

State Legislative Candidates – SD 32 – Jon Bumstead

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

I'm born and raised in northwestern Michigan; I raised my family here and ran my construction business for more than 30 years here. I have a strong devotion to Northern Michigan, and I want to be our voice in Lansing.

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

As your State Senator, it is my top priority that my staff and I are available to help our local businesses navigate the bureaucratic process in place at the state level so that our businesses can grow and thrive in Northern Michigan. As someone who has owned a small business, I know that lowering the tax and regulatory burden will always help businesses and that is what I fight for in Lansing.

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

Each community is unique and has different needs to meet the wants of their residents. I believe that local units of government have the ability to regulate such issues as short-term rentals and that as the local unit of government, they have a better grasp of what the residents of the community want and need.

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

I believe that we need to get our youth more involved in the skilled trades while they are in school. Exposure and understanding of our skilled trades and the high paying job opportunities that exist would be very beneficial to our children and would help many kids pick a career path that they can get into right after high school with limited or no debt and good pay with benefits.

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

Any leftover funds from federal aid packages and a surplus in our state's general fund should be returned to the hard-working individuals and families of our state through tax cuts. I also support paying down Michigan's long-term debt so that our children and grandchildren aren't responsible for obligations made decades ago.

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 believe that the goal of workforce housing should be accomplished through public/private partnerships. Currently, in the 32nd Senate District, I worked with an employer to help them develop workforce housing so their employees and their families

can live closer to their work. This is the type of partnership that the state should use when addressing housing issues.

7. Many families struggle to secure quality childcare. 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 childcare?

Reliable and affordable childcare is a large barrier for many families. I believe that if we as a state can incentivize our businesses to help cover childcare cost and availability then more families will be able to have quality child care and return back to the workforce. I supported Invests in programs like the Michigan Tri-share Child Care pilot helps make childcare more affordable for parents. This program financially assists parents returning to the workforce by splitting the cost of child care equally among the employer, employee and the state.

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

Inflation and the rising cost of materials is heavily impacted our businesses I believe that one way our state can help our struggling businesses right now is by lowing our business taxes. I've sponsored and supported legislation to lower taxes for our businesses to help them combat inflation, but to also be more competitive with neighboring states and to continue to grow businesses here in Michigan and not elsewhere.