

# Michigan Township Focus

OCTOBER 2022

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

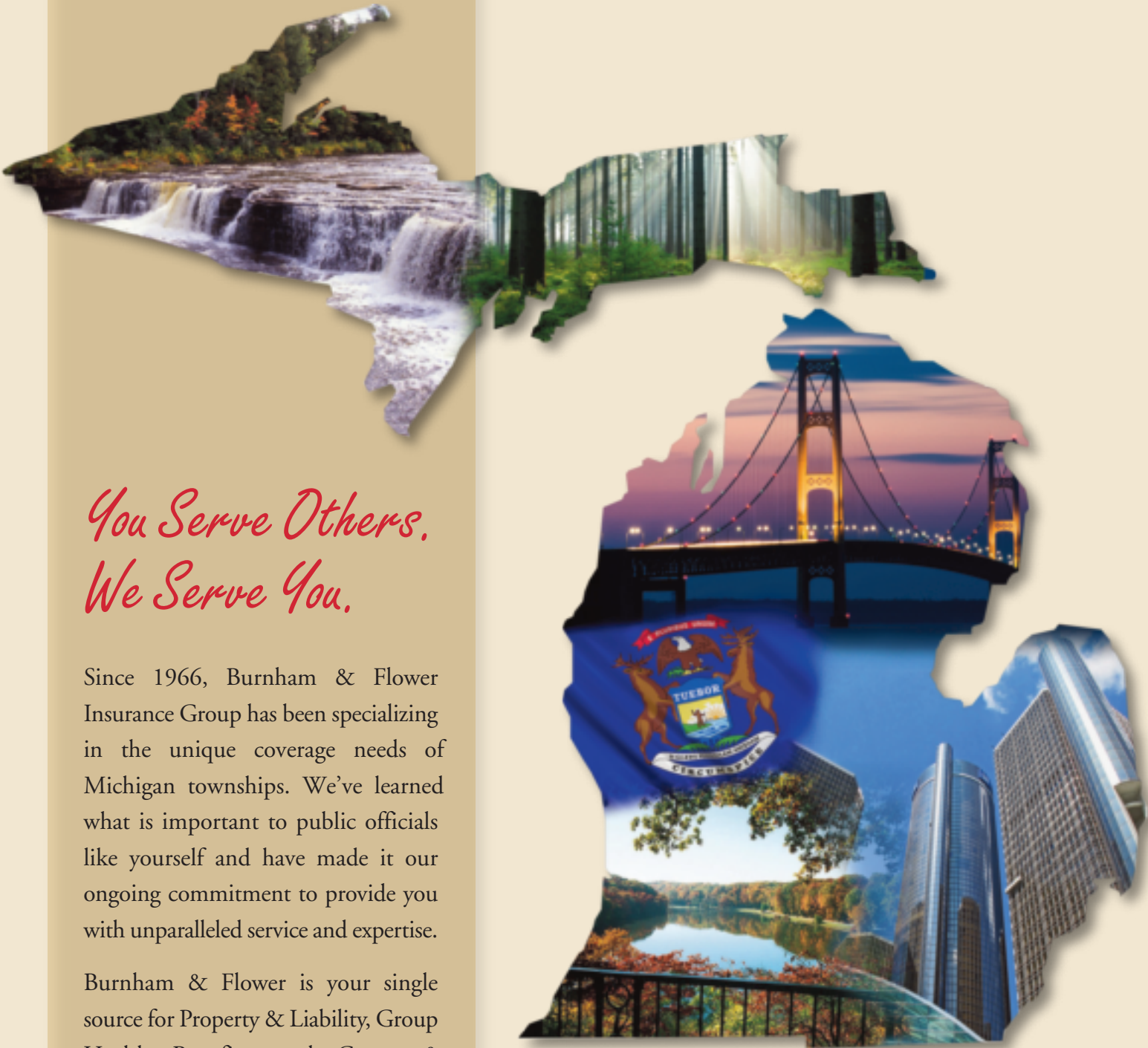
## Inside Election 2022

- Gubernatorial candidates talk reforms impacting locals
- Q&As with attorney general & secretary of state nominees
- Two proposals impacting local government make the statewide ballot

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the last word  
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Taking and  
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## Getting in the last word

No one needs to tell our **clerks** that the November election is just around the corner. No one needs to tell all the legislative candidates either. This is a powerful moment for you to speak with your local incumbents, challengers and candidates for open seats. Perhaps at no other time will they be as attentive to the fact that as elected officials in your townships, you are, in fact, the representatives of millions of their own voters, too.

Few people are better prepared to understand your residents' needs and interests than you. Those issues must matter to your legislative candidates. It falls on you to remind them that while they run for state House or Senate, the foundation of that district is made up of our townships.

2022 MTA President **Bill Deater** has spoken across the state of MTA's power of "**One Voice**," which means that together we represent more than half the state's population and express what those residents need and want very, very clearly through our **MTA Legislative Policy Platform**. When you speak out for the positions outlined in the platform, you reinforce the work of our MTA Government Relations team. When you call or write your state legislators on crucial legislation (such as preempting local zoning authority) and share legislators' comments with our team, you directly help us listen before we speak with **One Voice**.

Reaching out to the candidates now is powerful because you can:

- Thank those state legislative incumbents with whom you already have relationships, expressing your appreciation for their support of core township issues and those that are most important in your community.
- Introduce yourself or strengthen a bond to legislative candidates in open seats. Winners will be flooded with attempts to reach them after the election; stand out from the noise by expressing interest in their support of local government beforehand.
- Get to know the candidates on a personal basis rather than through the campaign communications. Certainly, in the last weeks of the campaign, their time will be stretched thin, but a genuine outreach could bring lasting dividends.

MTA's political action committee (MTA-PAC) accepts personal donations from our member elected officials to make campaign contributions on the Association's behalf to carefully selected candidates in competitive races. MTA-PAC focuses on those who have demonstrated support for townships through their legislative initiatives, their votes, or if first-time candidates, through their statements. Legislators have many different types of constituents and voices reaching them, some with deep pockets. Countering the special interests with both our advocacy outreach and modest campaign contributions is very important, and the support that PAC receives from our members is greatly appreciated.

MTA has asked the **statewide candidates**—for governor, secretary of state and attorney general—questions on positions important to our member communities and township responsibilities. We share their responses in this month's cover story. Those committed to local government and aspiring to play a role in bettering Michigan's communities are exemplified by our **2022 MTA Robert R. Robinson Scholarship winners** profiled in this issue. We value all who step up to serve their communities in township service and encourage those who then aspire to take that experience and township awareness into higher office. **Catherine Mullhaupt's 30-plus years of service** at MTA are marked in our profile of her development as one of Michigan's most highly regarded local government experts. Thank you, Catherine—and we look forward to your continued service in the years to come!

And while we're in gratitude mode, would you please go take a few minutes to thank your clerk, deputy clerk and all the elections team for their work and strength in meeting the challenges of the next weeks.

I will be on the road this month, joined by MTA leadership and staff, for our fall **Regional Summits**; please come say hello if you're participating.



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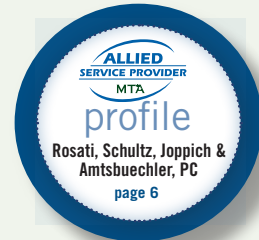
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## mission statement

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

## featured articles

### 15 Inside Election 2022

The 2022 Michigan gubernatorial, attorney general and secretary of state candidates weigh in on issues of importance to township government. Language for two statewide ballot initiatives impacting local governments is also presented.

### 25 Inspiring tomorrow's local leaders

This year's recipients of MTA's Robert R. Robinson Scholarship each bring a love of public service and inspiration from local government to their aspirations to serve our state's residents as leaders of tomorrow.

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# news&notes

a compendium of noteworthy items

## TURBULENT TIMES

### Survey: Majority of local officials are experiencing harassment, threats

A majority of Michigan's local governments are experiencing some form of harassment or other abuse from the public, according to a statewide survey conducted by the University of Michigan (U of M).

Officials from 53% of jurisdictions report online or in-person harassment, threats or violence against members of the local government, including themselves. Those numbers hold true when looking at township responses specifically. Officials in larger communities (over 5,000 population) indicated higher incidences of harassment over the last few years as part of their role in local government, including disrespectful or hostile comments, graphic language or slurs, shouting, and rude or aggressive gestures.

These figures emerge from the spring 2022 wave of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), conducted by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy at U of M's Ford School of Public Policy. MTA is a partner in the MPPS.

Harassment is widely reported, with 47% of local leaders statewide reporting they've experienced it themselves (that number falls to 40.5% when looking at township officials, specifically). The rate of actual threats or physical violence, however, is much lower. Local officials are less likely to report being subjected to actual threats (15% of jurisdictions statewide, just over 10% for townships) or violent actions such as destruction of property or physical assault (3% both statewide and for townships specifically).

The survey showed that statewide, a significant proportion of respondents are also aware of abuse perpetrated against other individuals within their local government. These include reports of abuse against local clerks, their election staff or other election workers (29%), other members of their board or council (28%), and other jurisdiction employees or volunteers (26%). Townships, specifically, report somewhat lower incidences, with 17% reporting harassment for clerks, elections workers, etc., 22% for fellow board members and 16% for personnel.

"We see that even in jurisdictions where officials have not experienced harassment, threats or violence, more than a quarter say simply the possibility of abuse is having a negative effect," said Debra Horner, senior program manager for the survey. "For example, local leaders see it having a negative impact on residents' civic engagement, such as speaking at meetings and serving on committees. It can also affect good governance, when 27% of leaders say this environment of harassment affects their board's or council's decision-making process on potentially contentious issues like public health policy, local planning and zoning issues, and more."

