

Presentation to the House Local, Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committee

By the Michigan Townships Association

Michigan Township Facts

- 1240 townships in the state.
- Provide governance to over 95% of the geographic area of the state.
- 51.7% of the citizens of Michigan reside in townships.
- Most populous: Clinton Twp. Macomb County 96,796.
- Least populous: Pointe Aux Barques Twp. Huron County 10

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- Smallest Township geographically: Novi Twp. Oakland County: less than 1 sq. mile
- Largest Township geographically: McMillan Twp. Luce County: Approximately 600 sq. miles

Michigan's Local Governments

- Number of Local Governments in Michigan in 2007... 2,893 or 2.9 per 10,000 residents
- Number of local governments in United States in 2007... 89,479 or 2.9 per 10,000 residents
- Michigan's national rank on number of local governments on a per capita basis... 28th

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- Number of state and local elected officials in Michigan in 1999... 18,704 or 20.1 per 10,000 population.
- Number of state and local elected officials in United States in 1999... 248,709 or 20.6 per 10,000 population.
- Michigan ranked 25th in the nation in having the fewest number of elected officials.

Township Expenditures (2007)

- Services
 - Fire \$300 million 57% of townships operate on a multijurisdictional basis.
 - Police \$279 million 74% of the townships operate on a multijurisdictional basis.
 - Boards, planning and zoning, elections and general administration \$146 million
 - Financial administration including tax collection and assessing. \$106 million

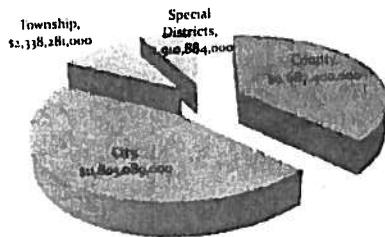
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- Parks and Rec. \$79 million
- Inspections \$44 million
- Legal \$21 million
- Unallocated \$243 million
- Total operations \$1,218 million

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- Infrastructure/Utility
 - Sewer \$329 million
 - Water \$280 million
 - Roads \$150 million
 - Solid Waste \$60 million
 - Buildings \$58 million
 - Debt \$248 million
 - Total Infrastructure \$1,125 million

Expenditures by Type of Government 2007



State Required Services

- Run Elections
- Assess the Property
- Collect the Taxes

Elections

- Support recall reform.
- Prior approval of petition language for ballot issues at state level.
- Support nor reason AV ballots.

Assessing

- Expand new assessor training so that it is offered on a regional basis.
- Require MTT hearing officers be trained in assessing methods.
- Require MTT decisions to be based on assessors manual.
- Eliminate small personal property tax parcels.
- State assistance on large property tax appeals.

Tax Collection

- Move to a single summer property tax bill.
- Modify the cost of interest payment by city or township to county delinquent tax revolving fund.

Collaboration

- Remove barrier to the sharing of utilities between cities and townships.... Annexation

General

- General review of the General Law and Charter Township Acts.
- Clean up of the Michigan Zoning and Enabling Act.
- Coordinate DEQ permits for sewers and local zoning.
- Support limitation on state land purchases until it can fund the maintenance of the land it currently owns.