

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Dec. 22, 2023

Register for MTA's Capital Conference by Dec. 31 to get the early-bird rate

[MTA's 2024 Capital Conference](#), held at the Lansing Center on **Jan. 23**, is fast approaching—and so is the deadline to take advantage of the early-bird registration rate! Join us and get a breakdown on what happened in 2023—and what's to come in the year ahead. Hear from legislators on bills they may consider affecting local government, and listen to experts on what will now be implemented—and what you need to know. There are also numerous key issues still up for debate in 2024—which is also an election year—including legislation creating a revenue sharing trust fund and the ongoing debate over aggregate mining operations. MTA's Capital Conference provides you direct contact with lawmakers, state department officials and MTA policy experts to allow you to learn more, ask questions and gain insights. [Register](#) prior to **Dec. 31** to get the early-bird rate.



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BOR, poverty exemption STC bulletins issued

New State Tax Commission (STC) several bulletins offer information for the 2024 assessment year, boards of review (BOR) and changes to the poverty exemption:

- **2024 boards of review.** [Bulletin 20 of 2023—2024 Boards of Review](#) contains information for the 2024 assessment year, including changes to the disabled veterans' and poverty exemptions. **July and December BORs.** [Bulletin 21 of 2023—July and December Boards of Review](#) provides an overview of key information related to July and December BORs.
- **Board of review Q&A.** [Board of Review Questions and Answers](#) offers BOR information, including

A blue banner for the Capital Conference. It features the Michigan State Capitol dome, an American flag, and the Michigan Township Association logo. The text reads: "CAPITAL CONFERENCE JANUARY 23 | LANSING" and "CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!".

CAPITAL CONFERENCE
JANUARY 23 | LANSING
CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!

Upcoming MTA Training & Events

- Jan. 3**—Registration opens for 2024 [MTA Annual Conference](#)
- Jan. 17**—*Now You Know* webinar
[Renewable Energy Siting: What's Next?](#)
- Jan. 23** in Lansing—[2024 Capital Conference](#)

their role and authorities, and Michigan law that governs them.

- **Poverty exemption.** [Bulletin 22 of 2023—Poverty Exemption](#) and [Bulletin 23 of 2023—Poverty Exemption Audit](#) cover statutory changes to the poverty exemption and guidance on the development and implementation of an audit program for these “extended” poverty exemptions.
- **Qualified errors.** [Bulletin 24 of 2023—Qualified Errors](#) addresses July and December BOR authority to correct qualified errors for current year and immediately preceding year.

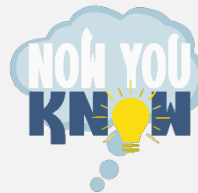


BOARD OF REVIEW
IN PERSON & ONLINE TRAINING with MTA
CHOOSE FROM TWO CLASSES, ONE THAT SATISFIES THE P.A. 660 TRAINING MANDATE OR ONE THAT OFFERS A DEEPER DIVE INTO COMMON TROUBLE SPOTS ENCOUNTERED BY BOARDS OF REVIEW.
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

What's next for renewable energy? Join upcoming MTA webinar to learn more

New laws impacting solar, wind and battery storage utility-scale renewable energy siting left a great number of questions and uncertainty among townships and their residents. What is the new process for state siting approval? When does a developer still need to go through the township? What is a compatible renewable energy ordinance—and what needs to be in it? Join MTA legal counsel on **Jan. 17 at noon** for an hour-long *Now You Know* webinar, "Renewable Energy Siting: What's Next?", and get an overview of the laws, the impact on your township's existing ordinances, public safety and infrastructure considerations, and more. Can't make the date? We'll record it so you can watch when it works in your schedule. [Click here to register now.](#)



Jan. 31 and throughout February—[Board of Review Training](#)

MTA QUICK LINKS

[Answer Center](#)
[Training](#)
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[Classifieds](#)
[Community Connection](#)
[Webcasts](#)
[Store](#)
[Township Governance Academy](#)
[Allied Service Providers](#)
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MERS
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www.mersofmich.com

* [Bauckham, Thall, Seeber Kaufman & Koches PC](#)

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

Reminders from BOE

Upcoming early voting deadlines—A number of early voting items have **Friday, Dec. 29** deadlines, involving township boards and clerks. Refer to the state Bureau of Elections (BOE) [Feb. 27 Presidential Primary Calendar](#) for these, and additional deadlines, as the first required early voting period approaches.

Updated election records retention schedule—An updated [Election Records Retention Schedule](#) is now available. If created, any footage must be retained for 30 days after the creation date. Drop box collection records must be retained for two years after the election certification date. As a voter's Qualified Voter File record serves as the official record of a voter's request to be placed on the permanent ballot list, the clerk who receives the original application does not need to forward it to another clerk when the voter moves. Those applications are subject to the regular absentee ballot application retention: six years after the certification of the first election held after the application is received.

