



# Jackson County 2026 Citizen Planner Program

A Land Use Training and Certificate Course for  
Community Land Use Decision-Makers

**Jackson County Citizen  
Planner**  
Begins Thursday  
**January 29, 2026**  
**6:00—9:00 PM**

**Classes held in person at:**

Wellwise Services  
107 Chicago St, Brooklyn, MI

**Dates: January 29, February 5,  
12, 26, March 5, and 12.**

**\*No class on February 19\***

**Citizen Planner** is a time-tested educational program proven to be comprehensive without being overwhelming. The program is delivered "locally" to provide a convenient way for busy community leaders to obtain the latest technical knowledge and the proficiency they need to perform their duties more effectively and responsibly.



## Citizen Planner Classroom Sessions

Citizen Planner instructors include MSU Faculty, MSU Extension educators, planners and attorneys. The core classroom program consists of six sessions:

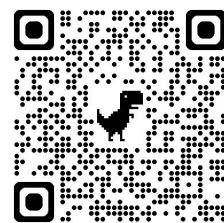
- **Understanding the Planning and Zoning Context** – Learn the legal sources and limitations of planning and zoning authority, and explore your understanding of ethical decision-making.
- **Planning for the Future of Your Community** – Recognize the function and importance of a master plan, know the process for developing one and its relationship to zoning.
- **Implementing the Plan with Zoning** – Discover the importance of zoning, learn how zoning is administered and gain confidence in your zoning reviews, including site plans.
- **Making Zoning Decisions** – Learn how to adopt and amend a zoning ordinance, understand the role of the zoning board of appeals and obtain skills in basic property development methods.
- **Using Innovative Planning and Zoning** – Strategize with placemaking and design-based solutions for local and regional success in the New Economy.
- **Successfully Fulfilling Your Role** – Strengthen your ethical decision-making skills, apply standards to your decision-making and know when to ask for help.



**The Jackson County Citizen  
Planner Program is a partnership  
with Jackson County**

## Contact

Kara Kelly: [cplanner@msu.edu](mailto:cplanner@msu.edu)  
Visit <http://citizenplanner.msu.edu>.



# Jackson County Citizen Planner



## Classes: Thursdays, January 29 - March 12

### Understanding the Planning and Zoning Context

Thursday, January 29, 2026  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

### Planning for the Future or Your Community

Thursday, February 5, 2026  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

### Implementing the Plan with Zoning

Thursday, February 12, 2026  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

### Making Zoning Decisions

Thursday, February 26, 2026  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

### Using Innovative Planning and Zoning

Thursday, March 5, 2026  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

### Successfully Fulfilling Your Role

Thursday, March 12, 2026  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

## Course Location

Wellwise Services  
107 Chicago St, Brooklyn, MI

## Local Contact

Harmony Gmazel: gmazelh@msu.edu

## Course Fee

The course fee is \$250 per participant for the complete core program. The fee covers registration and course materials. A group (4 or more) discount is available. Participants that complete all six sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

## How to Register

Online registration is available at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/CPJackson2026/>. Payment can be made by credit card, check; an invoice is created with registration. Group registration is also available online. A \$45 cancellation fee is assessed if registration is canceled after **January 16, 2026, the registration deadline**.



## Grants/Scholarships

A grant program, Risk Reduction Grant Program (RRGP), may be available from your community's liability insurance provider. Michigan Township Participating Plan offers to its municipal members one per community, which covers the complete registration cost reimbursement for completion of the Citizen Planner Program. For more information, please visit us on the web at [www.theparplan.com](http://www.theparplan.com). For member governments of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), contact **Cara Ceci** at 800-243-1324 for more information regarding grants for education and training through the Risk Avoidance Program (RAP). For municipalities obtaining insurance through Nickel & Saph, Inc. Insurance Agency contact **Stephen R. Saph, Jr.** at 586-463-4573 or [stephenjr@nickelsaph.com](mailto:stephenjr@nickelsaph.com). Contact your local community liability risk insurance carrier to see if similar grants or scholarships are available.

## Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities may request accommodations by emailing Kara Kelly ([cplanner@msu.edu](mailto:cplanner@msu.edu)) two weeks prior to the event to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests made less than two weeks prior to the event will be met if possible.