Michigan Township INSIGHTS

Oct. 23, 2026

MPSC seeks township response on video services survey



Municipalities in the state recently received a letter from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) seeking participation in an electronic survey on video services local franchise agreements. Under the Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act, the MPSC is required to file an annual report to the governor and Legislature that includes information on the status of video service competition in the state. Townships are asked to complete the quick and easy electronic survey by Nov. 9.

Reminder: Nonpartisan analysis of November statewide ballot proposals

As shared previously, two statewide ballot proposals will be before Michigan voters on the upcoming Nov. 3 ballot. Proposal 2026-1 asks whether to convene a constitutional convention for the purpose of drafting revisions of the state constitution (*this question is automatically placed before voters every 16 years*), and Proposal 2026-2 is a proposed initiated law to prohibit campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities and government contractors, and apply campaign finance laws and regulations to additional types of political communications.

Overviews of each proposal are available from three nonpartisan organizations: the Senate Fiscal Agency, SFA Ballot Proposal 26-1 and SFA Ballot Proposal 26-2; House Fiscal Agency, HFA Ballot Proposal 1 of 2026 and HFA Ballot Proposal 2 of 2026; and Citizens Research Council, CRC Proposal 2026-1 summary and CRC Proposal 2026-2 summary. These are also available on MTA's website.

The MTA Board of Directors has taken a position in opposition to Proposal 2026-1 and MTA is part of a broad coalition of organizations and advocacy groups working together to urge Michiganders to vote no on whether to convene a Con-Con, which would open Michigan's constitution to a complete rewrite. Find more on the Con-Con, and MTA's position, here.



UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

Nov. 18: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Drawing the Lines: Inside the Land Division Act

Nov. 24 & Dec. 2: Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection
· **Nov. 24**, Gaylord
· **Dec. 2**, Lansing

Dec. 8 & 9: Winter Academy, Bay Pointe Inn, Shelbyville
· **Dec. 8**, Township Finances
· **Dec. 9**, Fundamentals of Assessment & Taxation

FREE LIVE WEBINAR, Dec. 14: *Now You Know* 2026 Legislative Wrap-up

Jan. 5 & 7: New Officials Training
· **Jan. 5,** Lansing
· **Jan. 7,** Gaylord

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS







New to township government? Apply for new 'Future of MTA' award!

Applications are now being accepted for MTA's new Harold Koviak "Future of MTA" Memorial Award and Scholarship, which seeks to honor our late MTA president, while recognizing and supporting individuals who are new to township government and are committed to expanding their knowledge, building new skills and bringing valuable ideas to their communities. The winner will receive **FREE** registration and lodging to attend MTA's 2027 Annual Conference & Expo in April, and will also be recognized during the awards ceremony at the MTA Banquet on the final night of the Conference. Applicants must have served four years or less in their township role ***and*** have not previously attended the MTA Conference. Applicants are not limited to only elected township officials. In addition to those serving on the township board, appointed board or commission leaders may also apply, as well as deputies, staff and others who are seeking to grow in their role in the township or potentially seek elected office. The application deadline is **Jan. 4**. *If you are new to township government and are looking to grow in your leadership, apply today! Got newer individuals in your township? Encourage them to apply!* Find more information, and application requirements, on MTA's website.

MTA 2027 legislative policy platform—member input sought by Nov. 23

MTA-member township officials are encouraged to 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 2026-2027 Policy Platform and share any proposed additions and revisions by **Monday, Nov. 23**. Member-proposed policy changes will be reviewed by MTA policy committees and will be presented at the 2027 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our 2027 Annual Educational Conference in April. Contact legislation@michigantownships.org with questions, comments or suggestions.

Rural Development Fund letter of intent due Nov. 2

The Michigan Office of Rural Prosperity has $4 million in grant funding available for projects dedicated to

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System
www.mersofmich.com

* Adna Technologies

* 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

infrastructure, workforce and economic development in rural communities. Grants are available in two categories:

- **Community and Business Development grants** of up to $100,000 for infrastructure, community facility, workforce and economic development, business development, community planning, and capacity building projects.
- **Regional Collaboration grants** of up to $200,000 for projects that formalize regional partnerships and shared service models to build capacity and address multi-county needs through joint use of staff, expertise and systems.

Townships serving eligible rural areas are encouraged to apply. Detailed program guidelines are available on the Rural Development Fund Grants website, and letters of intent are due by Nov. 2, with a full application becoming available in December.