## CHANGE TO DUNS NUMBERS

### SAM.gov UEI replaces DUNS

Most, if not all, townships have a federal DUNS number—a unique identifying number used by the federal government to track how federal money is allocated, including, for example, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Earlier this year, SAM.gov—the federal database used to do business with the federal government—stopped using the DUNS number and changed to a "Unique Entity ID" (UEI) that is generated by SAM.gov.

The intention is to allow the government to streamline the entity identification and validation process, and make it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the federal government. This information is particularly important for every Michigan townships as they prepare for ARPA reporting.

If you play a role in your township's federal reporting or activity, you can find your township's UEI—which has already been assigned—in your entity registration record after logging in. You can also search <https://SAM.gov>; expand the "Select Domain" option, then select "Entity Information," then "Entities." You can then use keywords and filters to search for your township.

Visit [SAM.gov](https://gsa.gov/entityid) or <https://gsa.gov/entityid> for more details.

## STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

### Township employees may be eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

Qualifying township employees have until Oct. 31, 2022, to take advantage of the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Under the program, if an individual works for a government for 10 years and makes 120 student loan repayments on a federal Direct loan in full and on time, and submits all required paperwork, the federal government will consider their loans "paid in full" and forgive the remaining balance.

Townships can let their employees, including firefighters, library workers and others, know of their opportunity to qualify for student loan forgiveness. Eligible public servants can apply by visiting <https://studentaid.gov/pslf/>, or call (855) 265-4038 with questions.





## NEW LEVELS

### Required assessor certification levels for 2023 released

Townships must ensure that their assessor is certified at the proper level, based on requirements released annually by the State Tax Commission (STC). The STC-approved levels for 2023 have been updated to reflect the appropriate state equalized value (SEV) amounts:

**Michigan certified assessing officer (MCAO):** SEV is less than \$690,510,000 AND the combined SEV of the commercial, industrial, and utility real and personal classifications plus assessed value of special acts properties is less than 20% percent of \$690,510,000 (or \$138,102,000).

**Michigan advanced assessing officer (MAAO):** SEV is greater than or equal to \$690,510,000 million but less than \$3,003,045,000 AND/OR a combined SEV of the commercial, industrial, and utility real and personal classifications plus assessed value of special acts properties, is greater than or equal to 20% of \$690,510,000 (or \$138,102,000) but less than 20% of \$3,003,045,000 (or \$600,609,000).

**Michigan master assessing officer (MMAO):** SEV is greater than or equal to \$3,003,045,000 or a combined SEV of the commercial, industrial, and utility real and personal classifications plus assessed value of special acts properties, greater than or equal to 20% of \$3,003,045,000 (or \$600,609,000).

If a township required a Michigan master assessing officer in 2022, it will continue to require an MMAO-level assessor until it can show a decrease in SEV for two consecutive years.

The STC also approved the conditions and process for an assessor, local unit or county to request a waiver of the required certification level requirement. To do so, the appropriate form must be submitted to the STC no later than Oct. 31, 2022.

## Retirement

**William Wagner**, 38 years of service to Northfield Township (Washtenaw Co.), as public safety director and fire chief, and paid, on-call firefighter. "He is always willing to step up and provide his services to the community whether it be organizing trainings for area businesses and agencies, spending a night in 'jail' to help raise funds for the Whitmore Lake Public Schools, or simply providing our residents some relief from the heat with the pumper truck," said Manager **Mark Lloyd**. "Thank you Chief Wagner, for everything you have done for our community!"

## LOCAL UPDATES FROM ACROSS MICHIGAN

### Township happenings

**Cascade Charter Township** (Kent Co.) firefighters held the second annual Cascade Firefighters Association's charity hockey game this summer, featuring current and retired players from the Detroit Red Wings, Grand Rapids Griffins, Minnesota Wild and Nashville Predators, along with other hockey players. Game proceeds benefited the local Riding for Ryan charity, Brody's Be Café, which employs individuals with special needs, as well as the firefighters association.

**Hartland Township** (Livingston Co.) hosted a coloring contest this summer, debuting coloring pages of township facilities and area landmarks. Posting entries online, residents were able to vote on their favorites, with winners displayed in the township hall.



**The Soo Township** (Chippewa Co.) Volunteer Fire Department has received a new pumper truck, replacing its 30-year-old veteran vehicle. Purchased with the township's COVID relief monies, along with funds from the township's general fund, the new truck will help the department cover the 50-square-mile township and other communities requesting mutual aid.

Email YOUR Township Happenings to [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org). Add MTA to your newsletter mailing list! Mail to MTA, Attn. Jenn Fiedler, PO Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078, or email to [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org).

## FULL SPEED AHEAD

### Executive directive aims to streamline infrastructure permitting

In an effort to boost coordination, increase transparency and help infrastructure projects get moving more quickly and completed on time and budget, a new executive directive has been signed to streamline the State of Michigan's infrastructure permitting process.



"Streamlining the permitting process will help us deliver infrastructure projects on time and on budget, keeping people working and spurring economic growth," said Zach Kolodin, chief infrastructure officer and director of the Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO). "With hundreds of infrastructure projects already happening across the state right now, it's critical that we keep the peddle to the metal in order to continue delivering for Michiganders."

The directive, which applies to projects that cost \$50 million or more, requires the MIO to convene relevant state departments and agencies to develop a coordinated permitting process for each large infrastructure project, create publicly available permitting schedules offering clear timelines and avoiding duplication of efforts, and develop a public permitting dashboard to track project progress and ensure that projects meet environmental and climate resilience goals.

## Celebrating a milestone: Catherine Mullhaupt marks 30-plus years with MTA

As Catherine Mullhaupt marks a career milestone—three-plus decades with MTA—she says that the heart of the Association, and its service to Michigan’s townships, hasn’t changed as much over the years as one might expect.

“The technology used has changed dramatically, but MTA has always emphasized outreach, especially person to person,” said Mullhaupt, who first joined the Association in 1991 and now serves as MTA staff attorney. “MTA’s Board and staff have always embraced direct interaction in our conferences, workshops and association meetings. The methods MTA uses to deliver its services to its member townships have changed, but never the determination to serve them.”

When Mullhaupt first started at MTA, she was part of the Education Department, helping to plan and coordinate Association workshops, events and the annual conference—including serving as MTA Expo manager and creating the Township Parade of Flags. She wrote and was an editor for MTA’s monthly magazine, then called *Michigan Township News*, as well as for MTA publications, including the creation of our *Officials’ Guides to Township Government*.

Mullhaupt moved to MTA’s Member Information Services Department in 2000, where she has been answering member inquiries, creating innumerable member resources and teaching countless workshops and educational sessions for the past 22 years. In addition to sharing advice, information and guidance in response to thousands of questions from MTA-member officials every year, Mullhaupt—who earned her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and was admitted to the state bar in 2006—authors the *Township Focus* columns “Hello, MTA ... ?” and “Legal Review.” She has authored numerous MTA publications, including our *Introduction to Township Board Meetings* and *Introduction to the Freedom of Information Act*, and was the primary author on *Policy Matters* and completely revised *Authorities & Responsibilities of Michigan Townships*.

Township government, and the leaders who serve them, have inspired Mullhaupt throughout her tenure at MTA. “I have huge respect for the township officials—and township attorneys—I’ve interacted with over the years,” she said. “Their commitment to their communities has inspired me to work harder and better because MTA exists to support them.”

Mullhaupt’s expertise and experience have benefitted countless officials over the past 31 years, and we look forward to her continued contributions to the Association. “If you’ve worked with Catherine, you know of her great knowledge, passion and dedication to all things townships,” said MTA Executive Director Neil Sheridan. “On behalf of our Board and staff, Catherine, I congratulate you on this milestone and thank you for all you have done for us.”



Mullhaupt

## profile



### Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, PC

#### Twenty-six municipal attorneys at your fingertips

All Michigan townships—no matter the size—face increasingly complicated legal requirements and challenges in a rapidly changing world.

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“They have a wealth of knowledge,” said **Mark St. Charles**, **Green Oak Charter Township** (Livingston Co.) supervisor. “It’s like one-stop shopping. If I need a labor attorney, they have one. If I need a land use attorney, they have one. If I need someone for the Michigan Supreme Court, they have one. The whole firm is a very balanced, professional and knowledgeable group of attorneys.”

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Advertorial



MTA's lunchtime learning series, *Now You Know*, offers timely updates, insights from our experts and a chance to get your questions answered all in just one hour! Don't miss our next episode coming: **Wednesday, Oct. 12 from noon to 1 p.m.**

## Elections Update

As communities across the state are gearing up for the November 2022 election, MTA's own Cindy Dodge is poised to ensure township clerks are up to the challenge! Join us for a review of the differences between the township board, election commission and election inspectors. You'll walk away armed with insights into navigating your township's next election. From drop boxes to recounts, legal challenges to compensation, we'll review all the important details that your election team needs to know, now. Cost is just \$25! Register now at <https://bit.ly/NYKmta>

**BONUS!** If your township subscribes to *MTA Online* at the *Premium* level, you get **FREE** access to **EVERY** session! Visit <https://learn.michigantownships.org/nyk> for details, including how to watch previous episodes.



## Share input on 2023 legislative policy platform

Members can share input on MTA's legislative policy platform as we begin preparing for the 2023-2024 legislative session. These policy objectives guide our advocacy efforts, and are reviewed and updated annually to reflect emerging issues and goals. Review MTA's 2022 Policy Platform, under the "Advocacy" tab at [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org), and share any proposed revisions and suggested additions by Nov. 21. After review by MTA legislative committees, the proposed platform will be before the membership for adoption at the 2023 Annual Meeting, during MTA's Annual Conference in Traverse City. Contact the MTA Government Relations Department at (517) 321-6467 or [legislation@michigantownships.org](mailto:legislation@michigantownships.org) with questions, comments or suggestions.

