

Sept. 13, 2024

Public safety officer disabled/death benefit would double under bill

The one-time benefit to families of public safety officers who lost their lives or become permanently disabled while on duty would double under legislation currently before the Senate. [Senate Bill 834](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores) and reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Services this week, would increase the current benefit amount from \$25,000 to \$50,000 paid for a public safety officer who dies or is permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. Enacted in 2004, the one-time benefit was created to help ease the burden when tragedy strikes these families but has not increased or been adjusted for inflation. SB 834 would provide an increase to better care for these families after their loss, and the fund's balance is expected to cover any benefits in the upcoming fiscal year.



BOE holding election workshop for law enforcement

Law enforcement personnel are encouraged to participate in an [Elections Law Enforcement Workshop](#) hosted by the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) on Oct. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. The free event is specifically tailored to law enforcement personnel and will focus on election security. The workshop will be held in the Michigan Library & Historical Center Auditorium, Library of Michigan building, 702 W. Kalamazoo Street in Lansing, and will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person (a link will be emailed before the event). In-person attendance is limited to the first 200 people who register for this option. Each attendee must register separately, and indicate if they will attend in person or virtually. Submit questions to tarrantd2@michigan.gov.

Members can submit input on MTA's legislative policy platform

Township officials can review and provide input on the MTA's legislative policy platform. The legislative policy objectives guide the Association's government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members are encouraged to review our [2024-25 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed revisions and suggested additions by **Monday, Nov. 4**. Member-proposed policy changes are reviewed by MTA committees for word selection and legality, and to ensure they conform with the Association's overall goals and objectives. The proposed policies

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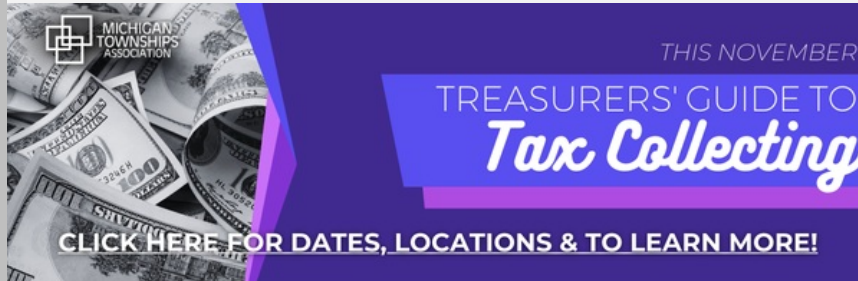
Now You Know
lunchtime webinars:
Sept. 18: [Elections: Ready? Set. Go!](#)
Oct. 16: [In the Transition](#)
Nov. 13: [Onboarding New Officials](#)

Sept. 19: FREE MTA Q&A webinar:
[Obligating ARPA Funds](#)

Regional Meetings:
Sept. 24: [Frankenmuth](#)
Sept. 25: [Ludington](#)
Sept. 26: [Kalamazoo](#)
Oct. 2: [Gaylord](#)
Oct. 3: [Marquette](#)

Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection:
Nov. 19: [Marquette](#)
Nov. 20: [Gaylord](#)
Nov. 21: [Kalamazoo](#)
Nov. 25: [Frankenmuth](#)

will be presented at the 2025 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our Annual Educational Conference in April. Email questions, comments or suggestions to legislation@michigantownships.org.



Townships can seek assistance to address climate impacts on public health

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan State University (MSU) School of Planning, Design and Construction, and MSU Extension are partnering to make [climate and health adaptation planning technical assistance available to Michigan communities](#). The new initiative is designed to empower two Michigan communities to effectively address and mitigate local health-related climate concerns. Based on principles outlined in the [Climate and Health Adaptation Planning Guide for Michigan Communities](#), the technical assistance offers a community engagement and graphic visioning process that provides communities with a consensus vision, planning recommendations, and a set of before/after images to guide adaptations that address climate impacts on public health. All townships are eligible [to apply](#); the application deadline is Nov. 1.

