

Voters overwhelmingly approve township proposals

On Tuesday, 26 out of 27 township proposals on the ballot were approved by voters. The proposals included road, public safety, library, renewable energy and marijuana proposals.

New interim rule expands eligible uses for ARPA funds

Townships that have not yet obligated their [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) allocation](#) or that did not choose the standard allowance option to use up to \$10 million for general government services have a few more eligible uses for the funds. A [new interim rule](#) just released by U.S. Treasury expands eligible ARPA uses to now include **emergency relief from national disasters, surface transportation infrastructure projects** and **Title I projects** in line with the federal Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant program. The previous existing ARPA fund eligible uses remain unchanged. All townships must obligate their ARPA funds by Dec. 31, 2024, and fully expend the funds by Dec. 31, 2026, now with the exception of surface transportation and Title I projects, which must be expended by Sept. 30, 2026.

Reminders on marijuana event organizer and temporary marijuana event license requirements

In response to numerous requests for information about marijuana event organizers (MEO) and temporary marijuana events (TME), the Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA) has provided information and resources to aid in public education regarding these two license types. Local governments and the public can use CRA's [Verify a Cannabis Business License](#) to confirm that an MEO is licensed by the state and which TME events are licensed. Suspected non-licensed events can be reported to CRA [by filing a complaint](#). [Specific license type details](#), as well as application instructions, are also available. Email questions to CRA-Adult-Use-Marijuana@michigan.gov.

New resource explores recruiting and retention for volunteer fire departments

The U.S. Fire Administration, part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has released a new resource geared toward recruitment and retention in volunteer fire or emergency medical services departments. ["Recruitment and Retention for the Volunteer Emergency Services"](#) is a 148-page, comprehensive manual that shares necessary tools, strategies and insights to help overcome recruitment obstacles and retain valuable department members. Visit MTA's ["Fire Departments and Fire Protection"](#) webpage for additional links and resources (member log-in is required).

Fiscally Ready Communities webinar to be held Aug. 17

Building a culture of fiscal sustainability is essential to local government fiscal health. Well-thought-out policies on fees, fines, purchasing and receipting lead to clear rules and fair treatment, and are essential pillars to that culture of fiscal sustainability. Join ["Nuts and Bolts: Fees, Fines, Purchasing and Receipting,"](#) a free webinar held **Aug. 17 at 2 p.m.**, presented by the state Department of Treasury and Michigan State University Extension. Learn why such policies are necessary, how they contribute to local fiscal health, and how to get started on implementation. Visit Treasury's [Fiscally Ready Communities webpage](#) for more information, including its [Fiscally Ready Communities Best Practices](#). Email questions to TreasLocalGov@michigan.gov with the subject line "Fiscally Ready."

MTT webinar to provide overview on tax matters

Join a free webinar on **Monday, Aug. 21 at 1:30 p.m.** sponsored by the Michigan Tax Tribunal (MTT), State Bar of Michigan and State and Local Tax Committee to receive the MTT's perspective on tax matters that come before the tribunal, as well as an overview of the tribunal's recent organizational and administrative changes. Attendees will receive updates on the Tax Tribunal's docket statistics related to current and pending filings, significant administrative rule changes, tips on how to navigate confidentiality and protective order issues in light of the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act, and other updates on changes. Register [here](#).

New online Intent to Apply form available for State Revolving Fund programs

Townships interested in financing water infrastructure projects through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs can now use the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) improved, online Intent to Apply (ITA) process. Applicants interested in financing drinking water, storm water and/or wastewater projects in 2025 must submit an ITA to EGLE's Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section by **Nov. 1, 2023**; this is the first required step in the application process to be considered for inclusion on fiscal year 2025 project priority lists. The new ITA form is available on the [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) and [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) websites and can now be submitted. For questions, email EGLE-WIFFS@michigan.gov, call (517) 284-5433, or reach out to the [SRF Project Manager](#) located in your EGLE district office.

Scrap tire grants available for 2024

Townships can apply now for grants that promote and support the cleanup and reuse of scrap tires in Michigan. Scrap tires can be processed and used in paving products for roads, manufactured products and energy production. [Scrap Tire Cleanup Grants](#) are available to fund up to 50% of total eligible costs for projects. Priority will be given to property owners where tires were accumulated prior to Jan. 1, 1991, as well as collection sites that pose an imminent threat to public health, safety, welfare or the environment. Local units of government and nonprofit organizations are also eligible for funding for cleanup days and roadside cleanup grants. To apply, visit [the grant program webpage](#) or contact EGLE-ScrapTire@michigan.gov. The deadline for grant applications is **11:59 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29**.

Reminder: Rural Perspectives and Priorities Survey closes soon

The [Rural Michigan Perspectives and Priorities Survey](#) will identify issues most important to local officials, residents and business leaders in rural communities across Michigan. Your input is critical to uplifting rural priorities in policies and programming for the state Office of Rural Development as it continues to prioritize outreach and engagement.

