

# Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | Aug. 26, 2016

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Take MTA's advocacy survey

As a township leader, your advocacy can impact state legislation and shape how your township operates. MTA wants to know what you think of grassroots advocacy! We're conducting a [short survey](#) to learn about our members' interest and activity in advocacy on behalf of township government. To participate, please take a few moments to complete the online survey. You may access the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtaadvocacy>. Please complete the survey as soon as possible, but no later than **Sept. 12**.



### Member input needed for MTA Policy Platform

Do you have a suggestion for MTA's [Legislative Policy Platform](#)? MTA is accepting submissions now for the 2017 Policy Platform. Members have until Nov. 14 to submit suggestions and input to be considered by the MTA Legislative Policy and Resolutions Committee. This later date reflects the shift to an April [MTA Annual Conference](#), beginning in 2017. The policy platform will be presented for membership approval during the 2017 MTA Annual Meeting on April 13, held in conjunction with the 64th Annual MTA Educational Conference & Expo in Lansing. Contact [legislation@michicantownships.org](mailto:legislation@michicantownships.org) or (517) 321-6467 with any proposed policies.

### Find your state rep and senator!

Do you know who represents you in the state House of Representatives and Senate? If there's an issue impacting township government, do you know how to contact them? Finding out has never been easier! [This Web page](#) allows you to search for your state representative based on your address. When you enter your address, the search engine will automatically take you to your representative's website, where you can find his or her contact information. You can also look up your senator by [name](#) or by your [address](#). This will pull up your senator's name, address

#### 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](#)

#### UPCOMING MTA EVENTS

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

#### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



\* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)



and contact information as well as his or her website.

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

\* [Consumers Energy](#)

\* [Fabey Schultz Burzycki Rhodes PLC](#)

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

\* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

\* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

\* [Ted Hartleb Agency](#)

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## Another municipal finance summit planned

Learn about pressing policy issues in municipal finance at the latest Investing in Michigan Communities Summit next month. MTA is a partner in the free event, held from 9-11:30 a.m on **Wednesday, Sept. 7**. The summit will be the fourth event held across the state and will take place in Lansing at the Christman University Conference Room (located in the basement) of the Christman Building, 208 N. Capitol Avenue. RSVP by emailing [ceo@waynecounty.com](mailto:ceo@waynecounty.com).



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## Next listening tour stop coming next month

The next stop of the governor's [21st Century Infrastructure Commission](#)'s listening

tour is scheduled for **Friday, Sept. 23**, in Detroit. Township officials can provide their input on how to improve Michigan's infrastructure at the event, which will be held from 4-6 p.m. at the



Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Adventure Center, 1801 Atwater St., Detroit. This is the third and final listening tour stop designed to gather input from local officials and residents across Michigan on the current state of Michigan's infrastructure, the infrastructure system citizens envision, and how the state can work with residents to close the gap between the two. The input gathered will help shape the commission's final report and recommendations, due to the governor by Nov. 30, 2016. Registration is capped at 150 people, so [RSVP](#) today. Officials can also provide feedback, participate in discussions and read more about the commission's work [online](#).

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## Federal update for week of Aug. 22

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

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## Additional news you can use

**Assessor certification requirements to change**

The State Tax Commission recently approved changes to assessor certification renewals that could result in additional costs to townships. Certification renewal credits for municipal assessors will increase starting in 2017, and this fall, assessors will be required to complete 20 hours of continuing education in the next year in order to recertify. The hours must be finished between Nov. 1, 2016, and Oct. 31, 2017, and just four of the 20 hours can be completed online. This [STC bulletin](#) offers more information on these certification requirements, while [this bulletin](#) provides more information on certification levels.

### **Register early and save on MTA's regional *On the Road* meetings**

Join MTA as we travel to 14 locations across the state this fall for our **MTA On The Road** regional meetings. You'll save \$20/person if you register by Sept. 13! Each meeting features a thought-provoking general session, insightful legislative update and breakouts on important topics including financial literacy and oversight, internal control pitfalls, and our first-ever live version of the popular "Hello, MTA ... ?" column, addressing frequently asked member questions. Download the form [here](#) or register online [now](#).

### **Comment now on proposed GAAMPs changes**

Township officials have the chance to give their input on next year's drafts of Michigan's Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). Changes, which are available [online](#), have been proposed to several GAAMPs, including manure management and utilization, care of farm animals, and site selection and odor control for new and expanding livestock facilities. A public input meeting will take place at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, in the Lake Superior Conference Room at the State of Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. Written comments may also be postmarked by Sept. 8 and submitted to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Environmental Stewardship Division, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909, or sent to [TurrubiatesO@michigan.gov](mailto:TurrubiatesO@michigan.gov) by 5 p.m. Sept. 8.