NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER ALLIANCE

Elevating & advancing local business.

2026 Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance Candidate Questionnaire

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1. **Purpose and Responsibility**
   Why are you seeking this office, and how would you define the responsibility of the office to the people of northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula?

I am seeking the office of Attorney General because I believe Michigan deserves a chief law enforcement officer who is focused on public safety, equal application of the law, and protecting the interests of all Michigan residents. The Attorney General's responsibility is not only to enforce the law, but also to serve as an advocate for fairness, transparency, and accountability in government.

For northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, that means ensuring residents, businesses, and local governments have a strong voice in state government and receive the same attention and protection as any other part of the state. Every community deserves confidence that the law is being applied fairly and that state government is working for them.

2. **Jobs, Investment, and Competitiveness**
   What specific policies would you support or develop if elected, to ensure northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula can compete for jobs, investment, infrastructure, and other state and federal resources?

The Attorney General's office plays an important role in creating a stable legal and regulatory environment that encourages investment and economic growth. Businesses are more likely to invest and create jobs when laws are applied consistently and government decisions are predictable.

I would work to ensure state agencies operate transparently, follow the law, and provide clear guidance to businesses and local communities. I would also support efforts that improve infrastructure, expand broadband access, strengthen energy reliability, and ensure northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula receive their fair share of state and federal resources.

3. **Housing and Regional Partnerships**
   NMCA's policy framework calls for housing solutions and regional partnerships to address the region's critical housing shortage. What policies or ideas do you have in which you can partner with the Alliance to make a positive impact?

Housing affordability and availability are essential to economic growth. Employers cannot attract and retain workers if those workers cannot find attainable housing.

While the Attorney General does not directly set housing policy, I support efforts that encourage local and regional collaboration, streamline unnecessary regulatory barriers, and promote responsible development. I would welcome opportunities to work with the Alliance and local leaders to ensure legal and regulatory frameworks support housing solutions that meet the needs of workers, families, and employers throughout the region.

4. **Workforce Development and Talent Attraction**
   What are your views on programs such as Going PRO, Michigan Reconnect, and talent attraction programs? What would you do to help attract, retain, train, and grow the workforce needed by northern Michigan and Upper Peninsula employers?

Programs that help Michiganders gain skills, credentials, and career opportunities can play an important role in workforce development. Employers across northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula continue to face workforce challenges, particularly in skilled trades, healthcare, manufacturing, and technology.

I support evaluating workforce programs based on measurable outcomes and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used effectively. More broadly, Michigan must remain a state where businesses can grow, families can thrive, and young people see long-term opportunities. A strong economy, affordable housing, quality education, and safe communities all contribute to workforce attraction and retention.

5. **Childcare Access**
   Please describe your view of the need for childcare in the region, and what would you do to enhance access to this resource?

Access to affordable, reliable childcare is a significant challenge for many families and employers throughout northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Childcare availability directly impacts workforce participation and economic growth.

The Attorney General's office can help by ensuring regulations are applied fairly and consistently while protecting the health and safety of children. I support reviewing unnecessary barriers that limit childcare capacity and working with policymakers, providers, and employers to identify practical solutions that expand access for working families.

6. **Education Outcomes and Funding**
   What do you believe is the best action you could take to support growth in measurable outcomes for k-12 students in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula? How well is Michigan's funding of our higher education systems working, and would you make any changes to the way we fund education in this state?

Strong educational outcomes begin with accountability, local engagement, and a commitment to preparing students for success in college, skilled trades, military service, or the workforce. Students in every part of Michigan deserve access to high-quality educational opportunities regardless of where they live.

Michigan should continue evaluating education funding to ensure resources are directed toward improving outcomes and addressing regional challenges. Higher education funding should be transparent, accountable, and aligned with workforce and economic needs. As Attorney General, I would ensure education laws are enforced fairly and that taxpayer resources are protected.

7. **Regulatory Climate and Small Business Growth**
   What regulations, permitting processes, taxes, mandates, or compliance burdens do you believe most limit small business growth in our region? What would you do to make our state's regulatory environment more predictable?

One of the most common concerns I hear from businesses is not necessarily the existence of regulations, but the uncertainty surrounding how they are interpreted and enforced. Delays, inconsistent decisions, and changing requirements can discourage investment and expansion.

As Attorney General, I would support clear, consistent, and lawful regulatory enforcement. Businesses should be able to understand the rules, comply with them, and receive timely decisions from government agencies. Predictability and transparency are essential to creating a positive business climate and encouraging economic growth.

8. **Affordability and Economic Vitality**
   What meaningful changes do you believe would help advance Michigan's economic vitality by making this state a more affordable place to live, work, and do business?

Michigan's long-term success depends on creating an environment where families and businesses can prosper. Increasing affordability requires a combination of economic growth, responsible government spending, reliable infrastructure, affordable housing, workforce development, and regulatory certainty.

The Attorney General can contribute by protecting taxpayers, combating fraud and abuse, defending the rule of law, and ensuring government operates transparently and efficiently. When government is accountable and businesses have confidence in the legal environment, Michigan becomes a more attractive place to invest, create jobs, and build a future.