### mta events | october

4-5	MTA Regional Summit, Marquette
10-11	MTA Regional Summit, Kalamazoo
12	Elections Update <i>Now You Know</i> lunchtime webinar
12-13	MTA Regional Summit, Bellaire
18-19	MTA Regional Summit, Mt. Pleasant
25-26	MTA Regional Summit, Port Huron

## classified

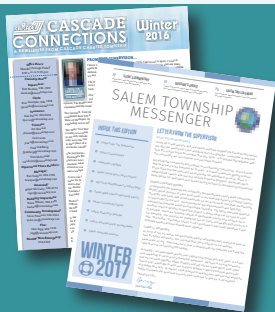
### HELP WANTED

**Planner—Milan Township** (Monroe Co.) is accepting bids for a planner to work with its planning commission. Knowledge in large solar energy systems is preferred. Submit a three-year contract. All bids will be accepted until Oct. 11, 2022. Submit to the clerk at: Milan Township, 16444 Cone Rd., Milan, MI 48160 or email to [bcollins@milantownship.org](mailto:bcollins@milantownship.org).

Want to place a classified in Township Focus or on [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org)? Visit [www.michigantownships.org/classifieds.asp](http://www.michigantownships.org/classifieds.asp) for more information, email [ashley@michigantownships.org](mailto:ashley@michigantownships.org), or call (517) 321-6467.

## Does your township have a print or electronic newsletter for residents?

Help MTA stay on top of what's happening in your township by adding us your mailing list! Enewsletters can be emailed to [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org); print newsletters can be mailed to: Michigan Townships Association, Attn. Jenn Fiedler, PO Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078. Thank you!



## HOW CAN YOU PREDICT THE LEGAL RISKS YOUR COMMUNITY MIGHT FACE?

- A. CRYSTAL BALL
- B. TAROT CARDS
- C. OUIJA BOARD
- D. ROSATI, SCHULTZ, JOPPICH & AMTSBUECHLER, PC

**ANSWER: D**

*"They are integrally involved with the day-to-day operations of the township. They anticipate what the impacts will be for the township and make recommendations on how to deal with them."*  
—Township Supervisor



ROSATI | SCHULTZ  
JOPPICH | AMTSBUECHLER



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### OCTOBER

**By 11** Notice of voter registration for the Nov. 8 election published. One notice required. (MCL 168.498)

Clerk shall post and enter into the Qualified Voter File (QVF) the hours the clerk's office will be open on Saturday or Sunday, or both, immediately before the Nov. 8 election to issue and receive absent voter (AV) ballots. (MCL 168.761b)

Clerk shall post and enter into QVF any additional locations and hours the clerk will be available to issue and receive AV ballots, if applicable. (MCL 168.761b)

**17** Assessor reports the status of real and personal industrial facility tax property to the State Tax Commission (STC). (MCL 207.567(2))

Qualified government units report to the STC on the status of each exemption granted under the Commercial Redevelopment Act (MCL 207.666), Commercial Rehabilitation Act (MCL 207.854), and Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (MCL 125.2794).

Deadline for assessor's annual report of the determination made under MCL 207.783(1) to each taxing unit that levies taxes upon property in the local unit in which a new facility or rehabilitated facility is located and to each holder of the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone certificate. (MCL 207.783(2))

**20** Deadline for payment to municipalities from the Local Community Stabilization Authority. Local Community Stabilization Share revenue for county-allocated

millage and other millages not levied 100% in December. (MCL 123.1357(8)(a) and (c))

**24** Last day to register for the Nov. 8 election in any manner other than in person with the local clerk. (MCL 168.497)

**25** through 8 p.m. on Nov. 8. In-person registration for the Nov. 8 election with local clerk with proof of residency. (MCL 168.497)

**28** Write-in candidates for the Nov. 8 election file Declaration of Intent forms by 4 p.m. (MCL 168.737a)

**By 29** County clerk delivers remainder of ballots and election supplies for the Nov. 8 election to local clerks. (MCL 168.714)

**31** Deadline for submission of New Personal Property PA 328 of 1998, Obsolete Property PA 146 of 2000, Commercial Rehabilitation PA 210 of 2005, Neighborhood Enterprise Zone PA 147 of 1992, Charitable Nonprofit Housing PA 612 of 2006, Commercial Facilities PA 255 of 1978, and Industrial Facilities PA 198 of 1974 tax exemption applications to the STC. *Note:* Applications for the above exemption programs received after Nov. 1 shall be considered by the commission contingent upon staff availability.

### NOVEMBER

**By 1** Notice of the Nov. 8 election published. One notice required. (MCL 168.653a)

Deadline for *Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit* (Form 2368) for exemption from the 18-mill school operating tax to qualify for a PRE for the winter tax levy. (MCL 211.7cc(2))

Deadline for filing the initial request of a conditional rescission of PRE (Form 4640) for the winter tax levy. (MCL 211.7cc(5))

Deadline for filing for *Foreclosure Entity Conditional Rescission of a PRE* (Form 4983) to qualify for the winter tax levy. (MCL 211.7cc(5))

**By 3** Public accuracy test for the Nov. 8 election must be conducted. (R 168.778) Notice of test must be published at least 48 hours before the test. (MCL 168.798)

**4** Electors may obtain an AV ballot for the Nov. 8 election via first-class mail until 5 p.m. (MCL 168.759)

Voters may submit a written request to spoil their AV ballot for the Nov. 8 election and receive a new AV ballot by mail until 5 p.m. (MCL 168.765b)

*On or before Nov. 5. Nov. 5 is a Saturday.* Supervisor shall notify treasurer of the amount of county, state and school taxes apportioned in township to enable treasurer to obtain necessary bond for collection of taxes. (MCL 211.43(1))

**7** Electors may obtain an AV ballot for the Nov. 8 election in person in the clerk's office until 4 p.m. (MCL 168.761)



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Electors who have returned their AV ballot for the Nov. 8 election may submit a written request in person to spoil their AV ballot and receive new ballot in the clerk's office until 10 a.m. (MCL 168.765b)

Electors who have lost their AV ballot for the Nov. 8 election or not yet received their ballot in the mail may submit a written request in person to spoil their AV ballot and receive a new ballot in the clerk's office until 4 p.m. (MCL 168.765b)

**8** Emergency absentee voting until 4 p.m. (MCL 168.759b)

Election Day registrants may obtain and vote an AV ballot in person in the local clerk's office with proof of residency or vote in person in the proper precinct until 8 p.m. (MCL 168.761)

Election.

**10** Boards of county canvassers meet to canvass the Nov. 8 election by 9 a.m. (MCL 168.821)

**15** Form 600 (L-4016) *Supplemental Special Assessment Report* due to the STC.

**By 22** Boards of county canvassers complete canvass of the Nov. 8 election; county clerks forward results to Secretary of State within 24 hours. (MCL 168.822, 828)

**By 28** Board of State Canvassers meet to canvass the Nov. 8 election. (MCL 168.842)

Treasurer gives county treasurer a bond running to the county in the actual

amount of county, state and school taxes. (MCL 211.43(2))

## By 30

Deadline for payment to municipalities from the Local Community Stabilization Authority: Local Community Stabilization Share revenue to municipalities with state facilities under 1977 PA 289, MCL 141.951 to 141.956

and to municipalities that incur certain costs of required and allowable health services under 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.2475. (MCL 123.1357(8)e))



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## Who is required to take the oath of office?

Many township positions are required to take the oath of office. The oath must be taken before performing the duties of the office. The oath of office must be taken whenever one of the officials listed below is originally elected or appointed, and every other time the official is reelected or reappointed. This is true for both elected officials and those appointed to fill a vacancy:

- Supervisor (MCL 168.363, MCL 168.358)
- Clerk (MCL 168.363, MCL 168.358)
- Treasurer (MCL 168.363, MCL 168.358)
- Trustee (MCL 168.363, MCL 168.358)
- Deputy supervisor (MCL 41.61)
- Deputy clerk (MCL 41.69)
- Deputy treasurer (MCL 41.77)
- Board of review (must take oath within 10 days of appointment) (MCL 211.28)
- Assessor (IRS/MTA Legal Counsel)
- Constable (MCL 168.363, MCL 168.358)
- Elective library board (MCL 168.363, MCL 168.358)
- Park commission (MCL 168.363, MCL 168.358)
- Election inspector (MCL 168.680)
- Commissioner of noxious weeds (MCL 247.61)
- Downtown development authority (MCL 125.4204)

*(Not an exhaustive list; other officials or bodies may be required to take the oath.)*



## Does a record of taking the oath have to be filed somewhere?

Yes! In fact, the signed oath document (“oath slip”) must be filed with the township clerk for the oath to take effect. So, it’s important to take the oath AND file the oath slip with the township clerk before the deadline for taking the oath expires.



## Is it okay to give the oath to someone who is not required to take it?

Yes, in fact, MTA recommends giving the oath to the following positions, even though the law does not require it:

- Planning commission
- Zoning board of appeals
- Superintendent or manager
- Ordinance enforcement officer
- Construction code inspectors
- Fire and/or police chief
- Fire administrative board
- Officials compensation commission
- Historical commission
- Economic development commission
- Fence viewer
- *Others, as township board policy indicates*



## Why give the oath of office if it is not required?

Taking the oath tends to lend credibility to the position to which a person has just been appointed or assigned. It also provides an opportunity to create a “paper trail” for the township board to the date of appointment and, therefore, to the expiration date of that person’s appointment so the board knows when to make future appointments.



