

State Legislative Candidates – House District 101 – Joseph Fox

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

One of my primary goals as a State Representative will be getting to know the people, families, and businesses of Northern Michigan. I am a people person and the more time I am able to meet with people face to face, the better equipped I will be to re-present them in Lansing. I am interested in serving because I deeply care about people. I want to represent them in every way possible—spiritually, socially, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

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

I believe that one of my major jobs is to learn about the people and the economic realities of Northern Michigan. With this knowledge, I will be able to consult with local leadership and strategize steps that can be taken together to move Northern Michigan forward.

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

Broad authority, no, limited authority, yes. Short-term rentals should have set health and safety standards and should factor in impact upon the local community. These issues may best be addressed by permits and/or licensure.

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

First, I would connect and meet with businesses seeking a skilled work force and learn what they are doing and ask what we can do better or differently together. Second, I would encourage some practical solutions. These solutions might include, but are not limited to, higher paying apprenticeships, skilled trade education, financial incentives for days on the job, etc.

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

If we must keep/use these funds, they should first of all focus on one-time infrastructure expenses. We should avoid the use of these funds that are going to bring long term expenses to the local situation. If there are long-term strings attached to these funds then it may be best to send the funds back to their source and reduce the national debt.

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?

Let Capitalism have its way. Local government through zoning adjustments and tax incentives can provide space and local builders and contractors can bid on plans that

have been prepared.

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?

Childcare is first and foremost the responsibility of parents. It is best addressed in the greater family unit (think grandparents and other family members). It seems that local businesses could best address the childcare needs of their employees based upon the needs of their employees. Can we fashion childcare situations in local businesses that cooperate with already existing or yet to be created childcare systems? Can we help to develop childcare cooperatives that utilize parents and other committed relatives that will help to meet the needs.

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

This is a huge question. My initial response is to change out the leadership and big government mentality in our country that has enabled this crisis. My second response is to do everything we can to get away from dependence upon foreign-made products. Finally, these problems relate directly to a lack of a committed workforce in our country. We need to re-instill the desires of hard work, diligence, and follow through in our society. We need to remember that government is not the answer but hard work is. Paraphrasing President Gerald R. Ford, "A government big enough to give us everything we want is also a government big enough to take away everything that we have." We need less government, i.e., people working for themselves and NOT for the government.