

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | Oct. 26, 2018

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND ADDITIONAL NEWS

New GAAMPS draft would allow large livestock facilities almost anywhere

Township officials are urged to tell a state commission not to eliminate zoning considerations from a section of the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs). The Michigan Agricultural and Rural Development (MDARD) Commission are accepting



public comments until Monday, Oct. 29 and could consider as early as Nov. 7 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 is asking township officials to contact commission members as soon as possible to share your objection to this proposed draft. **The commission is accepting public comments on the draft until 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 29.** Comments must either be emailed to MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov, or the public may provide input at a meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, Oct. 29, in the Gordon Guyer Conference Room in the William C. Geagley Laboratory, 1615 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. Please do not hesitate to contact MTA at legislation@michigantownships.org or (517) 321-6467 with questions.

Ballot proposals up for a vote

Next month, voters will be asked to consider three ballot proposals when they head to the polls. Proposal 18-1 would legalize recreational marijuana, 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

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

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

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



extended to Election Day and no-reason absentee voting. MTA did not take a position on these proposals, but will continue to inform members of the impact on townships. Detailed analyses of each proposal can be found on the [House Fiscal Agency](#), [Senate Fiscal Agency](#), and [Citizens Research Council of Michigan](#) websites.

MTA concerned about logging truck bill



Logging trucks could travel county roads without weight, height and width restrictions under a bill awaiting action on the Senate floor. [SB 396](#), sponsored by Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Wells Twp.), includes language allowing county road commissions to require a \$2,000 bond per mile traveled by unrestricted forestry vehicles; however, the bill does not specify consequences for failure to pay the bond, and in many cases, the amount would not be sufficient to address damage. State and local

jurisdictions would be required to post signs on roads subject to seasonal restrictions at least 48 hours before those restrictions went into effect. Jurisdictional authorities could also issue a special permit authorizing the highway operation of a vehicle delivering new or used machinery as part of a sale, with the ability to charge a special permit fee up to \$25. SB 396 would also allow the operation of a pneumatic tired forestry vehicle or a forestry harvest vehicle for a distance of up to 20 miles--potentially causing more damage to county roads. Contrary to what some townships may have been told, MTA has been involved, testifying in committee, participating in workgroup meetings and raising concerns about the impact to local roads and the costs for townships. We continue to be engaged in discussions on amendments and will keep members updated.

* [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](#)



Free workshop explains asset management for water systems

Wondering how asset management can help your water system? Next month, you can attend a free workshop explaining just that. "Asset Management for Water Systems: What asset management is and how it can help you" will be held from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Kent District Library Meeting Center. Trainer Heather Himmelberger, director of the Southwest Environmental Finance Center, will cover how to get started with asset management and point attendees to resources they need. [Register online](#) now to attend.

Submit your policy platform proposal

Less than two weeks remain 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. Proposed policies must be submitted 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.

Register for three free events explaining Lead and Copper Rule changes

Township officials with public water supplies have 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 three events: Nov. 1 in [Detroit](#), Nov. 8 in [Grand Rapids](#) and Nov. 13 in [Marshall](#). Register online for the location most convenient for you.

Federal update for week of Oct. 22

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