

Oct. 31, 2025

Treasury releases revenue sharing projections

With the state budget now in place, the Michigan Department of Treasury recently released its [official estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 revenue sharing](#). The projections provide annual estimated constitutional and statutory revenue sharing payments by local unit. You will note the document includes the actual amounts for both constitutional revenue sharing and statutory revenue sharing for FY 2026 and the estimated amounts for each for the current fiscal year as well as the dollar and percentage change for each local unit. The document does not include the estimates for the newly created public safety revenue sharing grants.



Legislation to create and fund water affordability program

Legislation to create a Low-Income Water Residential Affordability Program received testimony this week before a Senate committee. Senate Bills 248-256 are similar to a package of bills from last session and would ensure that a water customer who had a household income of up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or who was eligible for certain assistance programs did not pay more than 3% of the customer's household income on a water bill. The bills would create the program Low-Income Water Residential Affordability Fund and would require water or sewage customers to pay a monthly \$1.25 fee on each retail water meter to be deposited into the fund for the program's implementation. This would not impact individuals on a septic system or with well water. Under the legislation, a water provider (municipality) could opt out of the statewide program if it were to implement its own local option program that corresponded with the state Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) program. A provider with 6,000 or fewer retail water customers (meters) can also opt out of the program and fee, but it could not shut off water or pursue debt collections. The bills would require providers and the Water Affordability Task Force to submit certain reports to the DHHS and Legislature concerning funding factors and program information.

Additionally, the legislation would prohibit a water provider from shutting off water services to a critical care customer and a customer enrolled in a program within 120 days of delinquency and only after specified requirements were met. Customers who were unable to comply with a program's requirements would have to undergo triage to prevent disenrollment and service shut-off. The bills also would prohibit a person from tampering with a provider's service lines to restore water after a shut-off because of

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an inability to pay and prescribe penalties for violations. The bills are anticipated to receive a vote by the committee next week.



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Automatic continuation for poverty exemption

Properties qualified for a poverty exemption could soon remain exempt from property taxes for up to three years if they file an annual extension. [House Bill 4041](#), sponsored by Rep. Tyrone Carter (D-Detroit), was approved by the House Committee on Finance this week and would replace the annual filing requirement for the exemption. The bill is permissive and allows a local assessing unit to permit a principal residence with a poverty exemption to remain exempt for up to three years as long as there is no change in ownership or occupancy status, the individual receives a fixed income solely from public assistance, and files an annual extension. Current law allows a local board of review to grant a full or partial poverty exemption from property taxes for a qualifying owner of a principal residence, but the individual must file an application with supporting documentation every year.

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Foreclosure avoidance sunset removed

Legislation to allow for payment reduction measures and foreclosure avoidance agreements that provide continued eligibility for properties with delinquent property taxes passed the Senate this week. [Senate Bill 423](#), sponsored by Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), would delete the sunset dates on these provisions in the General Property Tax Act. Under the act, on March 1 in each tax year, property delinquent for taxes, interest, penalties and fees for the preceding 12 months or more is forfeited to the county treasurer for the total amount of those unpaid delinquent taxes, interest, penalties and fees. A local government may withhold property from the delinquency process under certain circumstances, including cases of substantial financial hardship. For such cases, a foreclosing government may grant a delinquent property tax payment reduction, create a delinquent property tax installment payment plan or a tax foreclosure avoidance agreement, or enact a combination of these options. For a delinquent property payment reduction, a participating local governmental unit may reduce delinquent taxes to specified percentages, cancel some or all taxes that represented charges for services that became delinquent, and cancel all interest penalties and fees required under the act. The current provision expired July 1, 2025; SB 423 moves to delete the sunset date to allow the statutory provisions to remain in effect. The bill now moves to the House.

Bills to prohibit information release of

Judges and certain elected officials

Townships and other public bodies would be prohibited from publicly posting, displaying or releasing under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request certain personal identifying information concerning a judge, protected elected officials and members of the protected individual's family under legislation approved by the House Committee on Judiciary this week. [Senate Bill 82](#), sponsored by Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), would create the Judicial Protection Act to allow judges to submit a written request that a public body not publicly post or display certain information and to require compliance with such a request. Similarly, [House Bill 4397](#), sponsored by Rep. Sarah Lightner (R-Tomkins Twp.), would create the Elected Officials Protection Act to provide the same protection for current legislators (state legislators, U.S. senators and U.S. Congress members), current or former governors, and the current lieutenant governor, attorney general and secretary of state. If a request were made and not complied with, the judges and elected officials could go to court to compel compliance and recover court costs and attorney fees. Both bills now move to the full House for consideration.

CRA Municipal Summit Nov. 19

The Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) has announced the date and time for its next statewide municipal summit to be held via Zoom on Nov. 19 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Staff from the CRA's legal, licensing and enforcement divisions will host the 90-minute Zoom and answer questions from local municipal officials. Please submit questions by Nov. 12 to CRA-SocialEquity@michigan.gov. If you have RSVP'd for a previous CRA municipal summit, you do not need to RSVP but watch your email for a link the week of the event. Those who have not previously RSVP'd may do so by email to CRA-SocialEquity@michigan.gov prior to Nov. 12 at 5 p.m. Officials should include the name of their municipality as well as the name, email address, title and phone number for all those planning to attend. The CRA will confirm attendance via email, including the Zoom link, in the week prior to the date of the summit.

