

Bill to allow assessment of property in alternate location on tax day moves

A permanent fix on how business property should be assessed if employees are working at remote, secondary locations may soon occur. [House Bill 4926](#), sponsored by Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac), would require personal property to be assessed in its original location or the business location, rather than an alternative location that it was moved to for remote work. Beginning with the pandemic in 2020, and for each subsequent tax year, legislation was passed for each tax year to allow for the assessment of personal property at remote work locations. Given the amount of remote work that continues, a permanent change is being sought. The bill will next be considered by the full House.

Senate-passed bill allows clerks to use online election inspector applications

Clerks could provide an application for election inspectors through an online portal or other electronic means under legislation passed by the Senate this week. [Senate Bill 385](#), sponsored by Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor), is a step toward modernizing an elections process. The bill now moves to the House for further consideration.

Share locally funded broadband projects/plans, digital inclusion work

The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) is asking local units of government to share information on any locally funded broadband expansion projects and local broadband plans. [Email details to the MIHI office](#). MIHI is also asking local officials to [inform them](#) about any digital inclusion programs, ideas and highlights happening in your community.

2023 STC Updates class available online

ALL certified assessing officers and technicians must take the 2023 *STC Updates* class as part of their continuing education renewal requirements for the renewal cycle that began Nov. 1, 2022, and ends Oct. 31, 2023. If you have not already done so, the State Tax Commission (STC) is providing the class via Zoom, from 1 to 5 p.m. on **Oct. 6**. You must [register](#) in advance; a confirmation email will contain information about joining the meeting. *2023 STC Updates* has also been approved for the required uncertified support staff training. “Uncertified support staff” are all staff not certified as an assessing officer or technician who are involved in the development of the assessment roll, including field work. It also includes all support staff who may provide information from the assessment roll to the public. *2023 STC Updates* is also available online for assessing officers and technicians through the STC’s [Continuing Education Portal](#).

Cannabis Regulatory Agency hosts next municipality summit on Sept. 27

The state Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) will hold its next statewide municipality summit via Zoom to present information and answer questions regarding the state’s cannabis rules and laws. The summit will be held on **Sept. 27**, from 10 a.m. to noon. Local officials who attended previous CRA municipal summits do not need to RSVP and will receive an email link to attend. New attendees may RSVP by 5 p.m. **Sept. 18** by emailing CRA-SocialEquity@michigan.gov with the name of their municipality, and name, email address, title and phone number for all those planning to attend, as well as any questions to be addressed at the summit. Attendance will be confirmed via email with the Zoom link before Sept. 27.

Still time to work with county on early voting incentive grants

A new document on the state Bureau of Elections [eLearning Center](#) answers frequently asked questions regarding early voting incentive grants. While the initial Sept. 8 early [application](#) deadline has passed, to allow the bureau to begin the review process, there is still time to work with your county clerks to be eligible for funding. Clerks should apply no later than **Oct. 2** to ensure that funding and equipment are received in time for the 2024 presidential primary.

Member input sought for 2024 MTA legislative policy platform

MTA is seeking review and input from members on its legislative policy platform. Reviewed and updated annually, the legislative policy objectives guide MTA's government relations efforts and reflect emerging issues and goals. MTA members are encouraged to review the [MTA 2023-24 Policy Platform](#) and share any proposed revisions and suggested additions by Monday, **Nov. 27**. Member-proposed policy changes will be reviewed by MTA committees for word selection and legality, and to ensure they conform with the Association's overall goals and objectives. Proposed policies will be presented at the 2024 MTA Annual Meeting in conjunction with our Annual Educational Conference in April.

Email legislation@michigantownships.org with questions, comments or suggestions.

Residents can get free well water testing

Residents can have their well water [tested for free](#) under a special program from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, which is partnering with local health departments to ensure safe drinking water for Michigan families. After testing, the local health department will help residents understand test results and guide them on any next steps if necessary.

Upcoming webinars and workshops for townships

- **Fiscally Ready Communities.** [Nuts and Bolts: Fees, Fines, Purchasing and Receipting](#), held at 6 p.m. on **Sept. 11**, will explore building a culture of fiscal sustainability, policy best practices for fee and fine structure, case study examples, how strong receipting and purchasing practices strengthen local fiscal health, and best practices for implementation. Email questions to TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."
- **Michigan Recycling Coalition [regional meetings](#).** Held at eight locations across the state, these in-person meetings will highlight materials management planning, new Part 115 regulations on facilities, and other nuts and bolts recycling-related topics to get attendees started on the path toward accomplishing recycling goals.
- **Election accessibility.** A three-part online workshop, [Polling Place Accessibility: The 2022 Metro-Detroit Audit and Best Practices from Elected Officials](#), held from noon to 3 p.m. on **Sept. 11**, will cover valuable insights on best practices and challenges in administering accessible elections, and provide an overview of how to collect and analyze data to ensure that election accessibility continues to improve. Participants can attend all three sessions, or only those most valuable to you.

Help your community stay SepticSmart

SepticSmart Week is **Sept. 18-22**, and townships can take part by encouraging homeowners and community members to properly care for and maintain their septic systems. More than 1.3 million homes and businesses in Michigan depend on septic systems to treat wastewater. Proper septic system maintenance protects public health, the environment, and saves the homeowner money through avoided costly repairs. Resources and information are available on the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) [SepticSmart website](#) and [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency SepticSmart website](#). Share with your residents a [one-hour EGLE webinar, "Knowing Your Septic System—SepticSmart 2023,"](#) on **Sept. 18**, which will be recorded. While this event is targeted to homeowners served by a septic system, all interested persons are welcome to attend.

MTA offers deep dive into township planning and zoning issues

You won't want to miss the how-to guide and real-life practical experiences offered at our intensive two-day educational experience designed for *every* member of your township's planning and zoning team. Join MTA and land use experts from around the state at our *Planning & Zoning Professional Development Retreat Oct. 3-4* at The Highlands in Harbor Springs. You'll get eight sessions examining emerging issues and hot-button topics related to planning and zoning. Sessions are designed for every level of experience. We've also thrown in a mini-expo and a little fun! Register by Sept. 12 to take advantage of early-bird savings. [Click here for all the details.](#)

Updated grant information available

Check out MTA's newest ["Grants Update"](#) listing, sharing currently available grant opportunities for townships, including links, deadlines and program details. An updated listing is posted monthly, and is available on our ["Grants Resources" webpage](#) (log-in is required).

Federal update for week of September 4

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