Virtual PFAS Summit

Township officials and staff interested in growing their knowledge about PFAS can attend the seventh annual virtual Great Lakes PFAS Summit at no cost. The summit, with programming offered from Dec. 1-3, will feature policy experts, researchers and contractors from around the world to share new methods of addressing these “forever” chemicals. Registrants will have access to recorded sessions and can network with fellow government leaders, exhibitors and speakers. New this year, registration includes access to two additional days for a virtual Treatment Technology Symposium on Dec. 9-10, focused specifically on advancements in PFAS treatment technologies. Registration closes Nov. 30.



Introduction to state brightfields pilot program

Applications open on Nov. 2 for a new state Brightfields Pilot Program, a brownfield renewable energy and energy storage grant program. Join staff from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for a program overview at a webinar held Nov. 9 at 11 a.m. Speakers will cover funding priorities, application deadlines, eligible projects and more for the reimbursement grant program disbursing $10 million this funding cycle.

November MIOSHA training opportunities

The Michigan Office of Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) offers in-person and virtual courses for employers, managers and employees through its MIOSHA Training Institute (MTI). Two virtual courses planned for November

may be of particular interest to township officials and staff: Nov. 10, Recordkeeping, Reporting and the Cost-of-Injuries and Nov. 24, Asbestos and Lead Awareness. Find detailed course descriptions and registration information for these and future training opportunities on the MTI webpage.



Webinar reviews upcoming firewood quarantine

A new Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) quarantine, effective Jan. 1, 2027, is designed to stop the movement of uncertified firewood into Michigan. What does this mean for firewood producers, campers, campground owners and anyone who travels in and out of state? Join MDARD quarantine compliance and export staff for an informational webinar on Nov. 12 at 9 a.m. The session will provide an overview of the quarantine, its purpose and how to comply with its rules. Guests from the state Department of Natural Resources and Michigan's Invasive Species Program will be on hand for an extended Q&A session following the presentation.

Reminders for clerks

Early voting resources. A collection of guidance on all procedures related to early voting is available via the Early Voting Information and Materials Playlist in the state Bureau of Elections' (BOE) eLearning Center. The playlist is regularly updated with new or revised guidance.

Campaigning at polling locations and clerks' offices. Michigan law prohibits "any material that directly or indirectly makes reference to an election, candidate, or a ballot question." The BOE has advised that some common slogans like "Hope" or "Make America Great Again" are not associated with candidates on the ballot this year and recommends that they should be allowed. Check out the BOE's "Campaigning in the Polling Place" and "Campaigning in Clerks' Offices During Early Voting" publications for specific guidance.

Public accuracy test. A public accuracy test of all voting equipment for the Nov. 3 election must be completed by a quorum of the township's election commission no later than Thursday, Oct. 29.

Important November election dates:

- Oct. 30—Deadline for clerks to send absent voter (AV) ballots via first-class mail.
- Oct. 31—Deadline for military and overseas voters to submit an AV application.
- Nov. 2—Deadline for voters who have lost or not received their AV ballot to spoil their ballot and receive

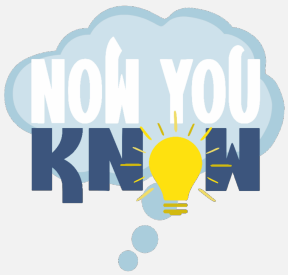
a new one and the last day for voters to apply for an AV ballot in person.



Townships should take action to protect against newly identified web vulnerabilities

Townships should be aware of a recent notification from the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) about critical security vulnerabilities that could affect township websites. The vulnerabilities are in PHP, a widely used programming language that powers websites and web applications, and could allow attackers to execute unauthenticated remote code, potentially compromising information or data. Many townships used a web platform that is PHP-based, and are encouraged to work with their web developer or IT support to protect from these vulnerabilities by applying the emergency security patches released (by updating to PHP 8.5.12, 8.4.27, 8.3.36, or 8.2.35). If your township does not work with a web developer, you can check your website hosting control panel to verify the PHP version and upgrade if needed, or reach out to your website host's support to verify it is on a patched version.

MTA's next live webinar takes you *Inside the Land Division Act*



Amendments to the Land Division Act are paving the way for new development possibilities. *Are your township's zoning and land division ordinances ready?* Join us on Nov. 18 as MTA Legal Counsel Rob Thall from Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches PC digs into what's changed, the impact on townships and what the amendments mean for your community's planning decisions. Can't participate live? You'll also get access to a recorded version later. Click here to register now!



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

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