

## Disabled members of public bodies would be able to participate remotely under bill

Townships and other public bodies would be required to allow members of public bodies to participate remotely if they have a disability and request to do so. Under [Senate Bill 870](#), sponsored by Sen. Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo), disability is defined as “a determinable physical or mental characteristic of an individual, which may result from disease, injury, congenital condition of birth, or functional disorder, if the characteristic substantially limits 1 or more of the major life activities of that individual.” Participating would include discussing, debating and voting. The bill was approved this week by the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety and now moves to the full Senate.

## Measure gives locals flexibility in administering opioid antagonists

Townships and other local governments would have flexibility when administering opioid antagonists that are distributed by the state Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at no cost. [Senate Bill 542](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores), would allow governmental entities and individuals to choose the formulation, type of delivery device, method of administration or dosage of the opioid antagonist to assist in reducing the number of opioid-related overdoses in Michigan. The bill was approved by the Senate Committee on Health Policy and now moves to the Senate for further consideration.



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## Minimum wage increase schedule, earned sick leave FAQs issued

Michigan’s minimum wage will increase twice in 2025—on Jan. 1, increasing from \$10.33 to \$10.56 per hour, and again on Feb. 21, to \$12.48 per hour. The latter increase is in accordance with a recent [Michigan Supreme Court ruling](#). A [Michigan Minimum Wage Rate Increase Schedule](#) released this week provides the hourly wage rate effective Feb. 21, 2025, and thereafter. The supreme court opinion also changes the state’s earned sick time



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### Upcoming MTA Training & Events

#### [Now You Know lunchtime webinars:](#)

Oct. 16: [In the Transition](#)  
Nov. 13: [Onboarding New Officials](#)

#### [Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection:](#)

Nov. 19: [Marquette](#)  
Nov. 20: [Gaylord](#)  
Nov. 21: [Kalamazoo](#)  
Nov. 25: [Frankenmuth](#)

### MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)  
[Training](#)  
[Advocacy](#)  
[Classifieds](#)  
[Community Connection](#)  
[Webcasts](#)  
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laws, which takes effect Feb. 21, 2025, as well. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity has issued answers to [frequently asked questions](#) on the [Earned Sick Time Act](#). As new information becomes available or if any legislative changes occur to the new minimum wage schedule or earned sick leave requirements, MTA will update our members.

## Deadline for Drinking Water, Clean Water State Revolving Funds Intent to Apply




Townships seeking low-interest loans to upgrade water infrastructure and protect residents' health have until Nov. 1 to submit [Intent to Apply forms](#) with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. Funds for these financing programs come from the [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) and [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#). View the [Intent to Apply Form Preview](#) for information required to complete the form. More than \$1 billion in low-interest loans were issued for 72 projects across the state in fiscal year 2024 to ensure safe drinking water is available for residents and to reduce the risk of contaminants entering surface water and ground water.

## New tools and updates to boost election security and share voter information

Townships can share with voters new state tools to help ensure Michiganders are confident when casting their ballots:

- With the MI Vote Info Texting Tool, voters can text VOTE to (833) 868-3009 to receive a one-time text with a link on five topics: requesting an absent voter ballot, finding their early voting site, becoming a poll worker, making a plan for Election Day, and accessing the League of Women Voter's nonpartisan election guide information.
- Absentee ballot tracking has been expanded to include the ability to receive notifications directly to their email inbox.
- The [Election Fact Center](#) provides an official source of nonpartisan information on elections and voting in Michigan, including answers to frequent questions or facts on false claims about elections. Election misinformation can be reported to the state at [Misinformation@Michigan.gov](mailto:Misinformation@Michigan.gov).



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

THIS NOVEMBER

### TREASURERS' GUIDE TO Tax Collecting

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## Share input on 2024 residential code

Township leaders and staff can provide data and comments on the need to update the Michigan residential code with the 2024



[www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes](http://www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes)



[www.mersofmich.com](http://www.mersofmich.com)

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edition of the International Residential Code. Input can be provided at a public meeting held Dec. 12, at 9 a.m. at the Michigan Library & Historical Center in Lansing, by 5 p.m. Dec. 12 to [LARA-BCC-Rules@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-BCC-Rules@michigan.gov), or by mail to Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Construction Codes, Operations Section, PO Box 30254, Lansing, MI 48909.

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## Election reminders from BOE

**Dropbox collection requirements.** As of Oct. 1, clerks are required to collect election materials from each drop box in their township every day that the clerk's office is open for business.

