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?

   Having now been in elected office for just less than a year and a half, I am more convinced than ever in the importance of a state representative being fully committed to knowing and advocating for the best interests of the entire district and its residents, and who has the energy, ability, and determination to do so at home in our communities, at the Capitol and throughout the state – and I believe I meet these qualifications while possessing a great desire to continue to serve my fellow district residents in this way.

   In accordance with our state constitution, it is my responsibility to represent the (approximately 90,000) residents of the 107th House District in the crafting of laws, development of the state budget, and performing oversight of the executive branch, while customarily providing assistance to constituents and promoting the many amazing assets of our region and its communities.

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?

   As I have already begun doing in my first term of office, I will continue to work on policy and appropriations that ensure northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula are competitive in attracting jobs, investment, infrastructure, and other resources, I will support or develop policies focused on enhancing transportation and digital infrastructure, promoting sustainable economic development, investing in education and workforce training programs, and advocating for equitable distribution of state and federal funds to these regions.

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?

Over the past year, I have participated in a Housing Workgroup, bringing together interested legislators, housing advocates, real estate professionals, local government organizations, commercial and residential home builders and other stakeholders to work on solutions to Michigan's housing shortage. More than a dozen bills have already resulted from this collaborative process, and I have introduced three of my own that are intended to reduce or eliminate regulatory hurdles that add time and cost to the development of single and multi-unit housing.

It is my intent to continue working with stakeholders, to include the member organizations of the NMCA, to continue developing implementable solutions and incentives to create more affordable, attainable housing in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

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?

   I have been, and will continue to be, a supporter of Going PRO and Michigan Reconnect. I have submitted legislatively directed spending initiatives supporting facility and program development of North Central Michigan College's Dental Hygiene Program to address Michigan's hygienist shortage. I have submitted a similar LDSI in support of the development of the Cloverland Technical Training Center, which will offer hands-on training in high-demand fields like electrical linework, substation tech, alternative energy, broadband installation and smart grid technology. I am also working to ensure that NCMC's proposed expansion of the Skilled Trades Education Pathways (STEP) program is included in the FY 2026/27 Capital Outlay bill.

   Just this past week, I introduced a bill to amend the Michigan School Code, and change the Michigan Merit Curriculum, to increase the number of Career Technical Education credits, from one to two, that high school students can count ttoward graduation requirements. Currently, only one CTE credit can be counted in place of foreign language, visual arts or performing arts.

   I look forward to continuing to work with NMCA in support of your policy priorities to ensure Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula continues to grow and attract the workforce we need.

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?

   As father of a brand-new baby daughter, childcare is a matter close to my heart. I am particularly interested in assisting young families through continued support for Tri-Share

and MI Care-Share programs with which the cost of childcare is split three-ways between the family, employer and state. I am also interested in Senate Bill 733 and the child care microcenters that it proposes, and I hope to see it move out of the Senate and transmitted to the House, so that we can review and receive NMCA member input on this create solution to increasing childcare options.

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?

   I am a strong supporter of Science of Reading teacher education and implementation in our schools. I believe that grade-level proficiency in reading is one of the most important and strongest indicators of future educational success.

   As stated above, I have introduced legislatively directed spending initiatives supporting facility and program development of North Central Michigan College's Dental Hygiene Program. I have submitted a similar LDSI in support of the development of the Cloverland Technical Training Center, and I am also working to ensure that NCMC's proposed expansion of the Skilled Trades Education Pathways (STEP) program is included in the FY 2026/27 Capital Outlay bill.

   I believe that it is critically important that CTE is given equal emphasis and support in Michigan's secondary and post-secondary education, training and apprenticeships.

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?

   As a member of the House Select Committee on Protecting Michigan Employees and Small Business, I was proud to work with NMCA, its member organizations, small businesses and other stakeholders to reduce the negative impact of the voter passed initiatives that amended Michigan's minimum wage, tipped wage and earned sick time requirements.

   As majority vice chair of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform, I have been pleased to sponsor, co-sponsor and vote in support of bills in a large, but not nearly all inclusive, 80 bill package of regulator reforms. I have recently added a table tent to my office conference table that asks every constituent, stakeholder and organization "What can I do to reduce your regulatory burden?" I am actively seeking input from everyone who calls, messages or walks through my door what rule, regulation or statute should be amended to make Michigan a better place to live, work and do business.

I welcome your recommendations!

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?

   Reducing regulations that drive-up costs; reducing property and personal property taxes; placing greater emphasis on career technical education in relevant fields that allow our young people to obtain good paying, in-demand careers without always spending four more years in the classroom; and working local and regional business and education stakeholders to shape policies and programs to better meet local needs.