Michigan Township INSIGHTS

Sept. 18, 2026

Elected officials! Please complete MTA survey



Earlier this week, MTA sent a survey to all elected officials, seeking your experiences and insights on finding individuals to serve elected and appointed roles, and other positions in your community. Your responses are essential to help guide us in developing potential legislative solutions, member resources, broader outreach efforts and public campaigns to assist in supporting and bolstering public service in townships and throughout the state. *If you have not already done so*, please take a few minutes to complete our short survey. Thank you for your assistance, as we work to support Michigan townships as you support and serve your communities.

MTA part of coalition opposing Con-Con

The MTA Board of Directors has taken a position to oppose Proposal 1 on the November ballot, which asks voters if the state should hold a Constitutional Convention. MTA is also part of Protect MI Constitution from Special Interests, a broad coalition of organizations and advocacy groups working together to urge Michiganders to vote "No" on whether to convene a Con-Con, which would open Michigan's constitution to a complete rewrite. (Read a press release about the Association's involvement in the coalition here.) The ballot question automatically appears before Michigan voters every 16 years. "Townships know their communities best and local officials need the flexibility to respond to the unique needs of the people they serve," said **Kevin Beeson**, 2026 MTA President and **Pine River Township** (Gratiot Co.) supervisor. "A Constitutional Convention could put community-based decisions at risk by opening the door to sweeping changes that have little to do with the issues facing Michigan's communities today. Michigan already has a process in place for making targeted constitutional changes, and we believe that process should remain in place."





UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

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

Oct. 14: *Now You Know* lunchtime webinar Taxation Trouble Spots

Nov. 24 & Dec. 2: Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection
- **Nov. 24**, Gaylord
- **Dec. 2**, Lansing

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS

ACRISURE
www.Acrisure.com/GreatLakes

MI Par Plan
MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP PARTCIPATING PLAN
www.theparplan.com/

MERS
Municipal Employees' Retirement System
www.mersofmich.com

U.S. Treasury shares ARPA tips as program nears end

The U.S. Department of Treasury recently shared updated tips and information for reporting and program closeout as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) program comes to an end. The majority of townships received State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) through ARPA and must fully expend those funds by Dec. 31, 2026. According to Treasury's guidance:

- Recipients may expend funds to cover closeout costs until the final Project and Expenditure Report is due on April 30, 2027. **Funds not expended by the deadline must be returned to Treasury after the final report due date.**
- Recipients **must submit required reports** regarding the use of SLFRF funds—*even if funds have been fully spent*—until the recipient initiates closeout of the SLFRF program.
- To close out their award, townships must receive a closeout invitation via email from U.S. Treasury. The 2026 Annual Project and Expenditure Report must be submitted to receive a closeout invitation. (If the township has submitted a closeout report, to check your township's closeout status, in the "Closeout Reports" section in the reporting portal, there will be a blue box entitled "Eligible for Closeout" and the status will be "Closeout Complete." If there is no document in that section or a document with the status "Ready for Closeout" or "Closeout in Progress," your township has not initiated closeout of your award.)

Townships having trouble accessing the reporting portal can email SLFRF@treasury.gov with the township name and address, email address you are using to try to log in to the portal and whether you are signing into the portal via Login.gov or ID.me, a brief description of the issue, and a screenshot of the error/message (if applicable). Find more resources on MTA's "ARPA Resources and Updates" webpage.

IRS increased mileage rate for last half of 2026

To reflect increases in fuel prices, the IRS increased the 2026 optional standard mileage rate this summer to 76 cents per mile, effective July 1, 2026, through the end of the year. For miles driven Jan. 1 through June 30, 2026, the standard mileage rate was 72.5 cents per mile. There is no requirement for townships to pay the standard mileage rate per mile—the maximum amount employers can reimburse employees for business miles driven in the employee's personal vehicle, without tax consequences. The IRS sets these "safe harbor" limits whereby the employer [township] can reimburse the employee for the business use of his or her personal vehicle without income tax consequences. The rates apply to electric and hybrid-electric automobiles as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

Coastal Management grant applications open, upcoming webinar to overview requirements

* Adna Technologies

* 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

The Michigan Coastal Management Program funds projects that protect and restore Michigan's sensitive coastal resources and biologically diverse ecosystems. A webinar covering eligible projects and funding requirements is scheduled for Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. Priority areas include port and harbor revitalization, efforts to minimize coastal hazards, restoration and protection of healthy coastal ecosystems for public use, and stormwater solutions. The grant requires a one-to-one match and will operate on a reimbursement basis. Learn more about the program and apply by Dec. 18 on the grant program website.



