

As an MTA member, you belong to the largest community of local government officials in the state. We know our northern and U.P. townships can face unique challenges compared to their downstate counterparts. That’s why we created our *UP North Summit*—allowing you to connect with your “Up North” colleagues, MTA staff and other municipal experts to discuss the latest issues impacting townships. You’ll get two days of practical, real-world insights designed to cut through complexity and bring clarity to what matters most—from navigating legal pitfalls and avoiding costly missteps, to financial fundamentals and staying ahead of legislative changes.

Engaging, relevant and grounded in everyday township challenges, each session is built to help our northern Michigan and U.P. township leaders ask better questions, spot risks sooner and make more informed decisions for your community. Whether you’re strengthening your foundation or fine-tuning your approach, this is your one-stop event for sharper thinking, stronger oversight and smarter governance.

Power of connection: Tap into the trifecta—expert presenters, value-added vendors and your fellow officials, each offer insights into the challenges you face. This learning opportunity includes time to connect with others who can help make your role as a township official more fulfilling. Educational sessions include:

Legislative Lowdown: Gain insights into the new fiscal year’s state budget and the latest laws impacting your township. Hear about the priorities shaping the 103rd legislative session, what lies ahead for the remainder of the session, and how your involvement can help make a difference.
Led by MTA’s Government Relations Team

Municipal Missteps: Sometimes the biggest lessons come from the biggest mistakes. Review legal landmines, unintended consequences and “wait ... can we do that?” moments that trip up townships. From well-intentioned decisions to costly oversights, we’ll help you spot trouble early and avoid common pitfalls.
Led by Michael Bila, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Thal, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

Back to Basics Boot Camp, Where There Are No Silly Questions: Special meeting notices, Freedom of Information Act deadlines, meeting procedures—some questions come up again and again. Join us as we tackle the most frequently asked township questions. You’ll get practical answers, useful reminders and a chance to have your own questions addressed.
Led by Michael Selden, MTA’s Member Information Services Director

Turning Your Audit into Insights: An audit presentation should be more than flipping through financial statements and nodding along. Get an insider’s take on the audit process to learn what questions you should be asking and what details deserve a closer look. Unpack who should be talking to whom and when, and turn your audit into a powerful tool for oversight.
Led by Rehmann Public Sector financial experts

Plot Twists in Planning & Zoning: Explore timely (and complex!) land use issues like renewable energy, data centers and short-term rentals, while gaining practical insight into defensible enforcement.
Led by Michael Bila

Financial Forum: A practical look at fiscal best practices, preparing for potential downturns and recognizing financial stress. Learn proactive strategies to maintain stability, respond to red flags and what to do if your township is already facing financial trouble.
Led by Michigan Department of Treasury’s Local Audit & Finance Division

Meetings, Minutes & More with Mike: Meetings don’t have to be painful, minutes don’t have to be mysterious and the Open Meetings Act doesn’t have to keep you up at night. Expect practical guidance, real-world examples and—knowing Mike—probably a story or two along the way.
Led by Michael Selden

Firehouse Focus: Designed to spark ideas and fuel better decision-making—get an update from the state Bureau of Fire Services on the hottest issues facing township fire departments.
Led by State Fire Marshal Thomas Hughes, Jr.

The Future You Fund: Whether intentional or not, every decision tells a story. So what story is your township telling? Move beyond “the way we’ve always done it” by rethinking whether your resources are reflecting the image you want for your community’s future. Get practical strategies for spending with purpose.
Led by Cindy Dodge, Owner, LOR Consulting

Reviving Rural Infrastructure: Looking for affordable financing for your infrastructure project? Learn how townships can access low-interest loan financing to support infrastructure, public facilities, and essential services. Current program focus is on core projects like water, sewer, housing, public safety, fire and rescue, telecommunications, libraries and more.
Led by Dom Restuccia, Michigan State Director, USDA Rural Development

Taxing Matters: A Treasurer’s Lightning Round: Packed with practical tax collection tips you can put to work right away. From deadlines and delinquent taxes to legal requirements, common pitfalls and everyday best practices, get insights you need to stay organized, informed and ahead of the game.
Led by Cindy Dodge