Early voting site notice—Once a polling place or early voting site is approved, the appropriate clerk must send a notice specifying its location to each voter eligible to vote at that polling place or early voting site. As the Feb. 27 presidential primary is the first time most voters will participate in early voting, most voters (those who did not participate in the November early voting pilot) must receive the notice, which must be sent by **Jan. 13, 2024**. A sample notice postcard is available in the BOE's [eLearning Center](#).

Precinct boundary changes—Changes to precinct boundary lines for the Feb. 27 presidential primary must be made no later than **Dec. 29, 2023**. Send precinct boundary change requests to electiondata@michigan.gov, with the subject, "Precinct Boundary Change," and include brief description of the request and, if necessary, the approved resolution and marked-up street index (including maps). Only voters affected by a precinct number change must be issued a new voter identification card listing the new precinct number, and polling place change, if applicable. The deadline to notify voters of polling place changes for the Feb. 27 primary is **Jan. 13, 2024**.

* [Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.](#)

* [Hartleb Agency](#)

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



Start 2024 off right— register for MTA’s Annual Conference, beginning Jan. 3



Registration for MTA’s [Annual Conference & Expo](#), which returns to the Grand Traverse Resort **April 22-25, 2024**, opens right after the New Year, on **Wednesday, Jan. 3**. This can’t-miss event connects township leaders with municipal experts, inspiring speakers and nearly 1,000 of your fellow officials. Educational offerings feature 50 timely township topics, and our expo brings more than 100 municipal vendors. Find event details—including [session descriptions](#), [highlights of the week](#) and [hotel options](#)—in the [registration brochure](#), which will also be included in the January issue of *Township Focus* and on [MTA’s website](#). Remember, you must register for the Conference to get your personalized housing code, which allows you to reserve your hotel room. Lodging opens **Jan. 24**.

Treasury seeking comments for numbered letter

Township officials, finance and accounting staff, and auditors are asked by the state Department of Treasury to review [Exposure Draft Memorandum for Numbered Letter 2023-2](#) and [Exposure Draft Numbered Letter 2023-2—Accounting for State Pension Grants - Public Act 166 of 2022](#) regarding accounting for state pension grants. The numbered letter will provide direction to [local units of government that received an award](#) on the accounting and reporting of the grant. Submit comments by **Jan. 19, 2024**, to LAFD_Audits@michigan.gov with the subject line, “Numbered Letter 2023-2 Exposure Draft - State Pension Grants” or Michigan Department of Treasury, Local Audit and Finance Division, PO Box 30728, Lansing, MI 48909-8228. Call (517) 335-7469 with questions.

Nominations sought for local spotlights on opioid settlement fund spending

In partnership with MTA, the Michigan Association of Counties and Michigan Municipal League, the [Opioid Advisory Commission](#) is seeking to [spotlight local governments](#) demonstrating promising practices in use of opioid settlement funds, in alignment with national guidance. Local governments' works may also be shared

with the [National Association of Counties Opioid Solutions Center](#) for recognition on its website or in publications, and with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health as nomination for [Awards for Excellence in the Application of the Opioid Litigation Principles](#). For more information, contact oac@legislature.mi.gov.

EGLE calls for materials management plans

Updates to the state's solid waste management law, Public Acts 243-250 of 2022, require counties to develop [materials management plans](#) in conjunction with local units of government. These plans will include information about waste volumes generated in the planning area, current recycling rates, recycling goals and strategies, improved facility siting processes and enforcement mechanisms. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy [has called for counties](#) to begin developing materials management plans as of **Jan. 8, 2024**. While counties are required to complete and submit the plans, MTA strongly encourages townships to ensure that they participate in the discussions and development of these plans, which will affect solid waste management planning for years to come.



Residents can participate in state radon mitigation study

Townships can share with their residents an opportunity to participate in a [new state study on radon mitigation systems](#). The study, through the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's [Indoor Radon Program](#), is seeking homeowners for voluntary participation to survey existing systems for radon mitigation effectiveness and overall build quality as compared to national mitigation standards. There is no charge for the 30- to 45-minute inspection. Interested residents can find more information in a [Radon Mitigation Study FAQs](#) and complete an online [registration form](#). Email questions to Radon@michigan.gov.

Federal update for week of Dec. 18

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

MTA Offices closed

MTA's office will be closed on Dec. 25, 26 and 29, and Jan. 1 for the holidays. We will resume normal office hours on Jan. 2. The next issue of *Township Insights* will be on Jan. 5. **MTA would like to wish all a happy and safe holiday season.**

