

## See estimates of statutory revenue sharing cut—and ask state legislators to support this critical funding

All local governments would experience a reduction in their statutory revenue sharing under the House state budget approved last week. [House Bill 4706](#) would eliminate statutory revenue sharing for 88% of Michigan's 1,240 townships and reduce others to 98% of FY 2024 levels. You can view the proposed impact for your township on the following House Fiscal Agency spreadsheet: [estimated FY 2026 statutory revenue sharing under HB 4706](#). The first five columns provide a breakdown and total of statutory revenue sharing by local unit for the current fiscal year; the final two columns on the right provide the estimated statutory revenue sharing for FY 2026 and the amount of the reduction from the current fiscal year. As you will note, the proposal removes the funding achieved in the current fiscal year for ALL townships, cities and villages *for the first time in nearly two decades*. With approximately 26 days remaining until the beginning of the state's 2026 fiscal year, work continues on the state budget and road funding. **Now is the time for our member township leaders to contact their [state representative](#) and [state senator](#) to ensure statutory revenue sharing remains funded for ALL local units of government.**



## House approves term of office change

Elected township officials could soon have their term of office begin no earlier than Dec. 1 following the November general election. [House Bill 4699](#), sponsored by Rep. Joseph Fox (R-Sherman Twp.) and approved overwhelmingly by the House this week, would change the term of office for all elected township officers to commence at noon on Dec. 1 following the officer's November election. The bill is part of a four-bill package to also move the start date for all newly elected city and village officials to Dec. 1. An amendment, opposed by MTA, to move the term of office date to Jan. 1 only for township officials was defeated. The Dec. 1 date change is to ensure elected officials' election results are certified prior to taking the oath of office. HB 4699 will next be considered by the Senate, which approved similar legislation in May.

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### Upcoming MTA Training & Events

>>Sept. 10: [Emerging Issues in Emergency Services](#)

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

[Professional Development Retreats](#)

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

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

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

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

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

### MTA QUICK LINKS

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### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

# STGNOTIFY

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

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## Police reform bills move from committee

Three bills were approved by a Senate committee Thursday to provide police reform requiring specific training, use-of-force policies and no-knock home searches. [Senate Bill 333](#), sponsored by Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), would require law enforcement agencies to adopt and continuously review their own use-of-force policies, including limiting the use of deadly force, when an officer is protecting themselves or others from imminent danger and mandates the use of verbal warnings as a standard in use-of-force policies. [SB 334](#), sponsored by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor), would require the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards to establish training standards for de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention, behavioral health resources and implicit bias. [SB 336](#), sponsored by Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor), would limit the use of unannounced home searches to only situations where an announcement would endanger a law enforcement officer's life or the investigation's progress or if evidence indicates the person at the location is aware of the police presence. The bill would also require searches take place between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. unless otherwise requested in the warrant application. SBs 333 and 334 were supported by the Michigan State Police, Michigan Sheriff's Association and Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, but all three opposed SB 334. The bills move to the full 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](#)

## Recreational authority changes to include forestry

Bills to enable local units of government to create a local forest and recreation authority to own, govern and manage non-state, public lands for forestry and recreational purposes were approved by the House Natural Resources and Tourism Committee this week. House Bills [4694](#) and [4695](#), sponsored by Rep.



Greg Markkanen (R-Hancock), would amend the requirements for forming a recreational authority, the purposes for which such an authority can be created, and the powers and responsibilities of an authority. The changes would expand the scope and flexibility of Michigan's Recreational Authorities Act, particularly to help Upper Peninsula communities, without impacting current communities or authorities. The proposed changes do not alter, remove or limit the existing powers or duties of current recreational authorities in Michigan but instead offer greater flexibility and increased local options for all authorities, existing or future. The changes are being sought by local governments and residents in Keweenaw



County, along with the Nature Conservancy. A third bill, [HB 4798](#), also sponsored by Rep. Markkanen, would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to include a recreational authority in the definition of a local unit of government or public authority. All three bills move to the full House for consideration.

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## Carbon capture package passes Senate

Legislation was approved by the Senate this week to establish a state regulatory framework and permitting process for carbon sequestration, the process of capturing carbon dioxide emissions into a liquid-like form and pumping it into rock formations underground. Senate Bills [394](#), [395](#) and [396](#), sponsored by Sens. John Cherry (D-Flint), Joseph Bellino, Jr. (R-Monroe) and Sean McCann (D-Kalamazoo), would require a permit application for a carbon sequestration project be filed with the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and notice of the proposed project be provided to all surface owners of land overlying the portion of the proposed storage reservoir. The bills prescribe duties of EGLE in the regulation of carbon sequestration projects and, as applicable, the creation of unit areas of pooled interests in pore space for carbon storage. The bills, now in the House, also require the state to assume responsibility and liability for sites after they have been completed.