U-M Community Impact Grant seeks to support community-driven partnerships

A new University of Michigan (U-M) grant program offers up to $50,000 per project to bring university expertise together with communities across Michigan to address locally identified challenges. Communities across Michigan are eligible to participate, with initial geographic priorities including Houghton and the Upper Peninsula, Mt. Pleasant, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and the Lansing metropolitan area. MTA was a partner helping to provide feedback for the Michigan Community Impact Grant Program, which will provide seed funding for 12- to 24-month community-engaged projects that pair U-M faculty and programs with community partners on research- and practice-based efforts responding to local needs and priorities. Initial areas of interest include housing and land use, municipal staffing capacity, appropriate uses of artificial intelligence and technology, and water quality. Proposals addressing other areas may also be considered when they respond to needs identified by participating communities. Proposals must include an identified community partner and demonstrate how the project responds to a community-identified need or opportunity. Awardees are expected to be announced in December, with funding beginning in January 2027.

Register for Treasury's upcoming 'Chart Chat' webinar

Township officials and employees can attend the Michigan Department of Treasury's upcoming Chart Chat webinar at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 1. The webinar series provides local governments with critical information related to accounting and auditing topics, measuring local government fiscal health, and other important Treasury updates. This event will include an introduction and overview of Treasury's Municipal Finance Section, implementing internal controls to mitigate fraud, and specific taxes. A list of additional upcoming

training opportunities and recordings of past webinars can be viewed on the Treasury website.



New webpage connects communities to latest broadband availability and updates

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) has launched a new "Where is my internet?" webpage to share information about efforts to expand high-speed internet across the state. Through the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, Michigan is working to bring reliable, high-speed internet to homes and communities that currently lack access. The new webpage gives local officials, businesses and residents a central place to learn about this work and find the latest information about internet projects and service availability in their area.

Public input sought on DNR forest management plan revisions



Township officials are invited to comment on revisions to the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) state forest management plan until Oct. 12. Updates originally scheduled for 2025 were delayed after a severe March ice storm affected northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The revisions are limited, reducing projected timber growth and harvests in the northern Lower Peninsula by about 25% due to storm damage. They also add salvage treatments for younger or hard-to-access stands to remove damaged trees and encourage regeneration. Because the plan addresses more general characteristics in need of intervention rather than specific locations, potential impacts on recreation and tourism are difficult to determine. While the DNR will accept feedback on any portion of the plan during this public review period, it will only consider further changes to the plan related to the new ice storm-specific content. Ice storm-related revisions can be found in four sections of the plan including the Plan Summary, Introduction, Statewide and Regional Planning and Implementation sections.

MiUI Work Share updates

MiUI, Michigan's new unemployment tax and benefits system, will launch its benefits functionality on Nov. 9, at which point the MiWAM system will no longer be accessible. In preparation for this launch, the Unemployment Insurance

Agency (UIA) wants employers to be aware of responsibilities associated with employees with a Work Share plan. Beginning Nov. 9, employees with a Work Share plan who receive UIA benefits will have to complete weekly Work Share certifications along with their employers via the MiUI system. Employers should note that employees without a standard UIA claim are not automatically informed when their employer creates a Work Share plan. **It is the employer's responsibility to inform their employee when a plan has been created so the employee knows to file a claim.** UIA has developed a Work Share quick reference guide that outlines the MiUI process. General information and resources on MiUI system implementation is available via MiUI University.

Reminders for clerks

With the Sept. 19 deadline for delivery of military and overseas (MOVE) ballots and Sept. 24 availability of absent voter (AV) ballots, clerks are encouraged to access resources provided by the state Bureau of Elections (BOE), including an Electronic Delivery and Return Portal Voter Experience Guide and presentation exploring issues encountered by MOVE voters when attempting to access their ballots. Clerks may also direct voters to elections@michigan.gov for assistance with MOVE ballots. Quick guides on Qualified Voter File (QVF) tools for issuing AV ballots via Mass Ballot and confirming that voter requests have been filled via the AV Out of Balance Report are also available in BOE's eLearning.

Other approaching November election deadlines:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 29** is the beginning of period during which clerks must collect election materials from each drop box in their township every day that the clerk's office is open.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 6** is the last day for clerks to submit written notice to the Secretary of State via the QVF if they intend to tabulate AV ballots before Election Day.

Looking for a guide to the tax collection process?



Collecting property taxes is a highly visible function of the township treasurer's office. It's more than just handling money—it's about ensuring compliance with the General Property Tax Act and managing public trust. MTA's full-day *Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection* class—coming to Gaylord on Nov. 24 and Lansing on Dec. 2—offers a step-by-step guide through the tax collection process. You can't afford to miss this review of applicable laws, best practices and essential procedures. Download details and a registration form here. Online registration coming soon.

Federal updates for week of Sept. 14

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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