

## **State Legislative Candidates – House District 105 – Ken Borton**

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

My wife Brenda and I love our home here in Northern Michigan. We love the great outdoors that surround us in this beautiful part of the state. Most importantly, we love the sense of community among the people of our region. It has been a privilege to represent our northern communities in Lansing — making sure Up North residents have a voice in our state government. I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the people for another two years.

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

One way I've worked to help our Northern Michigan economy thrive is tax relief. I've supported several plans to ease the burdens on taxpayers, including one that became law to help small businesses deduct more on their federal taxes. As vice chair of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee in the House, I've also helped secure funding for infrastructure needs in our region, which will help boost our economy.

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

Local governments have an important role to serve local residents. Although I believe governments shouldn't prohibit local property owners from using their homes as short-term rentals altogether, local officials should be able to regulate and oversee short-term rentals in their communities.

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

Building a talented workforce here in Northern Michigan will help sustain and advance our local economy. I supported funding in the latest state budget for programs like the Going PRO Talent Fund, which helps local businesses train workers, and Michigan Reconnect, which helps people earn skill certificates or associate degrees.

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

Our annual budget is balanced and fully funds the services our state government provides for Michigan residents. Extra funds should be used for two main purposes: tax relief for families across Michigan and savings for emergency needs or budgetary shortfalls that could occur in the future.

**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?**

This spring, I supported an infrastructure spending plan that included funds for housing. The proposal, which became law, invested resources to help homeowners pay for housing expenses, and expand affordable housing.

**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?**

Earlier this year, the Legislature and governor approved a bipartisan package of bills to make good child care more accessible and affordable in our state. I supported reforms to help proven, high-quality child care providers expand, allow providers to open safe, convenient facilities in multi-use buildings where many parents work, and enable parents to review online the health and safety information of providers.

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

After previously approving aid to help small businesses keep their doors open, I supported tax relief plans, which the governor vetoed, to lower the income tax and put more disposable income in the hands of customers. Additionally, a fuel tax pause would have helped lower the cost of transporting goods in our state.