

Michigan Township **INSIGHTS**

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | Aug. 5, 2016

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Most township millage requests successful

Tuesday's Election Day was a success for townships, with more than 80 percent of their requested millage increases passing. More than half of the millage increases were for public safety, another large chunk were for roads, and others were for libraries, buildings and grounds, mosquito abatement and other requests. Overall, about 92 percent of the nearly 900 local ballot proposals were successful throughout the state. "There is a closer relationship between elected officials and the public . . . and there is a higher level of trust," MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill told MIRS News in an interview Wednesday on the local ballot initiatives.



AG: 'Pass the boot' campaigns unlawful

"Pass the boot" campaigns and soliciting donations on a public street or highway are not lawful if they interfere with the normal flow of traffic, according to an attorney general opinion issued this week. Attorney General Bill Schuette said in a written opinion that the Michigan Vehicle Code prohibits a person from soliciting contributions from the occupants of a vehicle, even if it's on behalf of a civic or charitable organization, if the person soliciting blocks, obstructs, impedes or otherwise interferes with the normal flow of traffic. While the law has not changed, many communities have interpreted the law to mean that people seeking charitable contributions are exempt from the law, while those asking for money for themselves are not. The attorney general opinion clarifies this misinterpretation. Some communities have already canceled "pass the boot" drives as a result.

MTA QUICK LINKS

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[MTA Webcasts](#)
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UPCOMING MTA EVENTS

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

ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS



* [Asphalt Materials, Inc.](#)

Third municipal finance summit planned for Aug. 11

Learn about pressing policy issues in municipal finance at the [Investing in Michigan Communities Summit](#) next week. MTA is a partner in the free event set for Thursday, Aug. 11, from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Citizens Forum inside the Lakeview Arena, 401 E. Fair, Marquette. Attendees will hear from local government officials and industry experts. RSVP by emailing ceo@waynecounty.com.

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

* [Consumers Energy](#)

* [Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC](#)

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

* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)

* [Ted Hartleb Agency](#)

Bill would require PTSD training for law enforcement



All law enforcement officers would be required to be trained to handle emergency situations involving a person suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) under a newly introduced bill, [HB 5794](#), sponsored by Rep. Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Chtr. Twp.), was referred to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration when the Legislature resumes normal session in September. If enacted, it would require anyone trying to become a certified law enforcement officer to complete training to identify symptoms and respond to emergency situations involving a person suffering from PTSD, starting Jan. 1,

2018. Previously certified law enforcement officers would be also be required to complete training by Jan. 1, 2019, in order to keep their certification.



Infrastructure commission listening tour stop coming to Northern Michigan

Township officials can provide their input on how to improve Michigan's infrastructure at the second stop of the governor's [21st Century Infrastructure Commission's](#) listening tour, which will be held in Marquette on Aug. 19. This is the second of three listening tour stops designed to gather input from local officials and residents across the state 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. The Marquette event will be held Friday, Aug. 19, at Northern Michigan University, Jamrich Hall, Room 1100, 1400 Presque Isle Ave. in Marquette. Registration will be capped at 150 attendees, so [RSVP](#) today to secure your spot. You may also provide feedback, participate in discussions and read more about the commission's work [online](#).

Webinars on broadband offer opportunity for input

Townships have eight more chances to provide input on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Community Connectivity Initiative (CCI). The first of nine webinars was recently held to gather input on the development of the CCI, which is developing new tools to support communities working on broadband deployment, adoption and policies. Eventually, the CCI will include a planning framework, online self-assessment tool and report with

recommendations. [Register](#) for a webinar now, or view the PowerPoint presentation from the most recent webinar [online](#).



Federal update for week of Aug. 1

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