nov. 12.

Read the November issue of *Township Focus*—online now!

Read the [November Township Focus](#) online now! In this month's cover story, *Building an effective township website*, learn more about managing this powerful tool to share information, provide convenient services and engage with your residents. Learn more about the Michigan Public Service Commission final order implementing Public Act 233 of 2023 for large-scale renewable energy facility siting, and read reflections and insights from officials retiring from township government this fall. "Hello, MTA ... ?" discusses surety bonds upon taking office, and "Financial Forum" explains revisions made to federal *Uniform Guidance*.



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