Michigan Township INSIGHTS

Sept. 11, 2026

Senate passes bill to increase public employer health care contributions



This week, the Senate passed a bill that would require public employers to pay an increased amount for employee health care under changes to the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act (PA 152 of 2011). Opposed by MTA, Senate Bill 1136 would increase the amount public employers pay toward their employees' medical benefits. The bill, identical to legislation passed in 2024 and vetoed by the governor in July, would increase current public employer contribution hard caps and change the 80% contribution cap to an 80% contribution floor on medical benefit plans. The bill now moves to the House for consideration.

Reminder: Fire equipment/gear grant applications due by Sept. 30

Townships have until Sept. 30 to apply for funding for the Fire Equipment Grant Program. The program provides funding to local units of government for the purchase of fire equipment for all firefighters and/or fire gear for on-call, part-time or volunteer firefighters. Local government is defined as a city, village, township or tribal government, or an authority or commission established by a county, village, city or township by resolution, motion or charter. To request access to the electronic application, visit the Michigan Electronic Signature Solution. Grant expenditures must be incurred between Oct. 1, 2025, and Sept. 30, 2030.



Fiscally Ready Communities webinar explores 'Communicating Fiscal Risk and Prudent Decision-making'

Register today for the state Department of Treasury's next Fiscally Ready Communities webinar, "Communicating Fiscal Risk and Prudent Decision-making," on Sept. 21 at 10



UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

Sept. 16: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Poll Position: Practical Primer for Election Season

September & October Regional Meetings & UP North Summit:
- **Sept. 22**, Bay City
- **Sept. 23**, Jackson
- **Sept. 29-30**, Harris
- **Oct. 7**, Thompsonville
- **Oct. 8**, Spring Lake
- **Oct. 13**, Gaylord

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MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP PARTCIPATING PLAN
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a.m. Local governments often face a dual challenge of both making hard budget decisions and then sharing those decisions out. Communities may also have to have hard conversations and decisions about the fiscal risks they face. The free two-hour session is designed to assist appointed and elected officials communicate their financial position, evaluate the risks they face and establish processes to help with hard decisions, and engage the public and decision-makers throughout the process. Questions can be submitted in advance to TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov, with the subject line “Fiscally Ready.”

MTA seeks member review and input for 2027 legislative issues

MTA-member 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 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.

Township feedback sought on Treasury fiscal reporting changes

The Michigan Department of Treasury is conducting an upgrade to the online filing system and is seeking public comment from local government officials and staff on proposed changes to the *Annual Local Unit Fiscal Report* (F-65). Several significant revisions to the F-65 form are being proposed, including the incorporation of Form 5572, *Local Government Retirement System Annual Report*, to the F-65. Once the form is finalized, local units will no longer be required to submit a separate document to report annual retirement information, and non-primary local governments will only be required to complete the retirement section of the form. Review the changes and submit comments by Oct. 10 to LAFD_Audits@michigan.gov with the subject line “Annual Local Unit Fiscal Report (F-65) Exposure Draft” or to the Michigan Department of Treasury, Local Audit and Finance Division, P.O. Box 30728, Lansing, MI 48909-8228.



PFAS awareness week and webinar

* 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

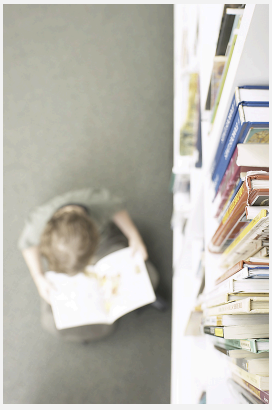
Sept. 21-25 is PFAS Awareness Week in Michigan, encouraging public education around per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of human-made chemicals found in Michigan's water, soil, air, fish, wildlife and people that is linked to harmful human health effects. The week of educational events concludes with a Sept. 25 webinar detailing Michigan's coordinated response to PFAS, including perspectives from public water suppliers, wastewater treatment providers, fishing stakeholders and private residential drinking water systems.

Inaugural Michigan Code Collaborative Conference to be held Nov. 4

The state Bureau of Construction Codes is holding a new one-day professional development and networking conference on Nov. 4 for code officials and industry leaders. Themed "Partners in Progress—Building Stronger Communities Through Safety and Standards," the event will allow participants to learn the most up-to-date code requirements and best practices, network with members of the code compliance community, and learn from industry experts. The event is free, but space is limited. The registration deadline is Oct. 21. Contact DavisR63@michigan.gov with questions.



Federal library grant opportunities



The U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services has announced funding opportunities available for libraries. The FY 2027 National Leadership Grants for Libraries is designed to build capacity and programming that increases access to learning opportunities through libraries, and the FY 2027 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program is focused on workforce development programming that supports the education, recruitment and retention of the library workforce to ensure libraries can meet the needs of their communities. The official notices of funding opportunities and response directions are available on the grant pages. Applications are due by Nov. 13.

Reminders for clerks

As we move closer to the November election, there are several key deadlines on the horizon, along with state

Bureau of Elections (BOE) resources to support election administrators:

- The Clerk Toolkit for the November election has been updated with contact information, press templates and social media graphics.
- Sept. 19 is the deadline for multiple November election activities including transmitting ballots to military and overseas voters, providing notice of new or changed polling place or early voting sites, and the date from which clerks must make a reasonable effort to verify or reject absent voter (AV) ballot applications or return envelopes no later than the business day after they are received.
- Clerks must begin issuing AV ballots for the November election by Sept. 24. Should ballots be unavailable on that date for any reason, notice should be posted in the office, on the website and via social media (if available) noting the delay and date they will be available (if known).
- Early voting wage reimbursement claims for the August election must be submitted by Sept. 30.
- The hours the clerk's office will be open for absentee voting the weekend before the November election must be entered in the Qualified Voter File by Oct. 3. Michigan law requires the clerk's office to be open no less than eight hours the weekend before the election for absentee voting.
- The BOE's interactive voice response system—available at (800) 292-5973—is available to support election administrators. To navigate the system, clerks should use their seven-digit code, and may access additional training tools via eLearning. After hours or during temporary closures, you may leave a voicemail to be returned the next business day by BOE staff.
- The U.S. Election Assistance Commission has developed a voting accessibility website as a resource for clerks on everything related to accessible elections and the provisions of the Help America Vote Act. Any specific questions related to accessibility and accommodations for voters can be directed to adavoting@michigan.gov.

Federal updates for week of Sept. 8

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



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

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