In addition to the municipality summit, a [Municipal Guide](#)—in which the CRA answers many of the most commonly-asked questions from municipal officials, including adult-use and medical facility licensing questions, as well as enforcement questions—is available in the "Other Resources" section of the CRA's [Laws, Rules, & Other Resources page](#).

Increased penalties for disarming officers clears committee

A two-bill package increasing penalties for disarming a law enforcement officer was approved by the House Committee on Judiciary this week. Under current law, taking a firearm from a lawfully carrying law enforcement or corrections officer is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment or a fine of \$5,000, or both. [House Bills 5079](#) and [5080](#), sponsored by Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Fenton Chtr. Twp.), would add an enhanced penalty when force or violence is deployed as an individual is taking or attempting to take the firearm. Using force or violence to take a firearm would be a felony punishable for up to 20 years or a fine of up to \$5,000. The bill advances to the House floor for consideration.

Recycling infrastructure grants for local governments

Townships have until Jan. 28 to apply for a new recycling infrastructure grant program. The program may be used to fund projects that grow access to recycling infrastructure, expand collection and processing capacity, or increase participation in existing recycling programs. Awards can be between \$5,000 and \$1 million dollars and are reimbursement-based grants requiring a minimum of 20% match. Applicants are highly encouraged to discuss potential projects with their local [recycling specialist](#). The [RFP](#) and other recycling grant information can be viewed at Michigan.gov/MiRecycles. For more information, contact FreemanE@Michigan.gov.



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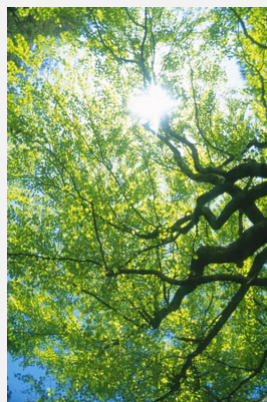


History grant program accepting applications

The [America250MI History Grant Program](#), part of Michigan's [efforts](#) to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, has reopened applications from until Jan. 15, 2026. Local governments are eligible to receive funds for projects that interpret, preserve or explore any era of Michigan's history. Awards are available in three tiers: Tier 1 is \$2,500-5,000 with no match requirement, Tier 2 is \$5,001-25,000 with a 15% match requirement, and Tier 3 is \$25,001-50,000 with a 30% match requirement. Visit the [grant portal](#) for more information about eligible projects and the America250MI Guiding Themes emphasized by the program.

Tree City USA applications open

Through Dec. 31, township governments can apply for a designation as [Tree City USA](#) from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program. To be eligible, communities must have a tree board or department responsible for public trees, public tree care ordinance, an Arbor Day observance and proclamation, and spend at least \$2 per capita annually on public tree management. New this year, all Tree City applications must be submitted through the [online portal](#). For further assistance, email DNR-UCF@Michigan.gov to reach program staff.



Reminders for clerks

- **Early voting webpage:** An [early in-person voting webpage](#) provides answers to many frequently asked questions regarding early voting and early voting sites for clerks and members of the public. It is updated on an ongoing basis as new questions arise.
- **Election Day reminders:** There is no campaigning or soliciting within 100 feet of the entrance to the clerk's office. Anyone in line to register and vote by 8 p.m. must be provided with the opportunity to do so. Clerks should inform precinct inspectors that the absent voter (AV) ballots for voters in line at the close of polls will be sent to either the precinct or the AV counting board after all voters have had the opportunity to vote, and polls cannot close until all AV ballots have been delivered and processed.
- **Notice requirement for precinct canvass of early votes:** No later than **Oct. 31**, clerks must have posted on their township website (if available) the location and time the early voting site will close and precinct canvass of early votes will begin. The canvass cannot begin before 8 p.m. on Election Day. This notice requirement still applies when municipalities are participating in a combined site.
- **Weekend office hours:** Clerks or their appointed staff must be available in the clerk's office for at least eight hours in some combination on Saturday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 2. If early voting is available, the office hours do not need to be the same hours as early voting hours. On Saturday and/or Sunday, voters may register to vote with residency verification and/or request an AV ballot in person.
- **Emergency ballots:** Emergency requests for AV ballots may be made until 4 p.m. on Election Day. The emergency must occur after 5 p.m. on Oct. 31. The person making the application may provide written authorization for the person delivering the application to pick up and deliver the ballot. An emergency AV ballot may also be delivered by hand by a person authorized by the clerk to handle this task.

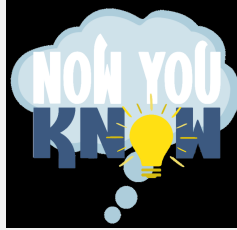
Nov. 24 deadline for member input on MTA's 2026 legislative issues

As a member township official, you can 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 [2025-2026 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed additions and revisions by Monday, Nov. 24. Member-proposed policy changes will be reviewed by MTA policy committees and will be presented at the 2026 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our 2026 Annual Educational Conference in April. Contact legislation@michigantownships.org with questions, comments or suggestions.

Wonder who's responsible for all those non-statutory duties? MTA's November webinar can help

The law assigns specific duties and

responsibilities for elected officials, but what about routine actions that are not governed by statute, like setting agendas, acting as FOIA coordinator or webmaster and overseeing township hall use? Join us live at noon on Nov. 19 for our next *Now You Know* webinar, [Wait, Who's Supposed to Do That?](#) as we explore who should be doing what, who can assign additional duties, plus options for compensation—all in just one hour! [Click here to register online.](#)



Federal updates for week of Oct. 27

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

Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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