

# Member Programs and Services

## Knowledge

- MTA's Member Information Services staff—which currently includes an attorney, a former township clerk and former municipal manager—who can offer insights and guidance on all aspects of township administration.
- *Township Focus* magazine offers news, features, and in-depth coverage of emerging issues and township accomplishments.
- Dozens of educational programs, including *MTA On The Road* regional meetings, are held around the state each year, covering topics from accounting to zoning, and everything in between.
- The Township Governance Academy offers advanced seminars to give officials the knowledge and skills needed to make effective decisions for the benefit of their township.
- MTA's Annual Educational Conference & Expo features more than 50 workshops, unparalleled networking opportunities and inspirational affirmation of local democracy.
- Our website, [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org), provides samples, resources, legal information, legislative updates—and more.
- MTA's invaluable publications offer guidance and insights, targeting topics such as planning and zoning, administrative policies and budgeting, among others.
- Upon request, MTA staff visit MTA County Chapter meetings, offering “mini” seminars on a variety of topics.

## Advocacy

- MTA lobbies on behalf of townships—advocating for new laws that are beneficial to local government and fending off legislation harmful to townships. In a typical legislative session, MTA exerts its influence on more than 600 pieces of legislation.
- MTA, on its own and as part of coalitions, supports or battles ballot proposals impacting townships.
- The MTA Legal Defense Fund intervenes in litigation where court decisions have a statewide impact on local government.
- The MTA Political Action Committee has a high success rate in supporting successful Michigan House and Senate candidates. MTA-PAC's endorsement is highly coveted and influential.
- MTA shares information and updates on legislation impacting townships through e-newsletters, alerts and conferences, to allow members to appropriately and effectively communicate with lawmakers.
- MTA members are also members of the National Association of Towns and Townships, which monitors and influences federal legislation and regulations impacting small communities.

## Community

- MTA's educational programs and conferences provide ample opportunities to meet and network with fellow officials.
- *Community Connection*, MTA's social networking site, allows officials to share ideas and insights with one another.
- MTA's online directories are invaluable in connecting township officials with one another.
- MTA facilitates meetings of officials facing similar issues or from similar township characteristics.



# The Value of MTA Membership

## MTA: Working for You

Every day, the Michigan Townships Association supports townships in their efforts to retain local control and serve their constituents in a way that reflects their community's values. By offering useful tools, innovative programs and supportive services, we help move your township's vision from a dream to reality.

Townships have a well-earned reputation for good stewardship of public money, and township officials look for value and results when making spending decisions.

So it is natural for township officials to ask, **“What is the value of MTA membership?”**

**Dedicated, reliable and committed to serving you . . . that's YOUR MTA.**

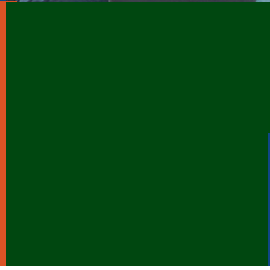


knowledge **advocacy** community





# Knowledge



# Advocacy



# Community

Public service as a township official requires knowledge that most people do not have prior to being elected to office—including hundreds of state and federal statutes, and duties prescribed by those laws. **MTA is a township official's best place to learn.** MTA provides members with timely information on all facets of township operations, crafting analyses and recommendations tailored to the unique needs of townships in response to an ever-changing economic, legal, political, cultural and social environment. Our workshops, conferences, publications and resources offer targeted news, updates and information to help township officials provide more efficient services to their residents.

The **value of knowledge** to township officials? Knowing that you are doing things right—and doing the right things, and maintaining credibility and confidence from your constituents for a job well done.

MTA provides a unified voice advocating for local authority that the broadest spectrum of township officials need to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of life for township residents. MTA's experienced lobbyists represent township government before the Michigan Legislature, executive office and state agencies, while initiating and monitoring legislation that is in the best interest of townships.

Local democracy is frequently under attack, its critics clamoring to move township services to counties or regional governments, or reduce the number of local governments in the state. MTA debunks the myths, distortions and fuzzy logic with data, studies, and an accurate portrayal of the value of citizen-led township government. **MTA is the only statewide advocacy organization that unconditionally puts the best interests of townships above all.**

The **value of advocacy** to township officials? The protection and survival of township government.

MTA membership is about the township government community. When you network with township officials, you talk to people who know you, your traditions and your culture. When you participate in an MTA educational program, you hear content that is specific to the issues you face—issues you need not face alone. When you read MTA publications, you read content that has been created specifically for you, which allows you and your board to plan and respond, rather than react. MTA helps you control your township's destiny.

**MTA connects you with a community of dedicated township officials.** MTA, like no one else, speaks your language, knows your history, and values you as an essential part of the form of local government closest to the people.

The **value of community** to township officials? Assurance, confidence, recognition and affirmation.

## Mission

The Michigan Townships Association advances local democracy by fostering township leadership and public policy essential for a strong and vibrant Michigan.