

State Legislative Candidates – House District 107 - Jodi Decker

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

I am one. I have lived in Northern Michigan my entire life and I have gone to school here, raised kids here, worked and played here. My parents have owned a small business in Northern Michigan my whole life as well. I have managed a business here myself. I think we need to cut some red tape, and make it easier for business owners to stay open and up to date on licensing or any other requirements.

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

I would encourage more year-round businesses to come to our area as well as partnering with each community to see exactly what they feel they need from the state level.

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

I am torn on that one. On one hand, we need more long term rentals in our area and in the other, if you own it, you should be able to do what you want with it. I'm undecided on this issue and would listen to the constituents to see how they feel about it.

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

Incentives for high school graduates or GED holders to go through certificate programs so they can earn a living wage without going to college. We have an awesome example right here in Cederville with the boat building school.

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

Our children need education, child care, and mental health help like never before. Our foster care system is in need of being overhauled as well. The pandemic took a toll on everyone and with our lack of resources in our Northern counties, I would like to see more programs and incentives for more mental health professionals here as well as incentives to get people into providing daycare so everyone that is able to work and needs to, can. We also need to invest in more low income and affordable housing in our district and the state.

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?

As I said previously, we need more housing opportunities. We need affordable housing so people can move to the area as well as low income to help our low income neighbors be able to afford a home and some stability for their kids. I would need to look at what is

available, whether it means fixing zoning issues or paving the way for money to be spent. It will be different in each county, no solution is one size fits all, which is why we need serious people in these positions.

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?

I would give incentives, such as student aid to people to get them to go into the child care field. Ease the burden of paperwork and licensing while maintaining background checks and safety concerns. A help line dedicated to getting people struggling with the paperwork, through the process.

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

Paying people higher wages and supply chain issues are going to be a strain on small businesses so we should offer some kind of tax credit to them. A small business grant based on hardship for true small businesses, to help with costs while they remain high would help as well.