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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?

Michigan has every advantage to lead the Midwest. We have unmatched natural resources, world class research universities, a rich manufacturing tradition, and hardworking people. But too many families are struggling with rising costs, young people are leaving our state, and government is showing up everywhere we don't want it and nowhere we actually need it. That's why I'm running for governor: to make Michigan the best place in America to be a kid, raise a kid, and call home.

My campaign is built around three pillars: lowering costs, raising wages by growing our economy, and protecting the safety of every Michigander - at the ballot box, in the workplace, in our schools, and everywhere in between. My plans to reduce the cost of health care, housing, and energy costs are comprehensive and rooted in data and focused on making everyday life more affordable. I'll work with anyone to get results, and I'll take on anyone, no matter how wealthy or powerful, who stands in the way.

As governor, I believe every region of our state deserves the same opportunity to succeed. That means ensuring people in Northern Michigan have access to well-paying jobs, quality schools, reliable infrastructure, affordable housing, and a state government that is responsive to their needs. I've spent nearly a decade leading one of Michigan's largest state agencies and transforming the Department of State into a national model for efficient, transparent government that saves people time and money. Working with local clerks across all 83 counties, we've also helped make Michigan's elections among the most secure and accessible in the country.

As the mom of a young boy I raise with my husband in Detroit, this is personal to me. In 10 years, he will be deciding what he is going to do with his future and the work we do over the next decade will define his childhood, his future, and the future of our loved ones throughout the state. As governor I will work to make Michigan the place he - and all of our loved ones - proudly choose to call home.

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?

Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula have unique strengths, including outdoor recreation, tourism, and emerging clean energy opportunities. My job as governor is to make sure state government helps those industries grow instead of getting in their way.

That starts with investing in the fundamentals that allow businesses and communities to compete: reliable, high-speed broadband, modern infrastructure, workforce housing, and a skilled workforce. I'll also work to expand apprenticeship opportunities while strengthening partnerships between employers, schools, and community colleges so students can build successful careers close to home. I would also push for fair, transparent funding formulas to ensure rural regions receive their equitable share of state and federal resources for housing, healthcare, and education. Streamlining permitting and expanding technical assistance will help local governments and small businesses better compete for grants and investment. Above all, I would prioritize sustainable growth that protects natural resources while supporting responsible development to ensure our communities remain competitive and continue attracting business, workers, and visitors for generations to come.

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?

No matter where I go in Michigan, housing is one of the biggest challenges I hear about. In Traverse City, nurses, teachers, and cherry farmers struggle to find homes they can afford. In Marquette, families are competing for a limited housing supply. And all across Northern Michigan, employers are finding it harder to attract workers because those workers can't find a place to live.

The problem is clear: for decades, restrictive zoning laws, outdated building codes, and slow permitting have strangled new construction while more people compete for fewer homes. We need to build more quality housing efficiently and effectively.

As governor I will cut red tape and end the bureaucracy so we can make it easier and faster to build new housing and streamline costs. That means increasing efficiencies and eliminating the obstacle course that developers endure simply to build in our state, creating a statewide housing data system to align permitting and building systems with real community needs, and expanding tax credits to help homebuyers afford a place to live. I'll also ban the sale of homes to private equity firms in their first 100 days on the market and give communities control over short-term rentals, while strengthening protections for renters, expanding rental assistance, and holding absentee landlords accountable. At the same time, I will expand and modernize the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit to reflect today's housing costs and inflation, raising income eligibility limits and adjusting benefit levels so more working families, seniors, and fixed-income homeowners can keep up with rising property tax bills. Together, these steps (and in partnership with the Alliance) will ensure more Michiganders can afford to live and stay in the communities they love.

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?

Employers across northern Michigan consistently tell me they can find customers before they can find workers. Building a stronger workforce is one of the best investments we can make in our state's future.

