

Q2 PARTNER UPDATE

MAGNIFYING IMPACT ACROSS NORTHERN MI

The Alliance rallied behind its partners, Lake Superior Community Partnership and InvestUP, in calling for the Michigan Senate to take up House Bills 4007 and 4283 to allow Upper Peninsula energy providers additional time to complete the transition to cleaner energy while preserving the ability to utilize new infrastructure through its useful life, reducing emissions and supporting grid reliability.

Without the passage of these bills sponsored by State Representatives Karl Bohnak and Dave Prestin, the Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (RICE) generators located in Baraga Township, Negaunee Township, and the City of Marquette will be required to be retired prematurely, forcing U.P. energy providers, residents, and businesses to share the costs of replacing them.

“The RICE Bills awaiting passage in Lansing will have a direct impact on the affordability and reliability of electricity for our U.P. businesses and employers. The Senate cannot delay its response to the needs of the entire Upper Peninsula,” said Nikki Devitt, President of the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance.

Michigan residents can learn more at this informational website about House Bills 4007 and 4283 and voice their support to legislators.

DATA CENTER DISCUSSION

The Alliance was pleased to host local officials from across the Upper and northern Lower Peninsulas of Michigan in Gaylord on June 1, 2026, for a comprehensive discussion of the real impacts of data center projects on the surrounding community. We partnered with the Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce, Jay's Sporting Goods, and 7&4 UpNorthLive to bring northern Michigan a clear, relatable source of information about these controversial projects.

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance does NOT have a position for or against these projects, but its members want to do their part to ensure leaders and residents of this region understand the real facts, positive or negative.



CLICK TO WATCH THE DATA CENTER EVENT

ADVOCACY ON THE ROAD

MAINTAINING MACKINAC MOMENTUM

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance had over a dozen partners join on the island to network with elected officials and advocate for our budget and policy priorities. The NMCA once again joined business and government leaders from across the state at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Annual Mackinac Policy Conference. Partners had the opportunity to engage with business and policy leaders on key issues, including the state budget and new legislation aimed at enhancing economic development. The Alliance enjoyed conversations with many elected and statewide leaders including Senators Peters and Slotkin, Congressmen Bergman and Moolenaar, Governor Whitmer, State Senators, State Representatives, and department leaders. Alliance leadership used this critical time to position our region's priorities as the state approached final budget negotiations.



Alliance partners attended events with Senator Elissa Slotkin and Michigan Rep. Mike Hoadley. Sen. Slotkin joined the "Michigan Defense Transformation" panel with Michigan-based defense industry experts.

The Northwest Michigan Community Development Coalition members traveled to Lansing to spend time with staff in the leadership offices in each chamber and with Northern Caucus members, as well as the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The Alliance continues to work with partners across the region to build a strong presence among elected officials and will work hard this budget season to secure funding for key projects up north.



Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance Director, Dakota Baker, traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress and federal leaders to advocate for northern Michigan priorities. Discussions focused on strengthening drone infrastructure, expanding Rural Opportunity initiatives, and advancing FEMA reforms to improve access to disaster relief for rural communities.

PARTNERS IN ACTION

Northern Lakes Economic Alliance's record-breaking Annual Economic Summit, gathered regional leaders to discuss economic development and workforce initiatives. The event also featured the debut of a [new northern Michigan talent attraction video](#) designed to promote the region to prospective residents and workers, highlighting the manufacturing industry across northern Michigan..



Alliance Partners gathered in Cadillac for the 48th Annual Governor's Breakfast with the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce to celebrate local accomplishments from the past year, highlight local students, and honor the work of regional member businesses. Approximately 1,000 people attended the event at the Wexford Civic Center, including hundreds of area high school seniors. Following the event, Alliance partners attended a legislative luncheon and took the Governor on a tour of local businesses.

ADVOCACY ON THE ROAD



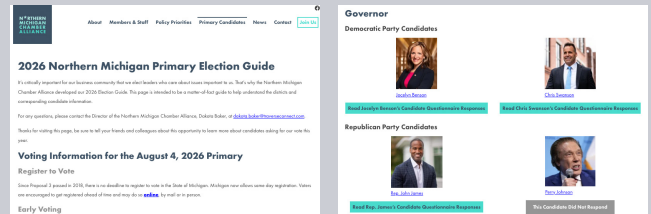
FY27 BUDGET WINS

The Alliance celebrated several policy victories in the FY27 state budget that will strengthen workforce development and rural economic growth across northern Michigan.

- **Michigan Reconnect** age lowered to 21 to expand access to continued education.
- **Office of Rural Prosperity** funded and remained in the Office of Labor and Economic Opportunity Budget, ensuring their ability to help our rural communities remains comprehensive.
- **NCMC Dental Hygiene Program** received funding through a Legislatively Directed Spending Item request supported by Rep. Fairbairn.

2026 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

To support an informed business community, the Alliance developed a nonpartisan 2026 Primary Election Guide outlining legislative districts and candidate information throughout northern Michigan. The resource helps voters better understand the candidates and issues that will shape the region's future. This page is intended to be a matter-of-fact guide to help understand the districts and corresponding candidate information.



ALLIANCE MEMBERS



PARTNERS

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



PROUD PARTNERS OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER ALLIANCE

