

State Legislative Candidates – House District 104 – John Roth

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

Because I have lived in Northern Michigan my entire life. I understand the values and struggles of northern Michigan families. From my family, I learned to serve, and I have done that; from commissions, to volunteer leadership to political campaigns. In my two years in office, I believe that I have brought northern Michigan values and sensibility to the capitol in Lansing.

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

I look at every bill with a Northern Michigan lens, to make sure that it won't harm northern Michigan. Then I listen to local communities, organizations and businesses on what they need to expand and promote our area. I will continue my dedication to supporting the economic vitality of Northern Michigan. I have supported legislation that supports access to affordable childcare, affordable housing, increasing opportunity for local communities to have more control on legislative activities. As an avid outdoorsman, I have consistently supported opportunities for people to enjoy our area

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

Yes, I believe local governments should have the right to regulate by licensing, inspecting, limiting the number of occupants, and limiting the number of units. I would also hope governments would see the benefit of short-term rentals to the economy when they are done with the cooperation with the community.

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

I have been working closely with Northwestern Michigan College to ensure they have the ability to provide a 4 year Nursing Baccalaureate degree that will bring more high level skilled nurses to our area. And while we didn't get the bills over the finish line, we believe we have negotiated a good deal with the Universities to provide their programming at a two year institution and most importantly at a 2 year program cost. I worked diligently on making sure we had the funding secured. I believe in working on collaboration between business and the education community to ensure that we are adequately meeting the needs of the businesses currently expanding in our area, while also working to our future workforce needs. I am also very supportive of apprenticeships, such as the public act that I sponsored brought to me by Traverse City's own Bulldog Barbers to provide for an apprenticeship because the closest barber school is in Lansing.

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

I will prioritize funds being allocated to benefit Northern Michigan. We have areas where we can not only benefit Northern Michigan but the entire state. NMC needs a bigger hanger and more planes that would put more pilots in an industry that is in dire need. We could start an airline mechanic school that would complement the aviation program. Roads are an issue that we can fix locally if we provide the right funding to our county road commissions. Water infrastructure projects like lead pipe replacement should be completed while the federal dollars are available. Any dollars spent should be a long term benefit.

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?**

I currently have a bill in the House that will provide a tax incentive for developers to rehab smaller properties. I also support efforts by Housing North, and have been working closely with them on their priorities, such as giving local communities the tools they need to make decisions about the best housing solutions for their community.

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 understand this issue. I have two daughters that were in childcare because both my wife and I worked when they were young. One of our places was put out of business by a regulatory agency that went way beyond protocol in harassing the owner. When the center was abruptly shut down, eight families were scrambling to find childcare. I was a sponsor on the childcare package that became a public act this year. My bill allowed more flexibility in where a childcare center could be located. I believe this package was a good first step in reducing the regulatory burdens that are placed upon childcare centers. I look forward to continuing this work if I am reelected.

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

This is a huge area of concern. Businesses are just getting back on their feet after covid. I support removing regulatory burdens and tax cuts across the board. But I also want to make sure our businesses can stay open with adequate staff and limited supply chain issues. If a business has to close and change its hours, it's more likely their customers won't come back.