



## Myths v. Facts about Michigan Townships

MYTH: Michigan has more local units of government than any other state.

**FACT: Michigan ranks 32nd nationally in total number of governments per person.\***

MYTH: There are too many townships in Michigan.

**FACT: According to a Wayne State University study, local government tax burden per capita in Michigan is below the national average, ranking 41st among the states. Michigan is 12th nationally in total number of local governments.\***

MYTH: Michigan is not competitive in the global economy because there are too many governmental units.

**FACT: Local governments work more closely with small business—both recruiting and expansion—which provide more jobs locally for families.**

MYTH: When it comes to government, bigger is better.

**FACT: Township governments can better meet the needs of the communities it serves because township governments understand the needs of the local community. Township officials live and work in the communities they represent.**

MYTH: It costs too much to run townships.

**FACT: More than 50 percent of the state's residents live in townships. Despite having the smaller portion of population, cities spend eight times as much as townships on operations and services, according to U.S. Census Bureau.**

MYTH: Townships are not using revenue sharing for emergency services.

**FACT: Numerous townships are using revenue sharing to support emergency services. Revenue sharing was never intended to be a restricted revenue expenditure.**

MYTH: Townships don't cooperate on services.

**FACT: Of the 1,166 townships that provide fire services, 57 percent have a joint fire operation with another government unit. Of the 351 townships that provide police services, 74 percent have police patrols through contract or some other agreement with another local government unit. Of the 622 townships that operate ambulance services, 80 percent have services through joint operations or by contract.**

MYTH: Townships duplicate services provided by county government.

**FACT: Township services in no way duplicate services provided by the county.**

MYTH: Michigan is one of a few states that still have township governments.

**FACT: Michigan is one of 20 states that have the township form of government. Townships were created pursuant to the Michigan Constitution.**

\*Figures from the U.S. Census Bureau that includes schools and charter schools in the definition of local government. The number of local governments in Michigan is actually inflated because Michigan ranks 4th nationally in the number of charter schools.