



Township Fact Sheet

Michigan is one of 20 states that has some form of township government. There are 1,240 townships in the state of Michigan. In fact, you live in a township, unless you live in a city. Nearly 52% of the state's population lives in townships, which provide essential services and programs to these 5.1 million residents. Here are some more quick facts about the government closest to the people.

- There are two types of townships: general law and charter. Charter townships have greater flexibility in their organizational structure, boundary protection against annexation and enhanced general tax authority. There are currently 139 charter townships in the state.
- Michigan townships vary in size and population, with the largest exceeding 100,000 people.
- Michigan townships govern over 96% of Michigan's land area—in which over 58% of Michigan's property values are located.
- Michigan townships are “statutory” governmental entities—meaning the Michigan Constitution charges the state Legislature to decide what powers and duties townships may, or shall, provide as expressly stated or fairly implied in statute.
- There are three broad responsibilities mandated to Michigan townships by state law: tax collection, property assessment and election administration.
- Michigan townships provide essential services tailored to meet the needs of their residents, including fire, police and emergency services, libraries, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, senior citizen programs, road maintenance, cemeteries and more.
- There are many laws that govern townships, but the two main laws dealing with township administration and governance are: General township laws, the Revised Statutes of 1846, R.S. of 1846 (Chapter 41 of the Michigan Compiled Laws), and the Charter Township Act (Chapter 42 of the Michigan Compiled Laws)
- Typically, though not always, townships are 36 square miles in size.
- Each township is governed by an elected board of trustees consisting of the supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and two or four trustees.
- The entire state is covered by townships except for areas within cities.