## Who has authority to administer oaths to township officials?

The following positions may administer oaths of office:

- Township clerk/deputy clerk (MCL 168.363)
- Township supervisor/deputy supervisor (MCL 41.64b, 16.363)
- County clerk/deputy county clerk (MCLs 45.323, 551.103)
- Notary public (MCLs 55.285, 600.1440)
- Judge/justice (of any court of record) (MCLs 15.37, 600.1440, 600.1455, 600.8317)
- State senator (MCL 4.121)
- State representative (MCL 4.121)



Does a township official have to come to a township board meeting or the hall to take their oath?

No. Nothing requires that a person wait to take the oath until a scheduled event (and waiting might create a risk of missing the required deadline for taking the oath for that specific office). It is nice if a township board, for example, takes time at a board meeting to welcome newly elected members, and that could include providing a swearing in ceremony, but it is not required, and a person may go to any of the officials with authority to administer the oath, as they wish.



How do you keep track of whether someone took the oath?

If an official other than the clerk administers the oath, the original oath affidavit or a copy of the affidavit must be provided to the township clerk for official township records. Remember, you must file that affidavit or “oath slip” with the township clerk for the oath to have the effect of you assuming that office.



What is a person actually swearing to when they take the oath—and what if a person does not believe in “swearing”?

A person may “affirm” or swear when taking the oath. Here is the language of the oath of office, as set by Article XI, Section 1 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, which states that “All officers, legislative, executive and judicial, before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation” and “No other oath, affirmation, or any religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust”:

**“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the constitution of this state, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of ..... according to the best of my ability.”**

*Hello, MTA ... ?* provides general information on typical questions asked by township officials. Readers are encouraged to contact an attorney when specific legal guidance is needed. Member township officials and personnel may contact MTA Member Information Services with questions or requests from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, at (517) 321-6467 or fax (517) 321-8908.



# 63

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## Legislative lowdown

A quick look at critical bills MTA is following as they move through the legislative process. For updates, look to our *Township Insights* e-newsletter, emailed weekly to all member officials.

**HB 4014: Speed limits**—Modifies procedure for establishing speed limits. *MTA supports.*

**HB 4084: Unlawful dumping**—Revises criminal penalties and civil fines for unlawful dumping of garbage. *MTA supports.*

**HB 4115: Liquor license**—Allows a local unit to adopt a resolution for on-premises liquor licensees to sell alcoholic liquor between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. *MTA monitoring.*

**HB 4129: Elections**—Requires secretary of state to post on Department of State website a list of local clerks who are not current with continuing education training. *MTA monitoring.*

**HBs 4132-4133: Elections**—Creates felony penalties for knowingly submitting an absent voter (AV) ballot application using another person's name and personal information, and for submitting an AV ballot application with the intent of obtaining multiple AV ballots for a person. *MTA monitoring.*

**HB 4134: Elections**—Allows increase in allowable precinct size and requires permanent absent voter list. *MTA supports.*

**HB 4135: Elections**—Requires absent voter counting boards in cities and townships with more than one election precinct. *MTA monitoring.*

**HB 4192: Elections/replacement candidates**—Modifies the process for appointing a replacement candidate. *MTA opposes.*

**HB 4197: Local preemption**—Prohibits local laws that prevent local officials from cooperating with federal authorities regarding an individual's immigration status. *MTA opposes.*

**HBs 4211-4212: Law enforcement**—Increases penalties for disarming a law enforcement officer of a firearm. *MTA monitoring.*

**HBs 4454-4461: Solid waste**—Revises Part 115 solid waste law to create materials management plans, and

places more emphasis on recycling and composting of materials. *MTA supports.*

**HB 4491: Elections**—Provides authority for county clerks to remove deceased individuals from the Qualified Voter File. *MTA monitoring.*

**HBs 4523-4524: Local rail grant separation program**—Creates a local grade separation grant program for the separation of motor vehicle traffic and railroad traffic. *MTA supports.*

**HB 4530: Elections**—Eliminates May and August election dates, and creates June primary. *MTA monitoring.*

**HB 4722 & SB 446: Land use/local zoning preemption**—Amends Michigan Zoning Enabling Act to preempt local units of government from zoning short-term rentals. *MTA opposes.*

**HBs 4766-4771: Asbestos abatement**—Revises laws that govern asbestos abatement in Michigan. *MTA supports.*

**HB 4822: Workers' compensation**—Provides for workers' compensation for COVID-19 presumption for police, firefighters and emergency medical personnel without positive test result. *MTA opposes.*

**HB 4839: Elections**—Allows a township clerk to offer an annual absent ballot application that could be used for any or all elections held during a calendar year. *MTA supports.*

**HB 4845: Elections**—Requires the secretary of state to conduct signature verification training for county, city and township clerks. *MTA supports.*

**HB 4885: Removal from office**—Modifies the gubernatorial removal process of local government officers from office. *MTA monitoring.*

**HB 4908: Gaming**—Allows veterans organization to conduct charity game using a video charity game dispenser and allocates net proceeds to include reimbursement to local units for disabled veterans property tax exemption. *MTA supports.*

**HB 5282: Elections**—Prohibits intimidation of an election inspector or preventing an election inspector from performing his or her duties. *MTA supports.*

**HB 5293: Land use/zoning preemption**—Preempts local zoning

authority for child foster care institutions for a state-licensed facility up to 10 children. *MTA opposes.*

**HBs 5300-5302: Medical marijuana**—Creates special medical grower license for certain caregivers, limits to one location, requires registration and tracking of product, and provides municipal authority for civil enforcement. *MTA supports.*

**HB 5329: Property taxes**—Provides an opt-out option to designated assessor requirement. *MTA neutral.*

**HB 5335: Elections**—Requires city and township clerks to provide challengers in each precinct or absent voter counting boards with a visible challenger identification badge. *MTA neutral.*

**HB 5675—Township authority**—Allows the option for township supervisors to perform marriages (*creating parity with mayors*). *MTA supports.*

**HBs 5683-5684: Sales and use taxes**—Provides sales and use tax exemptions for pet food. *MTA opposes.*

**HB 5697: Tax tribunal**—Provides privacy of taxpayer information for Michigan Tax Tribunal proceedings. *MTA opposes.*

**HB 5702: Personal property taxes**—Eliminates all personal property taxes, without a revenue replacement. *MTA opposes.*

**HBs 5706 & 6060: Marijuana**—Allows Cannabis Regulatory Agency to contract with Indian tribes regarding marijuana operations and provides allocation of the excise tax. *MTA monitoring.*

**HBs 5921, 5923-5925: FOIA requirements**—Modifies Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements including required acknowledgement of FOIA request within two days, requires waiver or reduction of fee for request of a public record if would primarily benefit the general public, requires specific information about a record to be included in written denial, and requires a \$500 fine to public body if denial challenged in court and new basis raised for denial. *MTA opposes.*

**HB 5922: FOIA requirements**—Requires disclosure of FOIA coordinator's name and contact information. *MTA neutral.*

**HB 5972: Water resource improvement district**—Modifies the definition of water resource improvement district to include certain water trails for tax increment financing. *MTA monitoring.*

**HB 6062: Public notices**—Creates Local Government Public Notice Act. *MTA supports.*

**HB 6071: Polling locations**—Expands the types of locations that may be used as polling places. *MTA supports.*

**HB 6124: Election challengers**—Provides election challenger training for county clerks, political parties and other organizations, and requires election challengers to be trained. *MTA supports.*

**HBs 6133-6134: Revenue sharing**—Creates the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund for statutory revenue sharing. *MTA supports.*

**HBs 6317-6318: Drain Code**—Revises Chapter 22 of drain code for water management districts.

**SBs 22-23: Elections**—Limits millage elections to November elections. *MTA opposes.*

**SB 61: Shoreline permits**—Provides for expedited permit processing during high water. *MTA supports.*

**SBs 130-133: Elections**—Moves the May and August election dates to March and June with primary to be held the Tuesday following the first Monday in June. *MTA monitoring.*

**SBs 273 & 278: Elections**—Provides for regulation of absent voter (AV) ballot drop boxes and modifies collection for AV ballots deposited in an AV ballot drop box. *MTA opposes SB 273.*

**SB 279: Elections**—Modifies and revises the number of election challengers allowed in combined absent voter counting boards. *MTA monitoring.*

**SB 292: Elections**—Requires the secretary of state to establish election challenger training and requires election challengers to be trained. *MTA supports.*

**SB 306: Elections**—Requires the secretary of state to prepare, submit and post on website a report of county, city and township clerks who are not current with training or instruction required. *MTA monitoring.*

**SB 308: Elections**—Requires the secretary of state to provide signature

verification training for clerks and election inspectors. *MTA monitoring.*

**SBs 319-320: Septic system loan program**—Modifies Strategic Water Quality Initiative loan program and fund to create a municipality loan program and a resident loan program. *MTA supports.*

**SBs 429-431: Land use/local preemption**—Preempts local units of government on zoning and all regulation of sand and gravel mining operations, and places jurisdiction under the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. *MTA opposes.*

**SB 441 & HB 5326: Property tax assessments**—Clarifies valuation of wind energy systems. *MTA supports.*

**SB 442 & HB 4875: Land use**—Modifies conditions under which zoning ordinance may prohibit aggregate mining. *MTA supports.*

**SB 449: Unfunded mandates**—Creates the Headlee Unfunded Mandates Prohibition Act specifying a local unit of government would not be obligated to provide a new activity or service or increased level of activity or service required by state law unless the state appropriates the necessary funds to the local unit of government. *MTA supports.*

**SB 538: Automated delivery device**—Defines and regulates automated delivery devices and prohibits a local authority from adopting, enacting or enforcing a local law governing the devices. *MTA opposes.*

**SB 563: Beach safety**—Requires municipalities to post information on beach safety and anti-drowning techniques from state on website if they maintain a website. *MTA supports.*

**SBs 729-730: Personal property tax exemption**—Exempts from personal property tax new broadband equipment that resolves lack of service. *MTA opposes.*

