

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?

After 40 years of public service, I understand that government works best when it remembers who it serves. I want to take the lessons I have learned from serving my community and put them to work in Lansing—making sure the decisions made there reflect the values, priorities, and needs of the people I represent back home. I will spend my time in Lansing fighting for strong public safety policies that make our communities safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

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?

After nearly 40 years in law enforcement and public service, I understand that strong communities and a strong economy go hand in hand. If elected, I would focus on policies that make Northern Michigan a better place to start a business, invest, raise a family, and build a career.

That means lowering the financial burden on families and employers, removing unnecessary barriers to growth, investing responsibly in infrastructure and workforce development, and making sure Northern Michigan gets a fair opportunity to compete for every job, investment, and state or federal resource available.

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?

The housing shortage is a very real issue for Northern Michigan. If we want our communities to grow, attract employers, retain workers, and give young families the opportunity to stay and build their lives here, we need to make sure people can actually find a place to live.

At the state level, I will work to cut red tape and promote flexibility to develop and sell property while maintaining local planning authority and protecting the rights of property owners. I would be willing to work closely with NMCA, local governments, and community leaders to identify practical solutions to increase the housing supply in Northern Michigan and make sure decisions being made at the state level are in the best interest of our local communities.

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 support programs such as Going PRO, Michigan Reconnect, and talent attraction initiatives because they address one of the most important challenges facing Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula: making sure employers have access to the skilled workers they need to grow. We should continue to evaluate these programs to make sure taxpayer dollars are producing measurable results and that training is connected to real opportunities in the workforce.

But training people is only one part of the solution. We also need to make Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula places where people want to work, live, and raise a family. That means addressing the issues that influence whether someone chooses to stay or move here such as cost of living, housing, childcare, quality schools, and opportunities for good-paying jobs.

If we can train our people, attract new talent, retain the workers we have, and create an environment where families want to build their future, we can strengthen both our workforce and the local economies that depend on it.

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?

Childcare is certainly an issue in the 32nd Senate District. We have a shortage of available childcare, and for many families the problem is not simply finding a provider—it is finding one that is accessible, available when they need it, and affordable enough to make working financially worthwhile.

My goal is to increase access to reliable, quality child care while also making that care more affordable. I would support efforts to reduce unnecessary regulatory and administrative barriers that make it more difficult or expensive to provide childcare, while maintaining appropriate health and safety standards. I would also support policies that encourage home-based providers, small businesses, employers and community organizations to participate in the child care market.

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?

Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed, and strong schools are the foundation of strong communities. In order for our students to succeed, we must first address our unacceptable reading outcomes. We need to take strong action to improve early literacy outcomes by implementing evidence-based learning practices, including the science of reading, and restoring accountability.

In terms of funding, I support continued investment in our education systems, but I also recognize that we have a responsibility to evaluate the investments that have already been made. We need to determine what is working, what is not, and where taxpayer dollars can produce better results. Additionally, I would advocate throughout the budget process to make sure the unique priorities and challenges of Northern Michigan are represented when education funding decisions are made.

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?

Small businesses in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula should not have to spend more time navigating government than growing their business. From my perspective, some of the biggest challenges are unnecessary regulations, duplicative requirements, permitting delays, and compliance costs that can be especially difficult for a small business with limited resources.

As a State Senator, I would make reducing unnecessary regulations a priority. I would also hold state departments and agencies accountable for making permitting and regulatory processes predictable, timely, transparent, and efficient. I want businesses to have confidence that when they invest in Northern Michigan, the rules will be clear, the process will be predictable, and state government will not unnecessarily stand in their way.

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?

The number one priority I would have is lowering the tax burden on Michigan families. People work hard for their money, and government should not automatically assume it needs to take more of every additional dollar they earn. If families can keep more of what they earn, businesses can invest and create jobs, and government is disciplined about how it spends taxpayer dollars, we create an environment where people want to live, work, raise a family, and invest.

That starts with being a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Before asking families and businesses for more, state government should look at how it is spending the money it already has. I would support reviewing state programs, reducing waste and duplication, eliminating spending that does not produce meaningful results, and making sure taxpayer dollars are focused on the core responsibilities of government. Every dollar the state spends is a dollar that came from a taxpayer, and it should be treated that way.