

Sept. 6, 2024

Applications accepted for Round 3 of Rural Readiness Grant program

Guidance for the latest round of the [Rural Readiness Grant Program](#) is now available, offering up to \$50,000 in reimbursement grant funding to tax-exempt organizations including townships within rural communities. These competitive grants require a 20% match and aim to empower rural communities by providing the resources necessary to foster sustainable growth, enhance economic opportunities and build strong partnerships. Letters of intent are accepted until Oct. 7. Learn more by reviewing the [Rural Readiness Grant Program grant guidelines](#) and attending a [webinar](#) on Sept. 11 at 2 p.m. that will provide an overview of the grant, how to apply and answer questions. Local governments in [eligible counties](#) can apply.



Free conference to address Labor, Zoning and Housing in Rural Communities

You can [register](#) for a free conference that will address the challenges and opportunities facing rural economic development (*rural is defined as less than 200,000 population*). The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago is hosting [The Lay of the Land: Labor, Zoning and Housing in Rural Communities](#) conference Oct. 9-10 in Des Moines, Iowa. The event will include a deeper discussion of how rural communities are attracting labor with the help of creative zoning and housing policies. Participants will gain valuable insights into trends, strategies and best practices that are shaping the future of rural communities. The conference program, conference meals and tour are free with a limited number of spaces; participants must pay their own travel, lodging and non-conference meals.

STC updates: November MCAT course, assessor certification reminder

MCAT program. Applications are being accepted for the November 2024 [Michigan Certified Assessing Technician \(MCAT\) program](#), to be held Nov. 21 and 22 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Okemos Conference Center, in Meridian Charter Township (Ingham Co.). The exam will be on Nov. 25, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the same location. [Applications](#) must be received by the State Tax Commission (STC) by Nov. 1 to be considered. Sent question to GastW@michigan.gov.

Assessor recertification. All certified assessing officers and technicians must complete and log all continuing education hours

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Upcoming MTA Training & Events

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](#)

Emerging Issues in Emergency Services

Sept. 10: Frankenmuth
Sept. 12: Cadillac

Regional Meetings:

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

Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection:

before Oct. 31, 2024, to recertify for 2025. Continuing education must be logged into the [MiSuite System](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 31; the system will lock after this time, and you will be unable to log continuing education hours to recertify for 2025. The deadline cannot be extended. Sixteen hours of STC-approved continuing education courses must be completed by assessing officers, who also must complete the *2024 STC Updates* course. Assessing technicians must complete four hours of continuing education for the 2025 renewal cycle. For more information, see [Bulletin 8 of 2023](#) or visit the [STC website](#).

Nov. 19: [Marquette](#)
Nov. 20: [Gaylord](#)
Nov. 21: [Kalamazoo](#)
Nov. 25: [Frankenmuth](#)



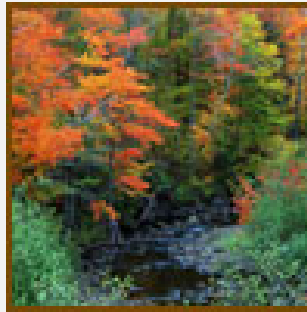
FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS

A FULL-DAY EVENT CONNECTING YOU WITH MUNICIPAL EXPERTS FOR LEARNING & DISCUSSION ON THE MOST CURRENT CHALLENGES FACING TOWNSHIPS.

[CLICK HERE FOR DATES, LOCATIONS & TO LEARN MORE!](#)

Comments sought on state forest plan

Officials can provide input until Oct. 4 on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [State Forest Management Plan](#), which will serve as a guide for the next 10 years and aims to ensure the long-term, sustainable management and health of the state forest. More information is available on the [DNR's state forest planning webpage](#); email comments by Oct. 4 to ForestPlanComments@Michigan.gov. Three public meetings will be held next week from 1 to 4 p.m. to review and discuss the plan: Sept. 9 in East Lansing, Sept. 10 in Grayling, and Sept. 12 in Marquette.



State seeks input on joint electric vehicle procurement

The State of Michigan is exploring joint procurement with local units of government, higher education institutions and local school districts on the purchase of electric vehicles (EV) and charging stations. To gain a better understanding of those that have acquired EVs and charging stations, as well as those with interest in procuring EVs and charging stations, your township is asked to complete a [brief survey](#) by Sept. 18.

The state has an extended purchasing program for local governments and other entities to buy goods and services from state contracts. The [MiDeal extended purchasing program](#) provides reduced costs of goods and services, with approximately 500 contracts available to members—including contracts for EVs and charging stations.

Grants available for invasive species projects

MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)
[Training](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Community Connection](#)
[Webcasts](#)
[Store](#)
[Township Governance Academy](#)
[Allied Service Providers](#)
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* [Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC](#)

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

Townships can submit proposals for the [Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program](#), which aims to prevent, detect and control invasive species in Michigan. The [2024 Invasive Species Grant Program handbook](#) outlines program priorities and application guidelines, and a [webinar](#) will be held Sept. 10 at 9 a.m. to provide general grant information, the application process and 2024 priorities. Full project proposals are due Nov. 1, with award announcements anticipated in March 2025. All applications must be submitted through the [MiGrants online system](#).