**SBs 783 & 1084: Property taxes**—Replaces process for disabled veterans property tax exemption with an income tax credit and requires the state to reimburse local units of government. *MTA supports.*

**SBs 805-806: Property tax exemptions**—Modifies the filing for eligible manufacturing personal property tax exemptions and the distribution of

the Local Community Stabilization Share retroactively for businesses that missed the exemption filing deadline. *MTA opposes.*

**SB 807: Property tax exemptions**—Provides, for 2021 year only, a process for owner of personal property that would have qualified for an exemption if failed to file due to COVID-19, to obtain an exemption and holds local units of government harmless. *MTA supports.*

**SB 820: Local preemption**—Prohibits local units of government from imposing a ban on the use of natural gas or installation of natural gas infrastructure. *MTA opposes.*

**SB 846: Disabled veterans property tax exemption**—Modifies affidavit filing requirements for disabled veterans property tax exemption. *MTA monitoring.*

**SB 881: Property tax exemption**—Extends automatic poverty exemption for 2021 tax year through 2022 tax year for properties exempt in 2019, 2020 or 2021 tax year, and allows board of review to grant a partial poverty exemption equal to 75% reduction in taxable value. *MTA monitoring.*

**SB 956: Property tax exemption**—Provides tax exemption for personal property comprising certain consumer goods handling systems. *MTA opposes.*

**SBs 957-958: Use and sales tax exemptions**—Exempts collection of the use tax and sales tax on fully automated consumer goods handling systems. *MTA opposes.*

**SBs 972-973 & 1029: Sales and use tax suspension**—Exempts sale of fuel from sales and use tax at the pump from June 15 to Sept. 15, 2022. *MTA opposes.*

**SBs 1060-1062: Property taxes**—Provides for the replacement revenue to local units for personal property tax exemption for the small taxpayer exemption between \$80,000 and \$180,000 that takes effect in tax year 2023. *MTA supports.*

**SBs 1106-1107: Property tax/solar PILT**—Establishes solar energy facilities tax (payment in lieu of taxes) for certain renewable energy facilities. *MTA neutral.*

## Two November ballot initiatives impact local governments

In November, voters will decide two ballot initiatives that will impact local government: Proposal 1, which would change term limit requirements for state legislators and create financial disclosure requirements for state executive and legislative officials; and Proposal 2, which seeks to make changes to voting policies, including drop boxes, photo ID or signed legal document, nine days of early voting, and absentee voting for every election. (The third statewide proposal on the November ballot is on reproductive rights.) The MTA Board has taken a position of support on Proposal 1, but did not take a position on Proposal 2. Watch MTA publications for additional analyses on the initiatives. The ballot language for each proposal is as follows:



### Proposal 22-1

#### Financial disclosure and term limits for state legislators

A proposal to amend the state constitution to require annual public financial disclosure reports by legislators and other state officers and change state legislator term limit to 12 total years in legislature

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Require members of legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and attorney general file annual public financial disclosure reports after 2023, including assets, liabilities, income sources, future employment agreements, gifts, travel reimbursements, and positions held in organizations except religious, social, and political organizations.
- Require legislature implement but not limit or restrict reporting requirements.
- Replace current term limits for state representatives and state senators with a 12-year total limit in any combination between house and senate, except a person elected to senate in 2022 may be elected the number of times allowed when that person became a candidate.

Should this proposal be adopted?

- YES
- NO

### Proposal 22-2

#### Implement voting policy changes

A proposal to authorize additional absentee voting provisions, early in-person voting, and donations to fund elections; and add current legal requirements for voter identification and post-election audits and canvasses to the Michigan Constitution

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Recognize fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct;
- Require military or overseas ballots be counted if postmarked by election day;
- Provide voter right to verify identity with photo ID or signed statement;
- Provide voter right to single application to vote absentee in all elections;
- Require state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes, and postage for absentee applications and ballots;
- Provide that only election officials may conduct post-election audits;
- Require 9 days of early in-person voting;
- Allow donations to fund elections, which must be disclosed;
- Require canvass boards certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast.

Should this proposal be adopted?

- YES
- NO



A stylized map of Michigan in a light blue color, overlaid with a pattern of white stars of varying sizes, reminiscent of the Michigan state flag. The map is positioned in the upper left and center of the page.

cover story

# Whitmer, Dixon talk **state, local** **issues**

**T**o introduce our members to the 2022 gubernatorial candidates, and to give township officials better insight into how those candidates feel on a variety of township-related issues, *Township Focus* asked Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her challenger, Republican Tudor Dixon, a series of questions on issues of importance to local government. Their answers give a glimpse into how Michigan's next governor views the important relationship between state and local government.

Read on for the candidates' responses, as submitted, along with a closer look at how each came to run for governor of the Great Lakes State.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is a lifelong Michigander who, inspired by her family, says she is focused on getting things done that will make a difference in people's lives. An attorney and educator, she has served as Ingham County prosecutor, state representative and state senator, including as Senate Democratic leader.

Whitmer administration priorities include infrastructure investments, clean drinking water, investing in small businesses, improving public schools and job creation.

Gov. Whitmer and her husband Marc Mallory live in Lansing with their dogs, Kevin and Doug. Her daughters, Sherry and Sydney, are students at the University of Michigan. Her three stepsons, Alex, Mason and Winston, all live in Michigan, as well. She earned a bachelor's degree and law degree from Michigan State University.

Source: [www.michigan.gov/whitmer](http://www.michigan.gov/whitmer)

## 1. What do you believe is the relationship between the state and local governments?

**Whitmer:** Local governments are essential partners in building a stronger Michigan. From public safety and economic development to transportation infrastructure and clean water, local governments and their diligent workers help keep our state running.

I am proud to support local governments as we work together to create opportunity in every community across our state.

**Dixon:** I believe that local communities are best able to determine what is best for their residents, not the state. The state should be a resource for a local community, not a bully.

During COVID, Michigan saw the problems created by a one-size-fits-all solution by the executive branch. Businesses and schools were closed, people lost their jobs, and students suffered academic and social repercussions. The needs of individuals and local communities were not considered. No one had input into the decisions being made by Lansing.

## 2. What, if any, reform measures would you seek that would impact local government, such as funding, revenue sources or regulatory authority?

**Whitmer:** We have made meaningful progress to support local governments and are working to build on that momentum.

In our most recent budget, I secured a record increase for revenue sharing and support for municipal pensions. That includes a 5% ongoing and 1% revenue sharing increase, offering more resources to help cities, villages, townships and counties deliver critical services and hire more police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel.

We also negotiated \$750 million to support municipal pensions, helping ensure a promise made is a promise kept to hardworking local government employees across the state.

I stand ready to partner with the Legislature to strengthen resources for local governments. Michigan is one of few states with a restrictive local road funding structure, and I am eager to work with the Legislature to expand options for local governments to sustain local road and bridge investments. I believe we can work together to find bipartisan solutions that provide communities with more options to improve infrastructure.





**Dixon:** One example of my plan to empower local governments is in my five-step plan to rebuild energy and infrastructure in Michigan. I believe that we should revise the funding formula. We need to make funding more flexible, rather than just follow what the state agencies recommend. We should give local districts more flexibility in allocating revenue and allow local governments to have greater control over funding decisions.

### 3. What makes you best qualified to be Michigan's next governor?

**Whitmer:** Despite the challenges of the past few years, we have made so much progress working together to build a stronger Michigan. Every single bill I have signed—more than 900 in the last three years—has been bipartisan, and I am willing to sit down with anyone to solve problems and help people.

We made Michigan's largest ever investment in K-12 education, tripled the number of reading coaches, expanded after-school programming, and are recruiting more teachers. We brought low or no-cost child care to 150,000 children and helped enroll 35,000 four-year-olds in affordable, high-quality pre-K. We are cutting costs for Michigan families and sent \$3 billion back into their pockets through \$400 auto insurance refund checks for every driver.

We are growing our economy by putting 170,000 Michiganders on a path to good-paying jobs with tuition-free skills training and college and securing 25,000 new auto jobs as part of the biggest manufacturing boom in years. We're also focused on making major investments in Michigan's semiconductor industry to bring our supply chains home and bolster our economy. We are fixing the damn roads and have repaired over 13,000 lane miles and over 900 bridges, while supporting more than 80,000 good-paying jobs. We cut taxes for small businesses and delivered \$400 million to support local jobs.

We have done all of this without raising taxes while delivering a balanced budget every year. I hope to be re-elected to continue bringing people together and build on this historic progress for Michigan's hardworking families.

**Dixon:** I am a businesswoman, breast-cancer survivor and working mom of four girls. I built a career in Michigan's steel industry throughout the early 2000s, leading industrial sales for heavy equipment in the agriculture, automotive and energy sectors.

As a solutions-oriented person, I released detailed plans to rebuild and grow the economy, stop the indoctrination of our school children, empower parents in education, expand school choice options, create safe communities, and apply common-sense reforms to Michigan's elections.

As a political outsider, I better understand the day-to-day issues for Michiganders. I promise to work hard every single day to make Michigan "Open for Business" to improve the lives of our residents.



Tudor Dixon built a career in Michigan's steel industry throughout the early 2000s.

She was highlighted in 2009 at 31 years old as part of "Metalcasting's Next Generation" by trade magazine *Foundry Management & Technology* and served as chair of the Steel Founders Society of America's Future Leaders Committee.

Dixon paused her career upon having children and being diagnosed with breast cancer. After beating cancer, she returned to the steel industry briefly before beginning an entrepreneurial journey that led her to conservative media and activism, including founding Lumen News, which provided morning news programs to grade school students.

Since entering the gubernatorial race in spring 2021, Dixon has traveled tens of thousands of miles across Michigan, listening to countless everyday citizens.

