

# Michigan Township INSIGHTS

Weekly News and Information from the Michigan Townships Association | Oct. 7, 2016

## In this issue

Federal budget | Federal overtime rule | MTA Policy Platform |  
Municipal finance summit

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Continuing resolution prevents federal government shutdown

A \$288.3 billion continuing resolution (CR) signed last week prevented the federal government from shutting down. The resolution, [HR 5325](#), was signed by President Barack Obama to extend funding for the federal government from Oct. 1 until Friday, Dec. 9, 2016. Additionally, the continuing resolution contains \$82.5 billion for Veterans Affairs and military construction activities of the Pentagon. It also includes \$1.1 billion to fight the Zika virus and \$500 million in emergency flood relief, which is offset by \$400 million in ending contracts. While the CR does not include funding for the Flint water crisis, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi reached an agreement that the issue would be addressed in the lame duck session.



### Bill would delay federal overtime rule

A rule that would greatly increase the number of workers eligible for overtime would be put on hold for an extra six months under a bill recently passed by the U.S. House. Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Labor issued a final rule on overtime regulations raising the salary threshold for overtime eligibility from \$23,660 to \$47,476 a year. The rule is supposed to be effective on Dec. 1, 2016. However, the House voted 246-177 to pass [HR 6094](#), which would delay the rule from taking effect until June 1, 2017. President Obama has made it clear he will veto this bill if it clears the Senate and makes its way to his desk.

### 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

#### 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

\*\*[MTA On the Road Regional Meetings](#)  
\*\*[Emerging Issues in Emergency Services](#)  
\*\*[Treasurer's Guide to Tax Collecting](#)  
\*\*[Township Finances](#)

#### ALLIED SERVICE PROVIDERS





until Nov. 14 to submit suggestions and input to be considered by the MTA Legislative Policy and Resolutions Committee. 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@michigantownships.org](mailto:legislation@michigantownships.org) or (517) 321-6467 with any proposed policies.

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## Municipal finance summit heading to Traverse City

Your next opportunity to learn about pressing policy issues in municipal finance is coming later this month. The latest Investing in Michigan Communities Summit will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19. The summit will be the fifth event held across the state and will take place in Traverse City at the Grand Traverse County Governmental Center, second floor training room, 400 Boardman Ave. RSVP by emailing [ceo@waynecounty.com](mailto:ceo@waynecounty.com).

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## Federal update for week of Oct. 3

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

### November training examines township finances, tax collection

MTA is poised to take new and seasoned officials "back to school" this fall with a full line-up of educational events. In November, join us in Grand Rapids for [Township Finances](#) and explore how your board can achieve a greater degree of control over the township's financial position and ensure resources are directed appropriately. [Treasurer's Guide to Tax Collection](#), coming to four locations across the state at the end of November, reviews the tax collection process, applicable laws and best practices. Learn more [here](#) or register online [now!](#)

### Mail absentee ballots for the military

The U.S. Postal Service recommends [these mailing dates](#) to ensure absentee ballots are delivered in time. Some APO/FPO locations require 14 mailing days or more, including Ethiopia, with the recommended mailing date of Oct. 9, and Atlantic/Pacific fleets, with a recommended mailing date of Oct. 10.

### Dam management grants available

Townships can now apply for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [Dam Management Grant Program](#), which aims to address Michigan's failing dam infrastructure through funding dam removals and critical repair and maintenance. The program provides funding and technical assistance for projects that will enhance aquatic resources and fishing opportunities while also reducing infrastructure costs and improving public safety.

### Apply next week for Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Your township fire department can apply for the [Assistance to Firefighters Grant](#) (AFG) program as early as next week. The application window opens Oct. 11 for the \$670 million set aside by the Federal

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

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

\* [Consumers Energy](#)

\* [Fahey Schultz Burzyrch Rhodes PLC](#)

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

\* [ITC Holdings Corp.](#)

\* [Mika Meyers, PLC](#)



Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and application guides are available online. All applications are due by 5 p.m. Nov. 18.

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