Treasury seeking division administrator for Property Services Division

The Michigan Department of Treasury is seeking applications for a permanent, full-time [position](#) that will plan and direct the activities of the Property Services Division, which provides support to the State Tax Commission. The division recommends state equalized values, assessed values for state-assessed utility property, average tax rates for telephone and railroad company property, assessor education, including several tax exemption applications and special property programs for the General Property Tax Act (GPTA). The position also will plan, organize and direct the work activities of the Property Services Division, which provides statewide technical expertise, policy recommendations, and support services for a variety of programs and functions associated with the GPTA. Applications for Job Number 2701-24-15-24 are accepted until Sept. 18.

Reminders from BOE

MOVE deadline. The deadline for clerks to transmit requested ballots to military and overseas (MOVE) voters for the November election is **Saturday, Sept. 21**. This deadline always falls on a Saturday and requires strict compliance—it does not get bumped to the following Monday. State Bureau of Elections (BOE) staff 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 (QVF) to issue MOVE ballots. If something occurs in your township that prohibits you from meeting this deadline (such as litigation delays or ballot printing), email MDOS-BOERegulatory@michigan.gov as soon as possible.

Election Officials' Manual update. An addendum to Chapter 2, Voter Registrations, of the *Election Officials' Manual* is available to supplement and provide additional information on challenges, cancellations and corrections to registration records in the QVF.

Nongovernmental organizations grants for conducting elections.

Townships may accept and use publicly disclosed charitable donations and in-kind contributions to conduct and administer elections. Two such grant programs are currently available: [The Rural and Nonmetro Election Infrastructure Grant Program](#) and [A More Responsive Government 2024 Grant Program](#). BOE will continue to share information about any additional nonpartisan grant programs when available.

Poll workers. The Michigan Department of State continues to recruit Michigan poll workers through the [Democracy MVP program](#). If you are in need of poll workers for the November election, review the instruction sheet in the [eLearning Center](#), where you can also see a list of names and contact information of those who have signed up. While those who sign up are given

some information about being a poll worker, they are not provided with any formal training.

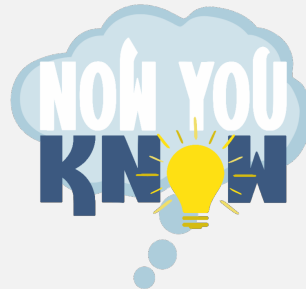
November election absent voter (AV) tabulating deadlines.

- Oct. 8—Clerks planning to process or tabulate AV ballots before Election Day must submit written notice to the Secretary of State by completing the *Early Tabulation Declaration Form* in [eLearning](#).
- Oct. 18—Deadline to post notice on website (if available) and in clerk's office of the location, dates, hours and number of election inspectors for AV counting place if processing and tabulating AV ballots before Election Day.
- Oct. 25—Deadline for clerks processing and tabulating AV ballots before Election Day to post revised notice of location, dates, hours or number of election inspectors if needed.
- Oct. 28—Townships with a population of at least 5,000 may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.
- Nov. 4—Any township may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.

New "I Voted" stickers. Clerks will soon be able to order the new ["I Voted" stickers](#)—the nine winners of the state's first "I voted" sticker contest. BOE will provide updates on ordering; quantities will be limited once available.

MTA webinar offers tips and expert insights on managing elections

Join MTA on Sept. 18 at noon for a one-hour live *Now You Know* webinar, *Elections: Ready? Set. Go!*, covering lessons learned and key tips for ensuring a safe and secure election process. Review canvassing and certification processes to ensure you're ready for possible recounts or audits, get a refresher on preparing for oath of office, and more! [Learn more here](#) or [register online now](#).



Upcoming state webinars explore BEAD, tax and wage issues

- **Broadband equity.** A Michigan High-Speed Internet Office [informational webinar](#), held Sept. 13 at 1 p.m., will discuss [Michigan's Initial Proposal Volume II](#), describing the subgrant program that will guide Michigan's more than \$1.5 billion allocation from the [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#). A recording will be available for those unable to join.
- **Tax and wage series.** A new, free [Michigan Department of Treasury "Tax and Wage Webinar Series"](#) aims to help navigate federal and state regulations, tax systems and other requirements. A question-and-answer session will follow each 90-minute webinar, which begins at 10:30 a.m.. Upcoming webinars include: Sept. 11: [Federal and State Wage and Hour Part I](#); Sept. 12: [Federal and State Wage and Hour Part II](#); and Sept. 18: [Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Michigan's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Worker's Disability](#)

[Compensation Agency](#). Registration ends at 5 p.m. the day before each webinar.



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