Source: [www.tudordixon.com](http://www.tudordixon.com)

# Secretary of state candidates weigh in on priorities, reforms

To highlight how the 2022 Michigan secretary of state nominees—incumbent Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, and Kristina Karamo, a Republican—feel on several key election-related issues, *Township Focus* posed a series of questions to each candidate. The following are their responses, as submitted.



Please share your top priorities as Michigan's secretary of state.

**Benson:** When I ran for office in 2018 my top priorities were to improve customer service for the millions of Michiganders who do business with our office, and to protect the integrity of our elections process, including making it easier for people to exercise their right to vote. Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. While voting should be easier, our elections must also be secure, fair and free.

Our commitment to those priorities led to revamping how we deliver service. We eliminated the “take a ticket and wait” system that often led to hours-long visits and now customers are in-and-out of our offices, on average, in 20 minutes or less. We doubled the transactions that can be done online and partnered with the private sector to place self-service stations in grocery stores so branch office visits can be avoided altogether.

We made it easier to vote by implementing the constitutional amendment that guaranteed the right to vote by absentee ballot (AV), which voters approved in 2018.



Benson



Karamo

Not only did we mail an AV application with instructions to every Michigan voter, we also made the application available online. Further, we recruited a new generation of poll workers to help local clerks and helped place 1,000 drop boxes in key locations around the state.

I am committed to building on the work we've done, including expanding our mobile branch office operation and protecting the strides we've made in the elections process. These will be among my top priorities in a second term.

**Karamo:** Being a candidate for secretary of state (SOS) is not a “career move” for me; I am running to remove corruption from the Michigan SOS office—that is a threat to our survival as a nation. A secure election process is how we the people give our consent to be governed. I will work to protect voting rights for all Michiganders by ensuring ballot access and security for all, and preventing illegal ballots.

The absence of efficiency and customer service at local Secretary of State branch offices is beyond a public nuisance. It causes people legal and financial problems; it also harms business owners who need SOS services to conduct business. As your next secretary of state, I will work to ensure appointment and walk-in services are available at *all* branch offices and not just a select few.

The SOS office currently collects \$2.9 billion a year and only uses 7% of that money on services. In this expensive economy, I will work to lower fees to access our services.

Lastly, I will work to ensure that repair shop and car dealer inspections are fair for both the consumer and the auto-shop owner.



## What changes do you propose to voter registration and/or Election Day procedures?

**Benson:** We have made significant changes in how people register and vote, some of which were outlined in the voter-approved constitutional amendment of 2018. Today, it is easier to exercise your constitutional right to vote. Michiganders can register and vote up to and on Election Day. We have automatic voter registration for those people on our driver and ID files who turn 18. Absentee ballots can be cast by every voter, regardless of age or reason. We made drop boxes available in all parts of the state so voters could conveniently drop off their ballot. Unfortunately, there are some people who would take away the steps we’ve taken. There have been legislative proposals to eliminate the use of drop boxes and online absentee ballot applications.

Our goal in the coming term will be to protect the steps we’ve taken and do even more to secure our elections, and make them free and fair as they are today. That includes working with state lawmakers to approve proposals supported by local clerks that would allow them to process absentee ballots prior to Election Day. Doing so would help local clerks who administer our elections and eliminate some of the post-election drama that comes with reporting election results.

**Karamo:** “Every vote counts” is a slogan we hear every election cycle. What happens if your vote is canceled out by a person who does not have the right to vote, or is no longer of this world? I believe the first step of *any* SOS is to ensure an accurate voter registration database. The SOS Office has all the resources needed to ensure this is done every election cycle. No legal vote should be discounted or canceled out.

For absentee ballots, Michiganders deserve nothing less than to ensure there is a verifiable chain of custody for every ballot.

We need to ensure that our local clerks have all the necessary resources they need, which will improve Election Day procedures and make counting more efficient. Lastly, we must place a premium on election security. Precincts that do not balance or where a seal has been illegally clipped should be automatically audited.



Local units of government are continually expected to do more with less. As secretary of state, what would you do to help ensure that election reforms initiated by either the federal or state government not place an undue financial or procedural burden on local communities?

**Benson:** There is no question that local communities, including townships, carry the financial burden that comes with administering our elections. They absolutely deserve the support of the state and federal governments.

It is why I have called for them to support our elections system with a \$100 million appropriation that would help local communities do this important work to preserve our democracy.

Further, with so many threats on the lives of election workers as a result of misinformation campaigns, I offered \$8 million to local communities like our townships that could go toward enhanced security surrounding our election officials.

It is not an understatement to say democracy is on the ballot this November. Without secure, free and fair elections, the right to vote will be at stake. As secretary of state, I have fought to support our local clerks and communities, both financially and administratively, and will continue to do so if reelected.

**Karamo:** I believe when a state government passes a new regulation or law, it should carry the full burden of cost and not have the ability to pass that on to the local authorities. One of the measures on the ballot in our great state in November is Proposal 2, which I believe is extremely unfair to the local authorities. It makes elections more expensive and more likely [susceptible] to corruption when you have nine days of early in-person voting. It is one of the many reasons I am voting against Prop 2.

The current SOS currently generates \$2.9 billion in revenue, and only 7% of that money is used to run the office. With that, the SOS office does have the budget and ability to ensure secure elections without raising any state or local taxes.

# Putting the AG race into *Focus*

**T**he office of state attorney general acts as official legal representation for the state of Michigan and also as the “people’s lawyer” for all citizens. The attorney general also offers opinions and interpretations of Michigan statute, based on inquiry from legislators and state departments, which often impact townships. *Township Focus* reached out to the two attorney general candidates—incumbent Dana Nessel, a Democrat, and Matthew Deperno, a Republican—to share insights into their goals for the office. The following are their responses, as submitted.



Please share your top priorities as Michigan’s attorney general.

**Nessel:** My top priorities include protecting and advocating on behalf of Michigan consumers; upholding the voting, civil and reproductive rights of all Michiganders; and enacting policies that are not just tough on crime, but smart on crime. My office has led two of the biggest sexual abuse cases in the country, which involve clergy members and the Boy Scouts; it’s extremely important to me to aggressively prosecute rape, sexual assault and domestic violence cases while establishing better resources for crime victims.

I’ve established a number of new divisions in my department: the first-of-its-kind office investigating hate crimes and domestic terrorism, as well as units devoted to robocalls and other scams, elder abuse, conviction integrity, payroll fraud, organized retail fraud, and PFAS. I’ll continue to prioritize holding accountable powerful interests—such as price-gougers, corporate polluters, and drug companies that overcharge patients for vital medications—when they



**Incumbent Attorney General Dana Nessel lists as her top priorities consumer advocacy, upholding voting, civil and reproductive rights, and policies both tough and smart on crime.**

harm state residents. My focus is also on enforcing equal pay for equal work laws, and enacting common-sense gun safety measures. I secured a record settlement from opioid manufacturers and will ensure those funds are spent in local



If elected Michigan's next attorney general, Republican Matthew DePerno says he will help facilitate a working relationship with local government.

communities to combat substance misuse disorder. I'm also eager to continue my initiatives offering people a path to a better future through my restorative justice work, and driver's license restoration and expungement fairs.

**DePerno:** I am running for attorney general to restore integrity, justice and morality here in Michigan. The past four years, the constitution and rule of law have been tossed aside. Michiganders deserve more from their elected official and should be represented by an attorney general who will aggressively challenge the infringements upon our rights, eradicate corruption, and restore the integrity of the constitution.

**Q** What is the relationship between the attorney general and Michigan's local officials? As attorney general, how do you plan to work with local officials?

**Nessel:** Attorneys general serve as legal counsel to state government agencies and the Legislature, and we represent the people of Michigan in court when it's in the public interest, such as when my office worked with local officials to obtain the Arbor Hills landfill settlement. With the authority to represent, defend and enforce the legal interests of both Michigan and the public, I pursue action on behalf of the state when a legal opinion interpreting state law is required, a civil enforcement action needs to be brought (as with the opioid lawsuit), a public nuisance needs to be abated, the public interest needs to be protected, criminal activity needs to be prosecuted, and/or litigation and appeals need to be moved forward on behalf of the state.

As with any legal case, we determine when to pursue action based on the facts and the evidence associated with the case and how they apply to the law.

**DePerno:** I believe in working in coordination with government on all levels. Government can be confusing and it is my role to facilitate a working relationship with local government so that everyone can work from the same page. I do not want to be an attorney general who governs with my beliefs, but rather one who governs by the law.

**Q** As Michigan's attorney general, you serve as the top lawyer on behalf of the state. Please explain how you would determine when issues are relevant to pursue action on behalf of the state?

**Nessel:** Local officials such as county prosecutors are key partners and vital to the work of the Department of Attorney General. We often work with local officials on investigations and enforcement issues, and I rely on them to be my "eyes and ears" in the field, so to speak, and elevate complaints to our attention when appropriate. My office often assists municipalities with, for example, issues related to charter amendment reviews. MTA members have likely had the pleasure of working with George Elsworth, who has been serving as the Department of Attorney General's township liaison for the past five decades. I plan to continue the office's close and productive relationship with local officials should I be elected to a second term.

**DePerno:** I believe in following the rule of law and constitution and not my personal beliefs. If the issue at hand violates state law or the constitution, I will defend the interests of Michiganders. The integrity of the office must be restored with a rule of law attorney general who respects the law.



# upcoming MTA workshop

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection

Whether you are a seasoned treasurer, newly elected or anything in between, this full-day workshop is a must! Collecting property taxes is a highly visible function of the township treasurer's office. It comes with significant responsibility not only for the large amount of money collected but also for compliance with the General Property Tax Act. The day will include discussions on:

- Getting started
- Preparation of the tax bill
- Summer taxes
- Winter taxes
- Accounting for and disbursement of collections
- Settlement
- Delinquent personal property tax

We'll discuss applicable laws, "best practices" and more! Ample time for questions has been built in, so don't be shy. This workshop is also appropriate for deputy treasurers and any employee who has some responsibility in the property tax collection process. All participants will receive the Treasurer's Record Retention Schedule #29 and the *Accounting Procedures Manual*.



