

State Legislative Candidates – House District 108 – Chris Lopez

1. Why are you interested in serving the people, families, and businesses in northern Michigan?

I want to serve Michigan, because I want to serve as an example of a selfless legislator. I want to serve all sides of the political and economic spectrum the same way I served our Country in the Army. We need leaders who represent the best interest of the people and not their own greed.

2. How will you use your role to support the economic vitality of our region?

I want to make Michigan, specifically the UP, an energy producer through the use of wind, solar, and nuclear technology. I will reduce taxes for our people and our businesses to help offset the significant hardships caused by inflation.

3. Do you believe local government should have broad authority to regulate short-term rentals?

As a real estate investor myself, I do. Michigan has a lot of tourism and as a result many communities have extremely low housing supply. Local municipalities each have different needs and resources and should have some authority and flexibility to manage their needs. However, local governments should not have the authority to ban short term rentals.

4. How would you address the shortage of skilled labor in northern Michigan?

We need to prioritize classroom to community programs where local employers work with the schools to create an open job system that high school seniors can utilize to find their place in their community. We need to increase skilled labor wages and benefits and increase housing supply to house more workers.

5. How would you prioritize leftover funds from federal aid packages and surplus dollars in the state's general fund?

I would use leftover funds to fill extreme urgent needs of the people of Michigan. I would build a coalition of bipartisan legislators to determine the most efficient use of the leftover funds. I would prioritize programs that help people find and maintain employment, education, and homeless shelters.

6. The availability of housing is a barrier to business growth and talent attraction in our region. How do you intend to address the affordable housing shortage?

Encourage local governments to build small energy efficient low income homes, offer first time home buyer repair grants in certain areas, offer tax incentives for low income first time home buyers.

7. Many families struggle to secure quality child care. This can be a barrier to attracting talent and keeping people in or bringing people back into the workforce. How will you work to increase access to affordable and quality child care?

Offer tax incentives for employers who provide on site child care, increase funding for very early childhood education programs, use excess funds for child care subsidies for students and low to moderate income families.

8. What are your solutions for supporting businesses being affected directly by inflation and supply chain costs?

I want to eliminate small business taxes for any Michigan businesses that were significantly affected by the covid mandated shutdown and inflation. Too many great businesses did not make it through covid and I will do everything necessary to protect the rest of Michigan businesses from further deterioration.