

Q3 PARTNER UPDATE

GOVERNOR WHITMER INVITES NMCA TO STATE BUDGET SIGNING



In July, the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance joined Gov. Whitmer for the state budget signing. Gov. Whitmer invited the NMCA to Detroit to participate in the signing and celebrate new funding for the Office of Rural Development, now led by former Alliance member Sarah Lucas.

Funding for Alliance priorities like Michigan Reconnect, Going PRO, and Pure Michigan were also included in the FY '23 budget.

Nikki Devitt, president of the Petoskey Chamber and Henry Wolf, director of government relations for the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance, joined Governor Whitmer at the signing of the 2022-23 Michigan Budget.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN POLICY FUND EXCEEDS FUNDRAISING GOAL

The Northern Michigan Policy Fund Traverse Connect PAC raised \$9,350 in four months, exceeding our goal of \$10k cash on hand going into the 2022 election season. We donated nearly \$6,000 to business-friendly candidates across northern Michigan, successfully expanding our footprint to all of northern Michigan.

We welcomed several special guests to our fundraisers, including Sen. Wayne Schmidt, Reps. Jack O'Malley, John Roth and Michele Hoytenga, and U. S Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.



SEN. PETERS STORM ACT VISIT

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, Chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, stopped in Traverse City in August as part of his annual motorcycle tour across Michigan. Peters was joined by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials to announce the next steps for funding the Safeguarding Tomorrow program through the Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Revolving Loan Fund, which the Senator secured in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Peters, FEMA officials, and representatives from Traverse Connect toured a portion of Bluff Road on Old Mission Peninsula that is closed due to severe damage caused by shoreline erosion – to see firsthand how erosion has impacted local homeowners, businesses, and tourism. Peters highlighted the \$500 million he secured in the bipartisan infrastructure law to fund a grant program he created to help states finance mitigation projects through the establishment of revolving loan funds that will help communities in northern Michigan invest in projects to protect against coastal erosion, flooding, and rising water levels. Peters authored the STORM Act to create this program, which was signed into law last year.



Senator Gary Peters with Warren Call, president and CEO of Alliance member, Traverse Connect.

ALLIANCE DEVELOPS NEW CONCEPT FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS TO FUND WORKFORCE HOUSING

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance led the way in creating short-term rental assessment district (STRAD) legislation with Rep. John Damoose.

As we know, short-term rentals in residential areas have an impact on housing stock for year-round residents, especially for potential members of our workforce. Many of these rental properties are not currently paying the same assessments as their counterparts in the hotel industry.

This legislation provides a creative approach to level the playing field and ensures both hotels and short-term rentals pay the same fees.

The STRAD legislation would create a mechanism for short-term rental owners to establish and pay into a local workforce housing development fund to help curtail the housing crisis that impacts workforce attraction in northern Michigan.

Short-term rentals should be a part of the solution to the housing problem they're exacerbating, and this legislation provides a path to do that. We look forward to its introduction in the new 102nd Legislature.

BULLY PULPIT BRINGS LANSING UP NORTH

Traverse Connect hosted their annual Bully Pulpit event in September, featuring three Lansing insiders to give their projections on the 2022 elections and what to expect in Lane Duck.

Alliance members joined political pundits John Sellek, founder and CEO of Harbor Strategic Public Affairs and Adrian Hemond, CEO of Grassroots Midwest, for a conversation facilitated by Kyle Melinn, editor of MIRS, Michigan Information & Research Service.



2022 NORTHERN MICHIGAN ELECTION GUIDE

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance utilized our new website to launch the all-new 2022 Northern Michigan Election Guide. The Election Guide serves as a tool for voters to help understand new district lines and corresponding candidate information.



This tool allows voters to access a candidate's website, campaign finance information, and answers to the Northern Michigan Policy Fund questionnaire.

HOUSING NORTH SUMMIT

Alliance members participated in the 8th Annual Northwest Michigan Housing Summit in October. Alliance Vice Chair Nikki Devitt and Director of Government Relations Henry Wolf participated in the "What Comes Next?" panel to discuss expectations for the 2022 election and any potential leadership changes.



Nikki Devitt and Henry Wolf on the "What Comes Next?" panel at the Housing North Summit.

Panelists also covered future housing policy goals as we celebrate the recent passage of Phase 1 Housing Michigan Coalition legislation expected to be signed by Gov. Whitmer at the end of the year.

NMCA WELCOMES STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR TO PETOSKEY

The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance welcomed State Budget Director Chris Harkins and his staff to Petoskey to meet with Alliance members and tour North Central Michigan College. The state budget office plays a key role in funding successful programs like Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners. Both programs provide funding for students to earn a college degree at community colleges in northern Michigan.



Henry Wolf joined SBO staff in Petoskey at NCMC.

The NMCA supported increased funding for both programs during a Lansing lobby day earlier this year.

The goal of the visit was to demonstrate the success and effectiveness of these programs for students, especially adult learners. We look forward to welcoming back Dir. Harkins and SBO staff to northern Michigan in the new year.

NMCA WELCOMES GOVERNOR TO NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

The NMCA participated in a roundtable with Gov. Whitmer and business leaders from Rogers City to discuss local economic development and issues impacting northeast Michigan, particularly concerns about transportation, child care, and housing.



Henry Wolf joined Governor Whitmer in Rogers City for a roundtable with business leaders.

Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce President Adam Poll and Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce President Carole Yeck were also in attendance.

2022 MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBER PROFESSIONALS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NMCA Director of Government Relations Henry Wolf joined other chamber professionals on a legislative panel, moderated by Cadillac Chamber President Caitlyn Stark to discuss how chambers can grow their influence with elected officials.



Caitlyn Stark and Henry Wolf at the MACP Conference.

Panelists discussed the impact of redistricting, the potential implications of changing state term limits with Proposal 1, and how to develop and maintain relationships with legislators.

REGISTER FOR THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN POLICY CONFERENCE

ALLIANCE MEMBERS

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTING PARTNERS



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