Retiring from township government this fall? We're looking for your township, MTA memories

With the November election approaching, MTA knows that many long-serving township officials are soon retiring from public office. **We want to honor you, and share your experiences and insights with our members**—and the next cadre of local leaders. If you are retiring this fall from township government, please share with us your reflections on your township service, township—or MTA!—memories, and any words of advice you have for newly elected officials. We'll include them in an article honoring retiring officials in *Township Focus* magazine. Send your reflections to jenn@michigantownships.org, along with your name, township (and county), township positions held and years of service, and a photo if possible. **Thank you for your service, and for your contributions!**

Upcoming deadlines for Nov. 5 election

Saturday, Sept. 21

- Deadline for clerks to electronically transmit or mail (as requested) an absent

MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)
[Training](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Community Connection](#)
[Webcasts](#)
[Store](#)
[Township Governance](#)
[Academy](#)
[Allied Service Providers](#)
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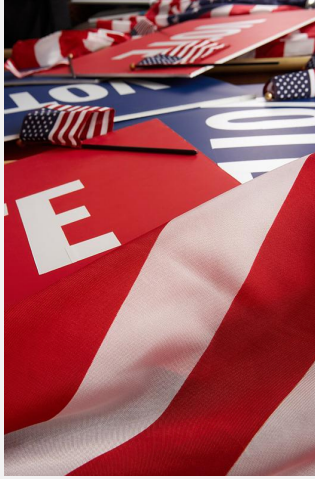
* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

voter ballot to each absent uniformed services or overseas voter (MOVE) who applied for an absent voter (AV) ballot 45 days or more before the election. This deadline always falls on a Saturday and requires strict compliance; it does not get bumped back to Monday. The state Bureau of Elections will be available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 21, to assist clerks with questions about using the Qualified Voter File to issue MOVE ballots.



- Beginning of period during which clerk must make reasonable effort to verify or reject AV ballot application or AV ballot return envelope by the end of the business day after the application or envelope is received.
- County clerk must provide each municipal clerk or early voting site coordinator with programming for electronic voting equipment to be used at the early voting site.
- Deadline for county clerks to deliver AV ballots to local clerks.
- Notice of polling place or early voting site must be provided for sites newly established or changed by 60 days before Election Day.

Thursday, Sept. 26—AV ballots must be available for issuance to voters.

Upcoming free webinars: Fiscally Ready Communities, bike facility design, and EGLE topics

- [Register now](#) for the state Department of Treasury's next [Fiscally Ready Communities](#) webinar on Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. Presented in partnership with Michigan State University Extension, "From Fundamentals to Best Practices" will include measuring and monitoring fiscal health, reconciling bank accounts, interpreting financial statements, preparing for an audit, statutory reporting and corrective action plan development process. Email questions to TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."
- Townships seeking to make their communities more bicycle friendly can participate in the Michigan Department of Transportation's [Training Wheels Virtual On-Road Bicycle Facility Design class](#), which focuses on the newest planning and designs for on-road bicycle facilities. Register by Oct. 10 for the event, held [Oct. 15, 8 a.m. to noon](#) and [Oct. 17, 1 to 5 p.m.](#) (an optional Q&A session immediately follows the Oct. 17 training). Each session requires a separate registration.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is hosting:

- **Septic systems.** [Septic Smart 2020—Septic System 101](#), on Sept. 16 at 9 a.m., shares septic system basics, including

operation and maintenance, and an overview of Michigan's [Septic Replacement Loan Program](#).

- **Community solar projects.** [Energy Justice Through Utility-Sponsored Community Solar in Michigan—What is Possible?](#), held Sept. 18 at 11 a.m., will explore questions about developing community solar projects and feature insights from a community solar project in one Michigan community.
- **Energy efficiency.** ["Net Zero" for Local Governments: Braiding Technologies to Deliver Efficient, Renewable Buildings](#), on Oct. 23 at 11 a.m., will explore strategies to improve the energy efficiency of local government buildings to reduce carbon, improve the health and safety of occupants, and provide savings by significantly reducing monthly utility bills.

MTA Regional Meetings bring education, connections with municipal experts & more

MTA staff and legal counsel are teaming up at five locations for our fall [Regional Meetings](#), bringing you insights, strategies and practical tips on timely township topics. From renewable energy reform to the post-election transition and legal pitfalls to money matters, this full-day event also includes an insightful legislative update, a mini-expo and networking with fellow officials from your area. Don't wait—seats are filling up fast! Download a [registration form here](#) for details, or [register online now](#).



Federal update for week of Sept. 9

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships [Weekly Legislative Update](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.



Michigan Townships Association | 512 Westshire Drive | Lansing, MI 48917 US

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