Input sought on proposed draft GAAMPs

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, announced the annual review period for the [proposed drafts of the 2024 Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices](#) (GAAMPs). Comments are accepted until **5 p.m. Aug. 25**, via email and U.S. mail; a [virtual public meeting](#) is also scheduled for **1 p.m. Aug.**

25. All comments will be forwarded to the respective GAAMPs Task Force Committee chairpersons for consideration before final review and presentation to commission at its **Sept. 20** meeting. Email comments to MDARD-RTF@michigan.gov or mail to Environmental Stewardship Division, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909.

Bureau of Elections updates

Prepaid postage. Permit information to cover prepaid postage for the return of ballots, ballot applications or any other materials covered under the prepaid postage requirement in the Michigan Constitution has been provided to all known vendors and to county clerks to distribute to their local jurisdictions for review and usage. The last four digits of the zip code listed in the information provided by county clerks are the ones that have been established by the State of Michigan. Send any corrected information to MDOS-BOEOperations@michigan.gov with the subject line: Permit Correction Needed. You may also send any contact name and/or email address corrections to the same address.

Return envelope information needed to cover prepaid postage must be printed by a vendor and paid directly from the State of Michigan account. This permit cannot be printed from the Qualified Voter File (QVF) or from a standard printer and affixed to an envelope. The state Bureau of Elections (BOE) strongly recommends that jurisdictions begin usage of these permits as soon as possible; however, it is also understood that jurisdictions have existing stock that needs to be utilized. Postage reimbursements will be honored with the appropriate reimbursement form and required documents through 2024 elections. Postage reimbursement requests can be submitted to MDOS-BOEReimbursement@michigan.gov. BOE is currently accepting requests; however, processing has not begun.

Early voting. Beginning with the 2024 presidential primary, municipalities must conduct early voting for statewide and federal elections by 1) entering into a county agreement with the county and other municipalities in which the county will conduct and oversee the early voting; 2) entering into a municipal agreement and jointly conducting early voting with one or more other municipalities in the same county; or 3) conducting early voting on your own. **Model early voting agreement templates are now available in the [eLearning Center](#).**

Early voting plans must be filed with the county by the coordinator of a municipal agreement or a municipality offering early voting as a single municipality. **Model early voting plan templates for clerks can also now be found in the [eLearning Center](#).** The county will compile those plans, along with the county early voting plan if the county is party to a county agreement, and submit the compiled countywide early voting plan to the BOE. If a municipality or a coordinator for a municipal agreement does not file an early voting plan, the county clerk must take steps to determine that municipality's plan and inform the bureau. Below are deadlines associated with early voting for the presidential primary election if it takes place on Feb. 27 (the law was changed earlier in the year to Feb. 27, but it did not receive immediate effect).

- Sept. 25: County clerks must notify their municipal clerks if they intend to offer early voting through a county agreement.
- Sept. 30: Municipal clerks must notify their county clerks whether they will conduct early voting as a single municipality, or enter into a municipal or county agreement.
- Oct. 25: County and municipal agreements must be finalized and signed.
- Oct. 30: Single municipalities and municipal agreement coordinators must submit early voting plans to their county clerk.

- Nov. 9: County clerks must submit their municipalities' early voting plans to the secretary of state.

Permanent mail ballot list. Any registered voter may now “have an absent voter (AV) ballot sent to the voter before each election by submitting a single signed AV ballot application covering all future elections.” An elector with a verified application to become a permanent mail ballot voter must be sent an AV ballot before each election unless the application is rescinded. The BOE is continuing development of procedures to guide clerks in the retention of permanent mail ballot applications and to provide the permanent mail ballot application to a new clerk upon a permanent mail ballot voter’s move within Michigan. The BOE is also working on procedures requiring AV ballot application verification during ballot processing on Election Day.

The presidential primary poses unique requirements for ballot applications and permanent mail ballot list voters that are now accommodated in statute. At least 60 days before the presidential primary, local clerks must send the presidential primary ballot selection form to permanent mail ballot voters who have not made a political party ballot selection. If the voter does not return the form at least 40 days before the presidential primary election, the clerk must notify the voter via phone, email and text message, if available, of the requirement to make a party ballot selection to receive a presidential primary ballot. If a voter becomes a permanent mail ballot voter after the clerk has sent out the presidential primary ballot selection forms and the voter has not made a ballot selection, the clerk must immediately send the voter a presidential primary ballot selection form, with prepaid return postage. Permanent mail ballot voters who have not made a party ballot selection before the election must be sent a ballot with any offices or proposals other than president, along with a notice that indicates both that the voter did not receive a presidential primary election ballot because they did not make a ballot selection and the process by which they can still participate in the election. This notice form will be distributed by the BOE ahead of the election.