Michigan Township INSIGHTS

Sept. 4, 2026

MTA-member townships! Watch our *Data Center Zoning Ordinance* webinar for FREE!



MTA-member townships can now watch a recording of our recent webinar, *Data Center Zoning Ordinance: The Next Step.* Register now to receive access to this free, one-hour webinar, where MTA Legal Counsel Robert Thall walks through MTA's sample data center zoning ordinance. You'll get practical insights into key considerations surrounding data center development, from what issues townships should consider to what your zoning ordinance should address. Click here to register! *(Available to MTA-member township officials only. Username and password required; please allow 1-3 business days for processing.)* MTA-member townships can find additional resources, including the sample zoning ordinance, sample moratorium ordinances and sample escrow agreements, on MTA's "Data Centers" webpage *(member login required)*.

Make your voice heard in MSHDA's Statewide Housing survey

Township officials are invited to participate in a Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) survey to inform Michigan's next five-year Statewide Housing Plan. You can provide information about housing experiences, challenges and priorities in your community. The survey is available until Sept. 18, and responses will be used to help inform statewide housing planning and policy development.



Congress passes Continuing Resolution averting shutdown

A federal government shutdown at the end of September was averted earlier this week when the U.S. House approved the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2027 (H.R. 6500). The measure was passed by the U.S. Senate in early August. Once signed by the president, the bill will keep the



UPCOMING MTA TRAINING

Sept. 9: Emerging Issues in EMS Services workshop, Frankenmuth

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

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

federal government funded at current fiscal year (FY) 2026 levels through Dec. 11, averting a shutdown at the end of the month. The passage of H.R. 6500 sets up a busy lame-duck session for Congress following the November elections on key priorities, including finalizing FY 2027 appropriations legislation.

Apply today for trails partnership in your community

Townships interested in bringing a trail project to their community are encouraged to apply today for a unique partnership opportunity. Collaborating with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), students from the Michigan State University (MSU) Department of Community Sustainability will work with municipal officials to identify their community's trail needs and priorities to complete a development framework for their local trails or waterways. Municipal leaders interested in the spring 2027 project should contact NovakT8@Michigan.gov. Space in the program fills quickly, and the DNR and MSU will work with interested communities to determine whether a project is a good fit for the upcoming course.

Free water and wastewater utility management training opportunity



The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) recently announced an opportunity to join its first training cohort of a new certificate program designed for administrative professionals, clerks and water utility staff. The program begins on Sept. 24 and culminates with testing in mid-November. The course combines live, virtual learning with asynchronous self-guided learning focused on water and wastewater utility governance, operations, finance, regulation and stakeholder communications. Registration is required and participants must attend all sessions and complete testing to receive the certificate. Additional cohorts will launch in February 2027. RCAP is a national network of nonprofit organizations committed to providing technical assistance, training and resources to rural communities. Questions about this training opportunity may be directed to sschmidt@rcap.org.



Webinar to cover invasive species grant opportunity

* 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

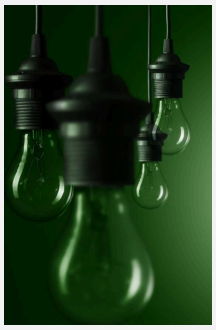
Townships interested in applying for a state invasive species management grant are encouraged to register for an informational webinar taking place on Sept. 8 at 2 p.m. The grant funding can be used for prevention of new invasive species introductions, early detection, limiting the dispersal of recently confirmed species, and projects that manage widespread land or aquatic invasive species. Grants are capped at $250,000 and require no matching funds. Applications are due Nov. 1; learn more in the handbook and on the program website.

PFAS awareness week

Sept. 21-25 is recognized as 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 begins with a free introductory webinar on Sept. 21 at noon covering drinking water sampling, consumer products containing PFAS, and many other resources with methods to protect your community.



Grab your seat at MTA's upcoming Regional Meetings



Coming to five locations around the state *(see dates and locations in the right-hand column)*, MTA's upcoming Regional Meetings connect you with municipal experts and fellow officials from your region. The agenda is packed with timely township insights, including:

- **Legislative Lowdown**—Hear from MTA Government Relations staff on key issues in Lansing, including housing preemption efforts, the state budget and more
- **Municipal Missteps**—MTA Legal Counsel reviews legal landmines, unintended consequences and moments that trip up townships
- **Financial Forum**—Get a practical look at financial best practices, recognizing financial stress and how to respond to red flags

We'll share what to watch for, how to prepare and where to turn when things get complicated. Includes breakfast, lunch and time to network with your peers, MTA staff and vendors. Download the brochure or register online now.

Enjoy a safe Labor Day Weekend

The MTA offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7 for the Labor Day holiday. We will reopen at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

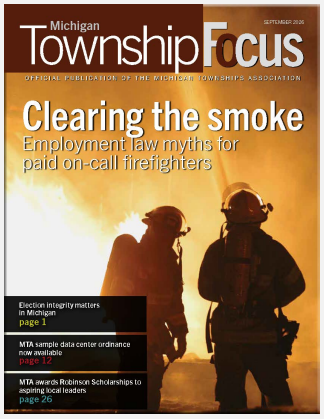
Many road projects will be paused to accommodate increased travel during Labor Day weekend. From 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4 through 6 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 91 of Michigan's 156 road projects will have lane restrictions removed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Equipment and some traffic configurations may remain in place, like lane shifts or shoulder closures. Projects with ongoing lane restrictions can be viewed on the MDOT website. The Mackinac Bridge will be closed to public traffic on Sept. 7, from 6:30 a.m. to noon during the annual bridge walk.

In addition, this weekend, the Michigan State Police and local law enforcement agencies are partnering to conduct a statewide impaired driver crackdown. Lastly, to help prevent the spread of invasive species and plant diseases, don't move firewood—rather buy it at or near your travel destination.

Reminders for clerks

- **Voter registration mailer.** On Sept. 8, the Secretary of State will send a voter registration mailer to all holders of a Michigan driver's license or ID who are eligible but currently unregistered to vote. This communication may result in an influx of registrations.
- **MOVE deadline**. Saturday, Sept. 19 is the deadline to transmit military and overseas (MOVE) ballots for the Nov. 3 election. To avoid missing this deadline, ensure the Qualified Voter File (QVF) is up to date. Clerks can download the MOVE compliance report and verify that the status is properly entered in the QVF.
- **AV ballots.** Absentee voter (AV) ballots for the Nov. 3 election must be available to all voters by Sept. 24.

Read the September issue of *Township Focus*—online now!



Your September issue of Township Focus is online now and hitting mailboxes soon! In this month's cover story, *Clearing the smoke: Debunking employment law myths about paid on-call firefighters,* we explore some common myths surrounding the employment relationship and responsibility of townships with paid on-call firefighters. In our feature article, *Inspiring tomorrow's local leaders: MTA awards Robinson Scholarships*, meet the recipients of the Association's annual scholarship, which supports individuals aspiring to—or furthering—careers in public service. *"Hello, MTA…?"* dives into the requirement for township boards to see a check register for all payments—both payables *and* payroll (check out MTA's new fact sheet on this important topic!), while

“Financial Forum” discusses fraud protections, the role of the board and practical steps all townships should take.

Federal updates for week of Sept. 1

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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