

Sept. 12, 2025

No state budget as Oct. 1 deadline nears

With less than 20 days until the state's next fiscal year on Oct. 1, no resolution has been reached on the state's FY 2025-2026 budget. While there are major differences between the Senate, House and governor's budget recommendations, these need to be negotiated before the end of September to avoid a government shutdown. Additionally, road funding and public safety funding are expected to be part of a final agreement.



For townships, the major item to be resolved is funding for statutory revenue sharing (which is separate from constitutional revenue sharing). Currently, townships, cities and villages are receiving \$333 million in statutory revenue sharing. The governor's funding proposal increases the amount to \$345 million for FY 2025-2026, the Senate's recommendation proposes \$366 million, and the House proposal reduces current-year funding to \$293 million. While the House-passed budget includes higher funding levels for public safety and roads than both the governor and Senate, their funding reduction removes statutory revenue sharing funding for 88% of Michigan townships—eliminating the current fiscal year inclusion that had added ALL townships, cities and villages to the statutory revenue sharing formula *for the first time in nearly two decades*. MTA encourages our members to advocate their [state representative](#) and [state senator](#) to ensure all local units of government receive statutory revenue sharing—not just a portion of local governments in the state.

Bill would allow postmark as date of receipt for property tax payment

Local units could soon be required to accept the postmark from the U.S. Postal Service as the date of receipt for property tax payments and other communication or notifications under a bill before the House Finance Committee next Tuesday, Sept. 16. [House Bill 4799](#), sponsored by Rep. Sarah Lightner (R-Tomkins Twp.), is opposed by MTA as it would require the township and other local units of government to consider the postmark date as the date of payment or notification from property tax owners, regardless of when the payment or notification/communication was received. Further, the proposed change would apply to nondelinquent property taxes, assessments or other amounts on a property tax statement as well as all related penalties, interest or fees.

Website Accessibility: More Than a Widget

Learn why Civic Clarity promotes manual review



CiviClarity
WEBSITE SERVICE

Learn Why

Upcoming MTA Training & Events

Sept. 17: [Webinar: Revenue Sources: Coins in the Couch](#)

2025 Professional Development Retreats

Sept. 29-30: [Clerks](#)

Oct. 1-2: [Treasurers](#)

Oct. 14-15: [Supervisors](#)

Oct. 27-28: [Trustees](#)

Oct. 29-30: [Planning & Zoning](#)

MTA QUICK LINKS

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ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



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Send instant updates directly to your residents' phones

Sewer maintenance will be conducted on Maple Avenue today between 9:00AM - 3:00 PM.

MORE INFO.



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House approves changes to election equipment testing

A bill to change requirements around election equipment testing and “test decks” was approved by the House this week. [House Bill 4602](#), introduced by Rep. Rachelle Smit (R-Wayland Twp.), would no longer permit the state to contract with a single vendor for testing services of election equipment. Local governments would continue to have the choice to use the state contracted services or contract for testing on their own. If the bill became law, the state would either have to cancel its current contract with the sole testing services vendor, set to expire in August 2029, or contract additional vendors to comply with the law, potentially impacting the availability of the state-provided testing service. The bill also prohibits the Secretary of State from restricting or requiring a board of election commissioners from using any specific source to create test decks and requires any state guidance regarding test deck procedures to be able to be replicated by boards of election commissioners without reliance on proprietary systems or information not publicly available. The bill advances to the Senate for consideration.

* [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](#)

Legislation would amend election petition provisions

Four bills were approved by the Senate Elections and Ethics Committee this week to amend the election law. [Senate Bill 529](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), would prohibit petition circulators from being paid a per-signature rate or per-petition signature page for gathering signatures; it would allow circulators to receive an hourly wage or do so as a volunteer. [SB 530](#), also sponsored by Sen. Moss, would require the circulator of a petition to provide a summary of the petition or read it to voters so they are aware of the petition’s proposed amendment or question. [SB 531](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), would allow only the first valid signature of an elector to be counted if the elector signed a petition more than once. And [SB 533](#), sponsored by Sen. Mary Cavanagh (D-Redford Chtr. Twp.), would establish civil fines of up to \$1,000 per violation for individuals making a false statement or misrepresentation with the intent to impede or prevent someone from voting. The bills are intended to address signature fraud, deter circulators from misrepresenting a petition’s purpose, and intentionally providing misinformation about an election. The legislation will next be considered by the Senate.



'Getting Grant Ready' webinar on Sept. 25

Township officials and staff can [register today](#) for the state Department of Treasury’s next [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) webinar, “Getting Grant Ready” on Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. The

webinar will help local governments align grant opportunities with community goals, assess capacity to manage grants, and develop proactive policies and procedures. Participants will learn best practices for identifying, applying for and managing grants to strengthen fiscal sustainability and maximize funding include a Submit questions in advance to TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov, with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."

Final BEAD proposal open for public comment until Sept. 16

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) has finalized [Michigan's draft BEAD Final Proposal and posted on MIHI's website](#). Public comments are being accepted until the deadline of noon on Sept. 16. Michigan's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Final Proposal's goal is to provide once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure that every resident and business in Michigan can access fast, scalable, reliable and affordable internet service that will drive economic opportunity, improve health outcomes and enhance learning opportunities for generations to come. Following the seven-day public comment period, MIHI will submit the Final Proposal to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for their review and approval.



MTA RETREATS

RETURNING TO FRANKENMUTH

CLERKS | SEPT. 29-30
TREASURERS | OCT. 1-2
SUPERVISORS | OCT. 14-15
TRUSTEES | OCT. 27-28
PLANNING & ZONING | OCT. 29-30

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

Dry fall weather means bigger fire risk

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reminding people to be careful and keep fire safety in mind when they are burning, riding off-road vehicles or enjoying other outdoor activities as nine out of 10 wildfires are caused by individuals, and nearly all could have been prevented. Risk is heightened in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula due to the March ice storm that left wood from snapped trees and broken branches on the ground. Despite massive cleanup efforts, some areas of state and private forests are still clogged with debris. The DNR advises that downed wood has been drying out all summer and can catch fire easily. Learn more on the [DNR's fire safety webpage](#).

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