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## Reminder: 'Small business' townships must comply with ESTA beginning Oct. 1

Townships that are a “small business” under the Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA)—defined in the act as those employers with 10 or fewer employees—must begin to comply with requirements of the act starting Oct. 1. ESTA requires employers, including townships, to provide paid sick leave for employees. The act requires paid sick leave to be accrued at a rate of at least one hour for every 30 hours worked. Employees of a “small business” can use up to 40 hours of paid earned sick time per year, while larger employers must allow employees to use up to 72 hours of paid earned sick time per year (employers can allow a higher limit). The ESTA applies to full-time, part-time, temporary and seasonal workers. Learn more on [MTA's "Earned Sick Time Act" webpage](#) (member login is required), including a fact sheet that explores township-specific roles like deputies and on-call firefighters, and the [state's ESTA webpage](#), with [ESTA FAQs](#), the [required workplace poster](#), and more.

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## EMERGING ISSUES IN EMERGENCY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 10 | BAVARIAN INN LODGE in FRANKENMUTH

**SPACE IS LIMITED — CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!**

## Resources spotlighted for National Preparedness Month

September is [National Preparedness Month](#). This year's theme,

"Preparedness Starts at Home," focuses on essentials of preparedness and key actions individuals can take, including knowing your risk, making a [family emergency plan](#), building an [emergency supply kit](#), and getting involved in your community by taking action to prepare for emergencies. Local officials can also help keep their township residents community safe by planning ahead. [MTA's "Emergency and Disaster Management" webpage](#) includes resources and information, from flu or flood information to Hazard Mitigation Assistance and the Police & Fire Protection Act. Numerous state and federal agencies also share a wide variety of guidance, including the state's [Michigan Prepares webpage](#), [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency information](#) and [U.S. Census Bureau Emergency Management Hub](#).

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## Electronic voting for MOVE voters launching this month



On Sept. 15, the method for military and overseas (MOVE) voters to return their absentee ballots electronically will go live. The Electronic Delivery and Return Portal delivers ballots electronically to eligible voters and allows eligible overseas active military members the option to mark and return an absentee ballot to their clerk's office electronically through a secure online portal. Registered overseas voters who maintain a permanent residence in Michigan may also access the portal to view and print their ballots to complete and mail to their local clerk. The new portal will be accessible through Michigan's [MILogin](#) system. More information on the launch will be available in the coming weeks.

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## Free training opportunity for wastewater operators

An additional opportunity for wastewater system operators and managers to earn 0.4 Technical Wastewater continuing education credits (CECs) is available Oct. 6 and Oct. 7 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Michigan Technological University is hosting a free, two-part [online training](#) covering factors influencing water quality within distribution systems and best practices operators can use to maintain water quality. Attendance on both days is required to earn the credit. [Register](#) by Oct. 5 for the free training.

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## Opening for public official representation on state Municipal Wastewater Board

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is seeking a municipal official to fill a vacancy on the [Municipal Wastewater Board of Certification](#). The board advises EGLE on issues related to the municipal wastewater operator certification program, including continuing education credits and certification suspensions and revocations. Members serve for three-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2026. Meetings are held four times per year in Lansing. Interested candidates should email a resume and letter of interest citing the municipal official vacancy to [EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov) by Sept. 30.

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## Member input sought for MTA's 2026 legislative issues

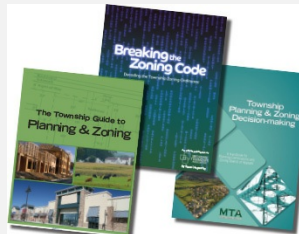
Township officials can review and provide input on the MTA legislative policy platform. The legislative policy objectives—reviewed, updated and approved annually—guide the Association's government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members are encouraged to review the current [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](mailto:legislation@michigantownships.org) with questions, comments or suggestions.

## MTA retreats offer customized education for your township position

Space is filling up fast for MTA's [Professional Development Retreats](#), coming to Frankenmuth this fall. Wondering what all the fuss is about? Watch this [special message](#) from our very own Judy Allen, MTA's government relations director, on what makes these events so valuable. Whether you're a [clerk](#), [treasurer](#), [supervisor](#), [trustee](#) or part of your [planning & zoning](#) team, these specialized events offer education hand-picked for your role and connections that will last a lifetime. [Learn more here](#) or [register online now](#) to secure your seat.

## Guide your township's land use future with 'Principles of Planning & Zoning' book package

MTA's library of publications includes three planning and zoning resources written specifically for Michigan townships. Authored by planning and land use expert Steve Langworthy, *The Township Guide to Planning & Zoning*, *Planning & Zoning Decision-making* and our newest release, *Breaking the Zoning Code—Decoding the Township Zoning Ordinance* offer insights, background, best practices, considerations and requirements as townships plan for their community's land use needs and future. Essential resources for every member of your township planning and zoning team, our Principles of Planning & Zoning book package gives you the information and guidance you need—at a discounted price! Purchase all three books for \$120 (*member pricing; includes shipping & handling*). [Order yours today!](#) (*Package includes 2019 editions of The Township Guide to Planning & Zoning and Planning & Zoning Decision-making, and the 2024 edition of Breaking the Zoning Code. No substitutions.*)





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