

Callie Barr, First Congressional District (MI-01)

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

This is my home- these people, families, and businesses are my community. As the only candidate in the race who was born and raised in the district, I understand firsthand the struggles our businesses and constituents face because my family has faced many of them. We need someone to show up for us and represent rural interests, not radical political agendas.

2. Describe three statewide strategies/policies that you would support to enhance economic growth in the region.

- 1. Invest in people:** If we invest in people, we have more folks who can participate in our economy, and increased participation means a stronger economy. Investing in people means investing in things like affordable housing, childcare, and education and the trades- measures that help folks live where they work and be able to work. It also means talent recruitment and retention. If we can attract talent- but there is nowhere to live, for example- we're going to have a hard time retaining our talent. This has an obvious impact on your youth. As the only candidate that grew up here, I know what it means to try to find work, leave for school, and wonder how you're going to make it back. Investments in our people mean who don't have to leave in the first place, we can work locally, and we can actively participate in our local economy.
 - 2. Invest in Infrastructure:** Infrastructure is how we literally get from here to there, and it's how we stay connected to the larger economies around us. Investing in our infrastructure ensures not only that we are enhancing our current economy, it also means that we are creating opportunities for growth in a way that aligns best with our regional goals. For example, if we want to support small businesses, we need basic connectivity like rural broadband internet.
 - 3. Invest in tomorrow:** We are at an exciting time of technological advance and research that we need to capitalize on. We can support economic growth by forward thinking on the opportunities available to us given our location, climate, access to fresh water, etc. An example includes the
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Traverse City Freshwater Research & Innovation Center in Traverse City, or the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena.

3. Describe the policies that you see being the most effective/ineffective at addressing the housing shortage in our region?

The most effective strategy is the one that listens to local voices. Not every community is the same. Local control ensures our local level governments can address short-term rentals and appropriate building projects. Flexible funding is paramount to ensure that we have builders who want to and can enter the market to expand housing, along with federal funding to help address gaps in funding for affordable housing options. This also includes federal efforts to decrease inflation and help to address shortages and supply chain issues with raw materials needed for housing construction. We also should be creative in looking at manufactured housing options.

4. What statewide policies best support talent retention and attraction in Northern Michigan?

Please see #2 above- it's investments in people and infrastructure.

5. How will you work to increase access to affordable and quality childcare?

According to a recent study from the US Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, Michigan loses \$2.8 billion annually due to the lack of reliable child care in the form of workforce productivity and economic gains. Investing in childcare is investing in the economy. I support Universal Pre-K/ Head Start to help offload some of the costs associated with childcare. This would not only provide critical relief to our struggling families, but also promote greater educational outcomes. I'm also supportive of expanding subsidies for childcare for our working and middle class families. Childcare is often more expensive than a mortgage. This would not only support families, but also the childcare centers themselves which are also struggling financially amid the ever increasing costs of living, and insurance costs specifically. Finally, I also support programs that specifically expand investments in childcare centers within our rural communities. We have childcare deserts in this district where there are virtually no available options for our families.

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

In addition to working at the federal level to reduce inflation, bring supply chains back home, and invest in American manufacturing and workers, solutions include, but are not limited to, small business tax credit programs,

supporting the efforts of low and moderate income community financial institutions so that small businesses have access to capital, supporting small businesses in reducing energy costs, and, finally, continuing efforts to decrease health care costs.