Programs like Going PRO and Michigan Reconnect are important because they help people gain the skills employers need while creating more pathways into well-paying careers. I want to continue strengthening those programs alongside apprenticeships, career and technical education, and partnerships between employers, schools, and community colleges. At the same time, we have to make sure Michigan is a place where people can afford to build a life. That's why as governor, my focus will be on driving down costs and growing our economy.

My affordability agenda focuses on lowering the cost of housing, healthcare, energy, and childcare. When people can afford to live where they work, businesses are better able to recruit and retain talent.

Michigan already has incredible assets. By making our state more affordable and creating more economic opportunity, we can ensure young people choose to stay here and build their futures in Michigan.

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?

The state has a responsibility to ensure high-quality childcare is available and affordable for every family, and this need is especially dire in Northern Michigan where there is a childcare clinic desert. As governor, I will ensure universal childcare from cradle to Pre-K with high-quality centers using science-based curriculum and competitive pay for childcare staff. And I will push to extend support and services for parents of young children by expanding Rx Kids statewide and connecting families with wraparound services. When children are healthy, supported, and cared for from day one, they are better prepared to learn and succeed.

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?

As an educator, the daughter of teachers, and a mom, I believe one of a governor's greatest responsibilities is preparing every child for success after graduation. I'm proud to offer a comprehensive education plan — developed with teachers, parents, and students — to strengthen public education in Michigan. I also recognize the unique challenges facing schools in the Upper Peninsula, including staffing shortages, long transportation distances, and limited access to resources. My plan will:

- Institute the Michigan Education Guarantee, ensuring we develop world class talent with an education system that guarantees Michigan students will receive the critical-thinking skills and knowledge they need to be career or college ready upon graduation;
- Support our educators with increased wages and wrap around support to ensure we are doing right by those charged with preparing our students for the jobs of tomorrow;
- Care for our youngest children by ensuring early childhood education for all;
- Fully invest in our schools with an equitable, adequate, and transparent funding model to provide every child, educator and school with the resources they need.

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 biggest frustrations I hear from business owners is that navigating state government can take too long and create unnecessary uncertainty. As governor, I'll work to streamline permitting, modernize outdated processes, improve coordination across state agencies, and establish clearer expectations so businesses know what to expect when they're investing, expanding, or hiring. I've done this before. At the Department of State, we transformed an outdated bureaucracy into one that delivers faster, more convenient service while saving people time and money. I want to bring that same focus on efficiency and customer service across state government.

I want to make Michigan the small business capital of the country. By investing in people, communities, and infrastructure, while fixing how our state agencies work, we can grow our economy and turn Michigan into the economic engine of the Midwest.

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?

Everywhere I go in Michigan I hear heartbreaking stories about the struggles families are enduring as costs continue to skyrocket on everything. Moms are having to choose between whether to eat or pay rent. Seniors are anxious about covering the rising cost of their prescriptions on a fixed income. Small business owners are struggling to keep their lights on while energy costs go up and chaotic tariff policies jeopardize their inventory.

My affordability agenda details how we can streamline government to provide more support for everyone struggling to make ends meet in this economy.

I will work to increase housing availability and affordability by streamlining regulations that slow down construction, incentivizing the development of starter homes and affordable units, and holding accountable investors who buy up properties and drive up rents solely to make a profit. We will adopt policies shown in other states to lower healthcare costs, like creating a healthcare affordability board to stop pharmaceutical companies from price gouging, and passing a $5,000 caregiver tax credit to support families working to provide long-term care for their aging loved ones. I will lower energy costs by ending the unfair rate hikes, investing in a clean energy future, reforming our rate-setting process to make it more transparent, and working with public utilities to modernize our energy grid. And I will make childcare more accessible and affordable by expanding Rx Kids statewide and removing barriers that prevent qualified providers from opening their doors.

From the grocery store to the gas pump, from the doctor's office to the housing market, we can bring down costs and protect families' pocketbooks. I know what it takes to save residents time and money and make their lives easier – I have done it before by running one of our state's most important agencies. Now, I am ready to do that across all of state government, ensuring everyone who works hard can afford to live, thrive, and build a future right here in Michigan.