

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | Nov. 2, 2018

In this issue

GAAMPs | MTA policy platform | Ballot proposals | Lead and copper rule | MTA webcasts

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND ADDITIONAL NEWS

Public comment period extended on GAAMPs draft

Township officials still have time to tell a state commission not to eliminate zoning considerations from a section of the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs). The Michigan Agriculture and Rural Development Commission announced it would continue



accepting public comments through its meeting scheduled for Nov. 7. At the meeting, set for 9 a.m. in Fennville, the commission will discuss a proposed draft of the [Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities GAAMPs](#). This draft would eliminate local land uses and plans from site selection criteria, meaning if this draft becomes final, large livestock facilities could locate almost anywhere, with no consideration of local zoning. MTA opposes this dramatic policy shift and sent a [letter](#) to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) urging the commission not to eliminate zoning from site selection criteria. We also testified in opposition at the commission's Oct. 29 hearing. **MTA asks township officials to take action** and contact commission members sharing your objection to this proposed draft. Comments must be emailed to MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov, or the public may provide input at the Nov. 7 meeting, to be held at the Trevor Nichols Research Center, Howitt Training Room, 6237 124th Ave., Fennville. Please do not hesitate to contact MTA with questions at legislation@michigantownships.org or (517) 321-6467.

Monday is the deadline to submit policy platform proposals

Time is running out to submit proposed policies to help shape MTA's 2019 Legislative Policy Platform. This document is extremely important as it guides MTA's government relations efforts on behalf of members.

MTA QUICK LINKS

[Members-only Website](#)
[Training](#)
[Answer Center](#)
[Advocacy](#)
[MTA Store](#)
[Township Governance Academy](#)
[Allied Service Providers](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[NATaT](#)
[MTA Webcasts](#)
[MTA Publications Catalog](#)
[Community Connection](#)
[Community Connection Blog](#)
[Township Talk Podcast](#)

UPCOMING

MTA EVENTS

**[Treasurer's Guide to Tax Collecting](#)
**[Township Finances](#)
**[Land Use: Defining Your Township's Future](#)
**[New Officials Training](#)

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



Proposed policies must be submitted to MTA by **Monday, Nov. 5**, and will be reviewed by MTA committees for word selection and legality, as well as to ensure they conform with the Association's overall goals and objectives. The proposed 2019 policies will then be presented for membership approval at the 2019 MTA Annual Meeting, to be held Thursday, April 4, 2019, in conjunction with the 66th MTA Annual Educational Conference & Expo in Grand Rapids. MTA's 2018 Policy Platform is available [online](#). Contact the MTA Government Relations Department at (517) 321-6467 or email legislation@michigantownships.org with questions, comments or suggestions.

Ballot proposals up for a vote next week



Next week, voters will be asked to decide on three ballot proposals when they head to the polls. Proposal 18-1 would legalize recreational marijuana in Michigan, and also allow townships to ban or limit recreational marijuana facilities from their jurisdictions by passing an ordinance. Under Proposal 18-2, Michigan's congressional, and state House and Senate district boundaries would be determined by a new 13-member commission made up of selected applicants to represent Republicans, Democrats and political independents.

Proposal 18-3 would provide voters with new voting rights, including straight-party voting, in-person registration extended to Election Day and no-reason absentee voting. MTA did not take a position on these proposals. Detailed analyses by nonpartisan agencies/organizations of each proposal can be found on the [House Fiscal Agency](#), [Senate Fiscal Agency](#) and [Citizens Research Council of Michigan](#) websites.

Lead and Copper Rule events and update

Township officials with public water supplies have two more opportunities to attend events explaining changes to Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule. MTA is co-sponsoring [free events](#) throughout the state to help break down the revisions made to the rule earlier this year and explain their impact. Availability remains for two events: Nov. 8 in [Grand Rapids](#) and Nov. 13 in [Marshall](#). Register online for the location most convenient for you.

Additionally, multiple public water authorities in southeast Michigan recently requested a declaratory ruling by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), essentially challenging the DEQ's right to make these changes to the Lead and Copper Rule. The DEQ denied the request but their decision is expected to be appealed at the court of claims.

'Give Thanks' sale offers half-off all MTA webcasts

Need training but can't get away? Get it online! MTA's [eLearning Library](#) brings the knowledge to you for less. Don't miss our annual "Give Thanks" sale giving you half-off your entire order! Simply [browse the cyber shelves](#), select the webcasts you wish to purchase, then **enter the discount code "Thanks" during checkout**. (First time using the webcast site? Check out the [Getting Started](#) page for help.) But hurry-- the sale ends Nov. 30!

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

[* BS&A Software](#)

[* Consumers Energy](#)

[* DTE Energy](#)

[* Fahey, Schultz, Burzych, Rhodes PLC](#)

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

[* ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

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

[* Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

[* Willis Towers Watson](#)



Federal update for week of Oct. 29

Check out the National Association of Towns and Townships' [e-newsletter](#) for an update of federal actions impacting townships.

Tune in to this week's Township Talk

Don't miss this week's [episode](#) of MTA's Township Talk podcast. This week, MTA Legislative Liaison Tom Frazier breaks down the changes to Michigan's new Lead and Copper Rule and what it means for townships with public water supplies.
