Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance Questionnaire

Mike Rogers for Senate Responses

1. 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'm running for the United States Senate because Michigan is ready for a change. For too long, we've watched jobs leave, costs go up, and too many young people leave our state looking for better opportunities elsewhere. Michigan can do better.

My priorities are simple: bring good-paying jobs back, lower costs, improve education, and strengthen workforce training so more people can build a successful life right here in Michigan. I also believe this is a unique moment for our state. I'm the only candidate who can walk into the White House on day one and be a strong advocate for Michigan.

My wife, Kristi, comes from a family with deep roots in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Three generations of her family have called the U.P. home, and through them, our family has developed a real appreciation for the people, traditions, and communities that make this region so special.

To me, the job of a United States Senator is simple: listen to the people you represent, show up, and fight for them every day. Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula shouldn't be an afterthought in Washington. They deserve someone who understands their priorities and will work to create more jobs, strengthen local communities, and make sure this region has a strong voice in the Senate.

2. 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?

Michigan built the middle class because we built things. From manufacturing and defense production to shipbuilding and mining, communities across northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula helped make our state an economic powerhouse. We should be building on that legacy and not watching investment and jobs go somewhere else.

I'll fight to bring more manufacturing back to Michigan and make sure the products America depends on are made here instead of overseas. For too long, Washington rewarded companies for moving jobs to countries like China. We need policies that reward companies for investing in American workers instead.

That also means investing in the infrastructure businesses depend on. Reliable roads, bridges, ports, and broadband aren't partisan issues. They're essential if communities want to attract employers and grow. Northern Michigan and the U.P. are economic drivers, and I'll work to make sure they're competing for every opportunity available.

3. 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 has become one of the biggest challenges facing Michigan families. That is why I have proposed a housing affordability plan focused on increasing homeownership and expanding housing supply.

First, I support allowing families to use 529 savings plans toward home down payments. Second, I want to help families build credit through timely rent, utility, and other recurring payments so more people can qualify for mortgages and secure better interest rates. Third, we must reduce excessive regulations that increase housing costs and make it harder to build. Finally, we should encourage new housing construction through incentives that increase supply and help meet demand.

I look forward to working with organizations like the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance to advance practical solutions that make housing more affordable and accessible throughout the region.

4. 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?

A strong workforce starts with strong economic opportunity. The best way to attract and retain talent is to create an environment where people can find good-paying jobs, build careers, and raise families.

I support efforts that connect workers with the skills employers need, but my primary focus is creating the economic conditions that encourage people to stay and build their future in Michigan. That means bringing more high-paying jobs back to our state, particularly in manufacturing, skilled trades, and other industries that provide long-term opportunity. When people see a future for themselves and their families here, they stay and invest in their communities.

5. 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 and reliable childcare is important for working families and employers alike. When parents cannot find childcare that meets their needs, it can create significant challenges for both families and the workforce.

I support policies that empower parents and help families keep more of their own money. I also support strengthening and expanding tax relief for child and dependent care expenses, similar to proposals advanced by President Trump. We should pursue practical, family-focused solutions that improve affordability and flexibility while supporting the needs of parents and caregivers.

6. 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?

The best thing we can do for students is get back to the basics. Our education system should focus on ensuring every child can master the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Literacy is the foundation of educational success, and getting students reading at grade level must be a top priority.

For too long, policymakers have treated education challenges as a spending problem when they are often an outcomes problem. While resources matter, simply spending more money does not guarantee better results. We need accountability, strong instruction, parental involvement, and a renewed focus on measurable achievement. If we improve performance in the Three R's, students will be better prepared for whatever path they choose after graduation.

7. 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?

Small businesses across northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula face unnecessary barriers that make it harder to grow, create jobs, and invest in their communities. I'll fight to reduce those burdens and give entrepreneurs the freedom to succeed.

Government should be making it easier to do business—not harder. I support simplifying regulations, streamlining permitting processes, reducing unnecessary compliance burdens, and lowering taxes. A more predictable and business-friendly environment will encourage investment and strengthen local economies throughout Michigan.

8. 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 families deserve leadership focused on making life more affordable. After decades of failed Democratic leadership, families are paying more for nearly everything while opportunities continue to leave our state. Michigan has fallen behind because too many politicians have focused on growing government instead of growing opportunity.

We need a new direction that prioritizes economic growth, lower taxes, affordable energy, and fewer regulations on families and job creators. We need leaders who understand that every new tax, mandate, and regulation makes it harder for families to get ahead and businesses to grow.

By making it easier to build businesses and create jobs, we can restore Michigan's competitiveness and create more opportunities for future generations. Michigan has the talent and resources to lead the nation. What we need now is leadership that puts Michigan families first and reverses the damage caused by years of failed policies.