

## **Rep. Tom Kunse, House District 100**

- 1. Why are you interested in serving the people, families, and businesses in northern Michigan?**
    - The 100<sup>th</sup> District is the most economically depressed district in the State. We have Appalachian levels of poverty in some communities. I have seen firsthand that CTE gives opportunities to students that are nothing short of lifechanging. They can remain in the area, working in a skilled trade, at a sustainable wage.
    - As a small business owner of over 30 years, I know that the government screws up most everything we touch. We should have a low, simple tax rate to encourage development.
    - I would also advocate for Lansing to quit picking “winners and losers”. The government should be small, local and transparent.
  
  - 2. Describe three statewide strategies/policies that you would support to enhance economic growth in the region.**
    - Lower the income tax rate
    - Establish a standard tax credit for job creation. It doesn't matter if it is 500 jobs, or 5 jobs. The credit per job should be the same.
    - Road Funding: I propose to remove the sales tax from gas and diesel – BUT increase the road tax by an equivalent amount. This would be revenue neutral to consumers but would directly allocate \$1.1B annually for road funding. It removes some flexibility from the budgeting process, but that is acceptable.
    - Base funding for State universities on how many of their graduates remain in the State. It is an investment; we should maximize our return.
  
  - 3. Describe the policies that you see being the most effective/ineffective at addressing the housing shortage in our region**
    - Effective:
      - Lowering property taxes
      - Reduce zoning regulations
      - Increase mixed use areas (apartments above retail, etc)
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- Lowering permit fees and utility connection fees.
- Ineffective:
  - Govt owned housing

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

- Job creation. People leave because of a lack of job opportunities. It is that simple. We need to create jobs, and let the market reflect on the opportunities available.
- Again, we need to support the Universities that are providing talent for the State. If a university has a disproportionate number of students leaving the State, they are not being responsive to our needs, and it should be reflected in their funding.

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

- Allow immediate family members to provide childcare with very minimum state regulation. This will increase supply and decrease costs.
- We have recently added unnecessary regulations on day care centers that have resulted in increased costs. Get the government out of the way.

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

- This is a Federal issue:
  - We need to stop printing money, as the National Debt is going to cause an economic correction.
- At the State level, we can only look to be as business friendly as possible. A simple low tax rate, and a low barrier to founding a company here.