

Michigan Township INSIGHTS

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | Aug. 19, 2016

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Resources available for new township officials

New to township government? Got new officials joining your board this fall? MTA has resources, training and information for newly elected officials who will take office this November. From books and on-demand webcasts, to in-person trainings held at locations around the state, let MTA help bring those new township government officials up to speed on their roles and responsibilities. Learn more: https://www.michigantownships.org/mta_training.asp#new



Court denies state attempt to block straight-party voting

An injunction on Michigan's straight-party voting ban still stands after federal judges denied the state's request for an emergency stay. Last month, Judge Gershwin Drain signed an order blocking the enforcement of [PA 268 of 2015](#), saying the change would result in longer lines at the polls and have a disparate impact on African American voters. Secretary of State Ruth Johnson filed the emergency motion for stay in an attempt to continue implementing the ban. However, a three-judge appellate panel unanimously denied this request. Attorney General Bill Schuette plans to continue fighting the order and asked the entire 6th Circuit Court to review the decision.

Candidates could opt out of publicly disclosing address

Those who run for township office would have the option to keep their address private under a bill recently introduced in the House. [HB 5799](#), sponsored by Rep. Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Chtr. Twp.), would add language to the Michigan election law that requires candidates to file an affidavit of identity. While the candidate would still be required to provide his or her address, HB 5799 would add to the affidavit a checkbox allowing candidates not to have their address published, released or

MTA QUICK LINKS

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[Classified Ads](#)
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UPCOMING MTA EVENTS

**[Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning](#)
**[MTA On the Road Regional Meetings](#)

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)



otherwise disclosed. This bill could be considered as soon as September, when the Legislature resumes regular session.

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

* [Consumers Energy](#)

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

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

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

* [Ted Hartleb Agency](#)

State adopts long-range transportation plan

Michigan now has a plan for an integrated, multimodal transportation system through the year 2040. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Transportation Commission recently adopted the [2040 State Long-Range Transportation Plan](#) as an extension on previous long-range plans. The plan serves as a strategic vision while offering an update on issues and data critical to transportation. It also describes new actions taken to further Michigan's transportation goals.



Assistance to Firefighter grant application window opening soon

It's not too early to start preparing your Assistance to Firefighters grant application! Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will soon open its application period and is offering a [guide](#) to give communities a kick-start in preparing their applications. The program's goal is to enhance the safety of both the public and firefighters by providing financial assistance to fire departments, EMS organizations and state fire training academies. MTA will update members when the grant application period opens.



Energy agreement reached for U.P.

A new energy agreement would provide the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) with a long-term electric supply if it's approved by the Public Service Commission. This week, the state [announced](#) that Cliffs Natural Resources and WEC Energy Group had reached an agreement that would result in 170 megawatts powered by natural gas generated from two U.P. sites. The plan would allow for the planned closure of the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette in 2020. The agreement is in response to a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decision on a tariff that would have significantly impacted U.P. customers.

Federal update for week of Aug. 15

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