**Security costs and voting equipment reimbursement.** Utilizing funding from a federal election security grant, the state will reimburse municipalities (up to \$1,000 per precinct) and counties (\$100 per municipal precinct in the county) for costs incurred to improve security and resiliency, along with voting equipment not covered by the early voting grant. Costs incurred from Oct. 1, 2024, through post-election activities until the end of February 2025 will be eligible for reimbursement. A summary of eligible expense categories and details for reimbursement requirements can be found in the Bureau of Elections (BOE) [eLearning Center](#).

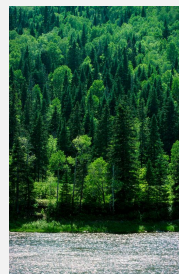
**Signature curing.** If a local clerk rejects an application or ballot because of a signature deficiency, the voter must be provided with the opportunity to cure the signature deficiency. The Qualified Voter File can track cured applications and ballots, and the date they were cured. If a voter returns a signature cure form and remedies the deficiency, clerks should select "Cure Signature," and enter the date to make that ballot or application active again.

**Early voting and site management.** Early voting coordinators [can schedule](#) optional, one-on-one appointments with the BOE Training and Election Assistance Team to assist with their early voting region and site management responsibilities. Appointments begin Oct. 7.

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## Deadline extended for State Forest Management Plan input

Individuals have additional time to provide comments on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [2024 State Forest Management Plan](#). The plan will serve as a guide for the next 10 years and aims to ensure the long-term, sustainable management and health of the state forest. More information is available on the [DNR's state forest planning webpage](#); email comments by Dec. 31 to [ForestPlanComments@Michigan.gov](mailto:ForestPlanComments@Michigan.gov).



## Members can provide input on legislative policy platform

Township officials can review and provide input on the MTA's legislative policy platform. The legislative policy objectives guide the Association's government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members are encouraged to review our [2024-25 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed revisions and suggested additions by **Monday, Nov. 4**. Member-proposed policy changes are reviewed by MTA committees for

word selection and legality, and to ensure they conform with the Association's overall goals and objectives. The proposed policies will be presented at the 2025 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our Annual Educational Conference in April. Contact [legislation@michigantownships.org](mailto:legislation@michigantownships.org) with questions, comments or suggestions.

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## Reminder: Officials can participate in FREE BEAD networking event

Township officials can participate in a free networking event, Building Bridges for BEAD, on Oct. 15 to initiate conversations between potential Broadband, Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program applicants and communities with BEAD-eligible locations in their area. Whether you represent a community with BEAD-eligible locations or are planning to apply for a BEAD grant, this event will offer insights and networking opportunities to drive connectivity advancements across the state. For more information and to register, visit [Building Bridges For BEAD: A Community and ISP Networking Expo](#).

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## Don't miss MTA's webinar for incoming & outgoing officials—register now!

Join us online Oct. 16 at noon for our next [Now You Know](#) webinar, *In the Transition*, as our experts share what you need to know about the post-election transition. Review how to handle resignations, appointments, compensation and the oath of office, as well as required meetings and dates. Plus, get tips on handling “elects,” when those running unopposed can assume duties ... and so much more. [Register now!](#)

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## MTA on-demand webcasts: Expert insights into elections, ARPA (free!), township policies

MTA's [Online Learning Center](#) offers a convenient and affordable way to get the knowledge you need, when (and where!) it works for you. Check out these recent additions:

- [Elections: Ready? Set. Go!](#) reviews key elections issues, including managing safety challenges, preparing for the oath of office, a review of canvassing and certification processes, and more. [Register here for immediate access.](#)
- Get an overview of acceptable uses for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the legal requirements to “obligate” in our [FREE MTA Q&A webinar: Obligating ARPA Funds](#). Ensure your township meets the reporting requirements, [click here to watch now immediately, at no charge.](#)

- Glean insights into township policies, from what’s most important to the true value in providing them for incoming officials, with closer look at [Prudent Policies](#). Clearly defined township policies can ensure incoming officials understand how (and why!) things work the way they do. [Register here for immediate access.](#)

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## Read the October issue of *Township Focus*—online and in mailboxes now

Your [October issue of \*Township Focus\*](#) can be read online, and is hitting mailboxes now! Read this month’s cover story, *Flurry of court cases impact townships*, to learn about recent state and federal court decisions on key issues affecting Michigan townships, including public officials’ use of social media and zoning and the Second Amendment. Our feature story profiles MTA’s 2024 Robert R. Robinson Scholarship recipient, who is seeking a master’s in public administration and is working toward a career in local government management. In our Q&A columns, “Hello, MTA ... ?” answers questions on the oath of office for township officials and “Financial Forum” explores the latest Governmental Accounting Standards Board statement, which affects the audit’s Management Discussion & Analysis.



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## Federal update for week of Sept. 30

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

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