



Dear Township Board:

The Michigan Townships Association is again encouraging every township board to deliberate on and adopt the enclosed Principles of Governance. MTA members throughout the state have enthusiastically embraced these Principles as their own code of conduct, and the MTA Board of Directors urges you to reaffirm, or adopt for the first time, these Principles of Governance as an official policy of your township board.

Our objective in promulgating Principles of Governance for our members is straightforward: Township boards can be much more efficient and effective when there is a high degree of trust among board members, and between the board and those whom they are elected to serve. Township boards earn trust by demonstrating their commitment to effectively solving problems and conducting their business in a manner consistent with their community's expectations and values—and then faithfully delivering on those commitments.

The MTA Board affirms in our mission and values statements that township government embodies efficient, effective, economical, ethical and accountable local government in Michigan. The Principles of Governance embody these core values, and can guide board members toward consistent actions and deeds that reflect well on the township and on themselves. The MTA Board strongly believes that a township board that publicly adopts and adheres to these Principles will enjoy strong public support and be better positioned to achieve great things on behalf of its residents.

As a key part of our collective commitment to fostering efficient and effective township government that has earned the public's trust, the MTA Board invites your board to affirm and practice the enclosed Principles of Governance through formal ratification at a board meeting. By signing this certificate, board members denote their personal pledges to adhere to the Principles. Following board action, we encourage you to frame and proudly post the document in a prominent place for all to see.

Sincerely,

Kevin Beeson
2025 MTA President

Hamburg Township

Principles of Governance

To maintain the highest standards and traditions of Michigan townships, we embrace these principles to guide our stewardship, deliberations and constituent services as we commit to safeguard our community's health, safety and general welfare.

We pledge to:

- Insist on the highest standards of ethical conduct by all who act on behalf of this township
- Bring credit, honor and dignity to our public offices through collegial board deliberations and diligent, appropriate responses to constituent concerns
- Actively pursue education and knowledge, and embrace best practices
- Treat all persons with dignity, respect and impartiality, without prejudice or discrimination
- Practice openness and transparency in our decisions and actions
- Cooperate in all reasonable ways with other governmental entities and consider the impact our decisions may have outside our township's borders
- Communicate to the public township issues, challenges and successes, and welcome the active involvement of stakeholders to further the township's well-being
- Strive for compliance with all state and federal statutory requirements
- Refuse to participate in any decisions or activities for personal gain, at the expense of the best interests of the township
- Further the understanding of the obligations and responsibilities of American citizenship, democratic government and freedom

These principles we pledge to our township, our state and our country.

Jason Negri, Supervisor



Michael Dolan, Clerk

Charles Menzies, Trustee

Joanna Hardesty, Trustee

Jennifer Daniels, Treasurer

Nick Miller, Trustee

Patricia Hughes, Trustee

Date