## DATES & LOCATIONS

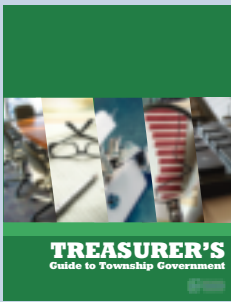
**Nov. 22:** LCC West Campus, Lansing  
**Nov. 29:** Treetops Resort, Gaylord

### Continue the learning process

The registration fee\* includes lunch and all handout materials. Attendees may also purchase MTA's *Treasurer's Guide to Township Government*—a 185-page essential resource for all township treasurers in Michigan—at the discounted rate\* of \$34.50 when registering for the class. The books will be distributed at check-in and will also be available for sale on site while supplies last.

### Cancellations and substitutions

Written cancellation requests received at the MTA office by Nov. 8 will receive a full refund. In-person event "no shows" or those who cancel after Nov. 8 will be given online access to the recorded version. No refunds will be issued after Nov. 8 without extenuating circumstances. You may substitute another individual from your township without incurring a charge; please notify MTA of the change.



## Tax Collection Registration Form

Township \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase guidebook:  Yes  No

Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase guidebook:  Yes  No

### Which location will you attend?

Nov. 22: LCC West Campus, Lansing     Nov. 29: Treetops Resort, Gaylord

**Early-bird Rate\***: Expires Nov. 8.  
 \$125/person (*Premium subscribers pay \$100/person\*\**)

**Regular Rate\***: Nov. 9 to one week prior to event  
 \$150/person (*Premium subscribers pay \$120/person\*\**)

**On-site Rate\***: Applies one week prior to event  
 \$175/person (*Premium subscribers pay \$140/person\*\**)

\_\_\_\_\_ (# registered) x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (rate\*) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (# of *Treasurer's Guides*) x (\$34.50/book\*) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Rate applies to MTA members. Non-members, call for rates.

### NOTE: Payment must accompany form in order to be processed.

Check enclosed (payable to MTA)

Charge to: (circle one)      MasterCard      VISA

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Print Card Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ CSV 3-digit code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Premium subscribers are townships that have purchased an online learning subscription to MTA Online at the Premium level. Find out if your township is a premium subscriber at [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org) (search for "MTA Online").**



Send your completed registration form with payment to MTA, P.O. Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078; fax: (517) 321-8908. Or register online at [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org). Questions? Call (517) 321-6467 ext. 221.



# MTA's December events offer education for new and seasoned officials alike

## Assessing Your Assessing



Dec. 14: Treetops Resort, Gaylord  
Dec. 15: LCC West Campus, Lansing

### What EVERY Board Member Needs to Know about Assessing

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Includes lunch served at noon)

Register by Nov. 29 and pay \$103/person (\$82/person if your township is a *Premium* subscriber.)

The township board is responsible for financing and managing the assessment process. You cannot take a hands-off approach or make the mistake of assuming that the job is covered; if something goes wrong, the township board—not the assessor—will be held responsible.

**Don't wait until your board is faced with the state's audit of assessing practices, take the wheel now!**

Join us for an overview of the board's role in assessing and walk away with timelines, calendars and a better understanding of who is responsible for what—and why. We'll review assessing ethics and offer tips on how to respond to a variety of public inquiries.



Dec. 13: Treetops Resort, Gaylord  
Dec. 16: LCC West Campus, Lansing

### Welcome to Township Government; MTA can help you get started right!

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Includes continental breakfast, and lunch served at noon)

Register by Nov. 29 and pay \$150/person (\$120/person if your township is a *Premium* subscriber.)

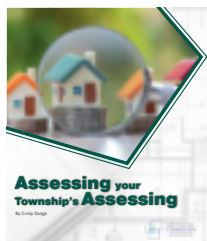
What are the crucial functions you need to perform right now for your specific office? How can you bring fresh perspectives to the board, while valuing the work of veteran board members and staff?

You won't want to miss this introduction to the "hows and whys" of township government! We'll review the structure and authority of townships, mandated functions of a township board and the role of individual board members. Afternoon breakouts review key topics for each office including:

- **Supervisors and trustees**—Meeting management, ordinances, lawful expenditures, budgets, administration, assessing oversight and the role of the trustee
- **Clerks and treasurers**—Financial operations, internal controls, records and reporting, along with additional duties

## New Officials Training

Continue the learning with MTA publications. Members save up to 20% off our township-targeted resources when adding them to event registrations or purchasing on site. Add-on options include:



MTA's newest guidebook, *Assessing Your Township's Assessing*, will make its debut at this event! The new book, authored by MTA Member Information Liaison and certified assessor Cindy Dodge, covers the entire property assessment process—from why assessing in Michigan looks like it does, to building your township's assessing team, recordkeeping to equalization, and everything in between.

This is the only book of its kind geared specifically to township board oversight of property assessing. Written in an accessible, yet comprehensive, style, this book is a must-have for every township. Members can add it to their class registration for the discounted rate of \$34.50/person.

### Basic Starter Kit

(\$98 discounted rate)

*Guide to Township Government* (specific to your office), *Authorities & Responsibilities of Michigan Townships*, and *Introduction to Township Board Meetings*



### Essential Township Collection

(\$240 discounted rate)

Includes resources offered in the *Basic Starter Kit* described above PLUS *Building a Better Budget* (includes samples), *Introduction to FOIA* (includes sample forms), *The Township Guide to Planning & Zoning* and *Policy Matters!*

Registration is now open! Register online at <https://bit.ly/MTAReg>



Looking for more details? Visit [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org).  
Questions? Call (517) 321-6467 ext. 221.

**F**und accounting is used in a municipality since the focus is on accountability and not on profitability.

There are many different types of funds used to track accountability. In this month’s column, we will focus on the general and special revenue funds, how they are used—and why.

**Q What is a general fund?**

A general fund is the fund used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

The general fund is made up of the resources that have not been restricted, committed or assigned to other funds and purposes. “Unassigned funds” are accumulated in this fund. These resources are to be used for budgeted items throughout the township. (GASB 54)

**Q What is a special revenue fund?**

A special revenue fund is an account used in governments to compile money that will be used for a specific project or function. These resources are restricted to a particular purpose and cannot be used for any other purpose unless the township board removes or changes the restriction by the same action that put the restriction into authority over these funds (such as board policy). The sources of these funds restrict or commit them for a special purpose. At times, other funds will receive and collect the resources for these special revenue funds, but they are to be distributed or transferred to the correct fund to be used for their restricted purpose. (GASB 54)

**Q Why are special revenue funds used rather than capital projects funds, debt service funds or a general fund?**

Special revenue funds are used instead of other funds for a variety of reasons. Special revenue funds direct a larger function or objective of a township (such as paying the bills associated with a park) where capital project funds and debt service funds have a single direct mission. Capital project funds are used to collect resources that are restricted for capital outlays (such as facilities and streets). Debt service funds are used to collect and report resources used toward principal and interest on outstanding liabilities such as the bonds issued to raise money for the township.

A special revenue fund would be used instead of a general fund to: 1) Provide transparency to taxpayers and show how the funds raised and committed to a function/objective are truly being used. 2) Give the township accountability that the resources will not be used on other budgeted expenditures for which the general fund would normally outflow money. (GASB 54)

**Q What is an example of a special revenue fund?**

A township might establish a special revenue fund for a library or fire department. In the library example, the taxes collected for the library would be used to pay for any utility costs, repairs and maintenance around the library, contracts, member/association fees and dues that the library takes part in, resource purchases (such as magazines, books and computer equipment), or supplies for the projects and activities led and sponsored by the library that support its purpose.

In the example of a fire department, resources/taxes collected are used to pay for utility costs, repairs and maintenance around the station, any contracts for yard services, costs for training materials, supplies for the vehicles, uniforms and equipment used to protect against fires (coats, pants, boots, helmets, fire packs, gloves, medical supplies, etc.), and events sponsored by the fire department to provide knowledge to the public about fire and medical safety.

Information provided in *Financial Forum* should not be considered legal advice, and readers are encouraged to contact their township auditor and/or attorney for advice specific to their situation.

**Sources**

- “Special Revenue Fund,” by Will Kenton, Nov. 26, 2020, [www.investopedia.com](http://www.investopedia.com)
- “Fund accounting definition,” Sept. 7, 2022, [www.accountingtools.com](http://www.accountingtools.com)
- Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board: Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org)
- Michigan Public Schools Accounting Manual*, [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)
- “Project Pages,” “Fund Balance Reporting,” [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org)





# Inspiring tomorrow's local leaders

## MTA awards annual Robinson Scholarship

**A** dedicated public servant, aspiring planner seeking to help shape communities, and a student looking to make a difference through public administration are this year's MTA Robert R. Robinson Memorial Scholarship recipients.

Each scholarship winner has strong ties to their community, and a deep desire to continue to give back to Michigan residents through public service.

### **'Striving for efficient local government'**

Serving as **Harrison Charter Township** (Macomb Co.) deputy supervisor for the past four years has given **Joseph Aragona** an up-close view of the value, opportunities and challenges of the government closest to the people.

Aragona, who also served a term as **Clinton Charter Township** (Macomb Co.) trustee, will graduate from Michigan State University next May with a master's degree in business



Aragona

administration—which he intends to put to work continuing to serve local government and his state.

With aspirations to serve in the state Legislature, and long-term career goals of local government management, Aragona has his sights set on making a difference.

