

Fact Sheet on Resources for Understanding Local Zoning in Michigan

May 19, 2021: *This fact sheet highlights two separate sources of information on local government planning and zoning: the Michigan Zoning Database and the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS). The Michigan Zoning Database is a joint project of UM's Graham Sustainability Institute and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. The MPPS is an ongoing program administered by the University of Michigan's Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP).*

The Michigan Zoning Database shows which Michigan local jurisdictions fall under county, joint, or individual city/township/village zoning authorities, and which are unzoned. (Note: the database has been recently updated to cover 1,615 jurisdictions statewide; however, some jurisdictions are not included due to lack of readily available data.)

Michigan Local Zoning Authority, by jurisdiction type (updated as of May 2021)

	Total	County Zoning	City Zoning	Township Zoning	Village Zoning	Unzoned	No Data
Townships	1240	209	0	870	0	20	130
Cities	280	0	277	0	0	2	0
Villages	253	3	0	3	202	1	28
Total	1773	212	277	873	202	23	158

More detailed information, including maps, specific approaches to zoning among Alger County jurisdictions, and links to local ordinances related to renewable energy is available here:

<https://myumi.ch/ov5xX>

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) asked a wide variety of questions on its **Fall 2017 survey** related to land use planning and zoning, including questions on master plans, capital improvements plans (CIPs), perceived benefits to land use planning, and more.

The table below shows **local leaders' satisfaction with their jurisdictions' approach to planning and zoning** among all jurisdictions in Michigan statewide, among those in Alger County's region, and among all jurisdictions combined just in Alger County. (Note: all MPPS survey responses are confidential and are never released in ways that can identify individual respondents or their jurisdictions; tables below do not include "neither" or "don't know" responses.)

Local officials' satisfaction with their jurisdiction's current approach to planning and zoning

	Statewide	Upper Peninsula Region	Alger County Jurisdictions
Very satisfied	38%	34%	43%
Somewhat satisfied	42%	35%	35%
Somewhat or very dissatisfied	8%	12%	11%

The MPPS also asked local officials from jurisdictions with control over their own zoning **to what degree they generally consult their master plan when making rezoning decisions.**

Local officials' assessments of how their jurisdiction uses the master plan in rezoning decisions

(among jurisdictions that responded to the survey and indicated they zone themselves or are County-zoned)

	Statewide	Upper Peninsula Region	Alger County Jurisdictions
Strictly adhere to Master Plan when rezoning	38%	22%	12%
Follow spirit but not letter of Master Plan when rezoning	50%	58%	64%
Rarely consider the Master Plan when rezoning	4%	8%	12%

Much more information about views on planning and zoning from 2017 is available in the main MPPS report:

<https://myumi.ch/4pA8j>

Additional information on other local government topics is available at <http://closup.umich.edu> or by contacting CLOSUP by email (closup@umich.edu) or by phone (734-647-4091). Follow CLOSUP on twitter: @closup