Agenda	
Eastern Standard Time	
SEPTEMBER 29	
9:30 a.m. - Check-in, continental breakfast and Northern Market	
10 a.m. - Welcome address	
10:15 a.m. - General session <i>Legislative Lowdown</i>	
11:30 a.m. - Meet the exhibitors and Northern Market	
12:30 p.m. - Networking lunch	
1:30 p.m. - Concurrent sessions <i>Municipal Missteps</i> <i>Back to Basics Boot Camp</i>	
2:45 p.m. - Northern Market	
3:15 p.m. - Concurrent sessions <i>Turning Your Audit into Insights</i> <i>Plot Twists in Planning & Zoning</i>	
4:45 p.m. - General session <i>Financial Forum</i>	
6 p.m. - Day one adjourns	
6:30 p.m. - Dinner and evening activity	
SEPTEMBER 30	
8 a.m. - Breakfast	
9 a.m. - General session <i>Meetings, Minutes & More</i>	
10:30 a.m. - General session <i>Firehouse Focus</i>	
11:45 a.m. - Networking lunch	
12:45 p.m. - General session <i>The Future You Fund</i>	
2:15 p.m. - Concurrent sessions <i>Reviving Rural Infrastrucutre</i> <i>Taxing Matters</i>	
3:30 p.m. - Adjourn	

UP NORTH SUMMIT REGISTRATION FORM

Township & County

Name & Title

☐ Full program

☐ Day 1 only

☐ Day 2 only

Email Address

Name & Title

☐ Full program

☐ Day 1 only

☐ Day 2 only

Email Address

Payment options:

☐ Check enclosed (payable to MTA)

☐ Invoice my township (members only)

☐ Charge to: MasterCard or VISA

Card #

CSV 3-digit code

Expires

Print Card Holder's Name

Signature

Register today to save your seat!

MTA must submit our food order to the Island Resort on September 8; availability after that date is not guaranteed.

Full-program rates: Include 10 hours of education, all meals, refreshments and evening activity.

- ☐ Early-bird rate through August 25: \$220/person
- ☐ Late rate August 26 through September 8: \$250/person

Single-day rates: Include that day’s sessions, meals and activities.

- ☐ Early-bird rate through August 25: \$135/person
- ☐ Late rate August 26 through September 8: \$165/person

Guest dinner and evening activity only: Register your guest by September 3.

- ☐ \$45/person Reg. 1 Guest Name: _____
- ☐ \$45/person Reg. 2 Guest Name: _____

Total amount due: \$ _____

**Rates apply to MTA-member townships. All others, call for rates.*

Special thanks to our sponsors!



Northern Market

This mini-expo offers networking time with vendors offering products and services that can help your township run more efficiently.

Special dietary or accessibility needs

Participants with special needs should contact Kristin at (517) 321-6467, ext. 230 or email kristin@michigantownships.org by September 3.

Continuing education credit

Elective credits for *Township Governance Academy* candidates; no project required.



Elective and chapter credits for *Red Book Ready* candidates; icon appears next to qualifying sessions.



Cancellation and substitution

Written cancellation requests received at the MTA office by September 8 will receive a full refund. No refunds will be issued thereafter without extenuating circumstances. Those who select “Invoice my township” as payment type but fail to cancel by these deadlines will still be required to pay balance due. You may substitute another individual from your township at no charge. Please contact MTA to let us know of the switch. Changes to hotel reservations must be made directly with the Island Resort.



512 Westshire Drive
P.O. Box 80078
Lansing, MI 48908-0078

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Permit #765

Join MTA for two days of
intensive learning,
networking and fun!

Getting there

Held at the Island Resort’s newly renovated conference center, located at 399 U.S. 2 / U.S. 41 in Harris (approx. 13 miles west of Escanaba).

Staying there

For best availability and discounted rates, make your hotel reservation by September 14.

Call the Island Resort directly at (877) 475-7375 and use *Booking ID 28316* or reference the *MTA UP North Summit*.



Cost for single- or double-bedded rooms is \$100 (standard room) to \$120 (whirlpool suite) plus resort fee and taxes.

Check-in after 5 p.m.; check-out by 11 a.m. EST.

Discounted rates end September 14. Don’t delay, make your reservations today!



UP North Summit
September 29-30, 2026
Island Resort Conference Center, Harris