In addition to serving on Harrison Charter Township's economic development committee, beautification committee and pension board, Aragona has also volunteered for the Clinton Township Goodfellows, Kiwanis and Gratiot Cruise Committee. He values creating quality of life and giving back to residents—and know the impact that local government has.

Assisting residents with infrastructure improvements was the topic of Aragona's scholarship application essay, which

# feature

delved into sewer lead failures and ways to help resolve the issue.

“[A] lack of knowledge by homeowners, the high cost of repair and the shortcoming of homeowners insurance means that this problem can become devastating to homeowners in lower income neighborhoods in a very short period of time,” he wrote. “This situation will continue to get worse throughout the state. One of the best remedies would be an ongoing special assessment district [SAD]. This district would be limited to and defined as only residents who have sewer lead failure, and who opt into district agreement.

“Unfortunately, this type of SAD is not permitted under Michigan law. The Legislature should act to allow townships the ability to pass this type of SAD, which will improve neighborhoods and give relief to lower income residents.”

Aragona’s commitment to and knowledge of local government runs deep. As the Harrison Charter Township Board noted in its resolution of support for his scholarship application, “Deputy Supervisor Aragona volunteers his time in support of the community ... [and] works full time at the township, striving for efficient local government and is constantly trying to improve himself. [His] tasks at the township include coordinating human resources issues, managing the Assessing, Building, Fire, and Water and Sewer Departments, and he has gained an intimate understanding of how these departments run.”

## ‘Passionate about making great places to live’

After **Jessica Hobbs** completes her master’s of urban and regional planning from the University of Michigan (U of M) in 2024, she has her sights set on consulting with local governments to make a difference in the lives of residents. Throughout her academic and volunteer experiences, she has brought a deep interest for the arts and recreation to promote



Hobbs

community health. Her future ambitions include serving on a township or city planning commission to help nurture those passions for the greater good.

“I am passionate about making Midwestern townships and cities great places to live,” she said. “The state of Michigan offers opportunity for development, the possibility of climate-safer neighborhoods and communities, and many precious natural resources to both enjoy and protect for future generations. I believe many of the great things about our state reach residents at the local level and I am excited to be able to help residents from all backgrounds, income levels and regions better access all that our state has to offer.”

Receiving the scholarship from MTA will allow her to continue her endeavors to make serve Michigan and its residents. “The scholarship will allow me to be even more engaged with the University of Michigan’s opportunities and programs,” she said.

Hobbs drew on her U of M undergraduate degree in sustainability for her scholarship essay, which explored the impact of local regulations on biodiversity. “Many townships and cities have regulations on what lawns can look like, often resorting to short grass length, manicured to suit outdoor activity,” she wrote. “We now know that longer grass lengths, wildflowers and pesticide-free growth promote a healthy level of biodiversity that is necessary for species survival. Local governments must balance the recreational needs and desires of residents with the critique of the landscaping status quo.”

## ‘To help and serve others’

A commitment to serving community—particularly youth—inspired scholarship recipient **Serena Kruithoff** to pursue her degree in nonprofit and public administration from Grand Valley State University (GVSU). After graduation next spring, she aims to find a career giving back to the greater Grand



Kruithoff

Serving the Government Market in

- Engineering
- Surveying
- Master Planning
- GIS
- Drafting
- Environmental

Ryan Ysseldyke, P.E.  
Land Development Group Mgr.  
616-392-5938

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Rapids area, including her hometown, **Plainfield Charter Township** (Kent Co.).

“I have always wanted to use this degree to help and serve others in my community,” said Kruithoff, who has volunteered in both her home township as well as **Allendale Charter Township** (Ottawa Co.), where GVSU is located. “I would also love to lead within the community in any way possible.”

With a degree emphasis on community planning and development, Kruithoff has used the knowledge she has garnered in the classroom in communities both close to home and in other states, including through service trips helping those in need. She similarly tackled a critical topic of residents in need in her scholarship essay, writing about water contamination. “Any contamination of [local] waterways can heavily affect the health of the population,” she wrote. “The area I live in has had high levels of PFAS contamination, which overall leads to unsafe drinking water. I have seen my neighbors struggle, and I think it is time for a change.”

Kruithoff aims to be part of that change—and receiving the Robinson Scholarship will help her accomplish that goal. “It means that I can continue to work hard in my classes and achieve my goals this coming school year,” she said. “I am just so beyond thankful for the opportunity to have been selected for this award. It has inspired me to believe in myself, and work even harder.”

## Support Michigan’s future leaders

MTA’s second executive director, Robert R. Robinson was dedicated to townships and to furthering the form of government closest to the people. MTA established a memorial scholarship in Robinson’s honor after he passed away in 1987.

Robinson dedicated much of his life to township government. In addition to his eight years as MTA executive director, he served for six years as MTA’s legislative director, and was a cofounder and board member of the National Association of Towns and Townships, including two years as president. He spent a decade as **Meridian Charter Township** (Ingham Co.) supervisor before joining MTA in 1969. Awarding this endowment each year in his name helps to ensure that Michigan’s future local leaders continue to value and protect township government and the Michigan residents it serves.

Township officials and MTA county chapters can help ensure that we are able to continue supporting the educational pursuits of tomorrow’s township leaders by making a donation to support the scholarship fund. “The scholarship fund is critical both to students in pursuit of their local government careers, and to all public officials as we work to encourage today’s students to pursue a future in public service,” said Robinson Scholarship Committee Member **Harold Koviak**, MTA treasurer and **Burt Township** (Cheboygan Co.) supervisor.

Contributions are tax deductible. Checks payable to the Robert R. Robinson Memorial Scholarship Fund can be sent to MTA, PO Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078. Learn more about the scholarship on at [www.michigantownships.org/scholarship.asp](http://www.michigantownships.org/scholarship.asp), or call (517) 321-6467 with questions.

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# aroundthestate

townships in the spotlight



## Mt. Morris Charter Township

**M**t. Morris Charter Township (Genesee Co.) derives its name from a community in New York, which had been home to many of the first settlers in the area. Benjamin Pearson was the pioneer of the township, coming from New York early in the spring of 1833. It was his purpose to become a permanent resident of the new county, and to invest a considerable sum in the purchase of desirable lands.



From the days of the first settlement until 1836, what is currently Mt. Morris Charter Township was located in a portion of a larger area known at the time as **Grand Blanc Township** (Genesee Co.). The city of Flint was formed in the spring of 1836, and from that time until early 1838, Mt. Morris Charter Township was under the jurisdiction of Flint. In 1838, **Genesee** and **Flushing Townships** (Genesee Co.) were created and what is now Mt. Morris Charter Township was located in the western half of Genesee Township and the eastern half of Flushing. Mt. Morris was then formed from the two townships in 1855.

The first township meeting was held on the first Monday in April and the first township election was held

April 2, 1855, in an abandoned log house. A total of 74 votes were cast to elect the township's first officials: Ezekiel R. Ewing, supervisor; Bradford P. Foster, clerk and Samuel R. Farnham, treasurer.

Now home to more than 20,000 people, the township is proud of all it has to offer—especially to its seniors. The Heart of Senior Citizen Services (HSCS), located at the township's Krapohl Center, provides more than 90 programs, services, activities and events to residents 50 years and older. Through the HSCS, the township strives to empower older adults, promote friendships, health awareness and independence in a safe environment.

The Mt. Morris Charter Township Fire Department, which has three stations, hosts multiple events throughout the year to give back to the community. A rummage sale is held with proceeds used to buy Christmas gifts for area children and a cornhole tournament helps benefit the department.

Residents can also take advantage of the parks and pavilion rentals available for events large and small in the township.





# Register today for your MTA Regional Summit

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Dates & locations		
Marquette: Oct. 4-5	Kalamazoo: Oct. 10-11	
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As an MTA member, you are part of the largest community of local government officials in the state. MTA's *Regional Summit* events celebrate that community and provide an **exclusive opportunity for in-depth learning and networking**. Packed with seven thought-provoking sessions, these one-and-a-half-day events are designed to bring you the inside scoop on issues impacting townships, keeping you informed and helping you to better serve your community. It's an investment in you and your township!

### Content, connections and camaraderie

Tailored for officials at *every* level, this experience offers **education on critical financial, statutory, infrastructure, agriculture and legislative updates**. Detailed session descriptions were included with registration materials mailed to every township and also appear in the August issue of *Township Focus* magazine. Outside the classroom, you'll get a **mini-expo** and **evening entertainment with ample networking time** built in to connect with each other, lawmakers and municipal experts from across the state.

Space is still available, but time is running out! Don't delay, register today at <https://bit.ly/MTAReg>

Special thanks to our Summit sponsors who help provide an invaluable experience:



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## **Our fall MTA jacket sale is going on now! Submit your order by Oct. 31.**

This black, full-zip softshell jacket features full-color embroidery of the MTA logo, with optional personalization with your name and title or the name of your township. This three-season jacket is waterproof, with microfleece lining, adjustable Velcro cuffs, and zippered side and chest pockets.

**Order yours today for just \$99!\*** A portion of all proceeds benefits MTA-PAC,\*\* helping to support legislative candidates who value township government and forge positive relationships with state lawmakers.

*Price includes tax and shipping.*



Visit [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org) (click on "MTA-PAC" under the "Advocacy" tab) for size charts, to place an online order or to print an order form. **Questions?** Contact [michelle@michigantownships.org](mailto:michelle@michigantownships.org) or 517.321.6467, ext. 236.

### **Thank you for your service to your township and your support of MTA-PAC!**

Orders will be delivered following production of the bulk order; thank you for your patience.

Out-of-stock sizes will be back-ordered and may result in shipping delays. No refunds or exchanges; all sales are final.

\*Pricing subject to change

\*\*For those ineligible to contribute to MTA-PAC, a portion of proceeds will benefit MTA's Robert R. Robinson Memorial Scholarship.