

Rep Dave Prestin, House District 108

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

Since I first began to run for State Representative in the 108th District, my primary goal has been to elevate the ability of families and businesses to thrive. As a former small business owner, I've watched the government make life impossibly difficult for people to provide essential services to their communities. I believe that my record demonstrates my dedication to reigning in the government so business owners can provide their essential services free from government interference. I plan to continue what I have done so far and to pursue more policies that allow the Upper Peninsula, Northern Michigan, and rural Michigan to thrive.

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

Most importantly, I believe we need to reduce the overwhelming regulatory burden that business owners face, and actively repeal policies that restrict small business growth. I also support investing state resources in our communities to help get projects off the ground that can't be supported at the local level. I also support policies that will help encourage young people to stay here and to move to the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan, so we can expand the talent pool so that companies new and old have the workforce they need to be competitive.

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

Policies that promote housing across Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula varies dramatically, and the needs in each district are unique. One thing that they have in common is the need for more housing supply. In the eastern portion of the 108th District, that includes things like improving the ability for locally produced lumber to be used to build single family homes. In communities near our larger population centers, that means supporting necessary infrastructure projects like connecting Wells Township to Escanaba's water and sewer infrastructure so new apartment buildings and

homes can be built, as much of the available land is currently dedicated to septic drainage fields. We must also oppose counterproductive building regulations. Proposals that would mandate sprinkler systems installed in every new home or that would require the use of energy efficient windows, doors, insulation, etc. would continue to make homes less affordable to build. We need to be sure to embrace affordability with cost effective building products and to bring back incentives for first time homebuyers. I also support policies that would provide tax incentives and low-interest loans for those building new homes.

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

One of our most underutilized resources in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan are our community colleges. Supporting our community colleges so they can provide education and workforce training to the young people who live up here is the critical first part. To help ensure that they stay, we need to lean into what makes our communities great while eliminating barriers that many young families see. In the 108th District, that means embracing in-home childcare, expanding access to fast and reliable internet, improving access to public services, and protecting and improving access to healthcare.

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

Protecting in-home childcare providers is essential in rural communities throughout the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan. With communities so spread out, center-based childcare isn't usually as much of an option in the 108th District as it may be elsewhere. Helping to create an environment where a parent can have the option to stay at home, watch a few extra kids, and earn a few dollars doing so, while not facing unnecessary scrutiny from multiple state departments in the process, is essential. Barriers to entry for those providing this essential service to their neighbors is far too high, and it should be no surprise to anyone who looks at the regulations that we're in this dilemma.

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

Looking to the future, one of the most important things that we can do is ensure that businesses have access to affordable and reliable energy. Michigan's green energy mandate will likely mean rising costs for most businesses. I support an energy policy that makes use of every form of electric generation. Proper use of wind and solar can supplement our energy grid to reduce costs during peak hours, but we must ensure that base fuels can still be used, so we can keep the costs down and reliability of the grid

high. Additionally, it's important to reiterate the need to get government out of the way. It was the overregulation of my business which was part of the reason I decided to sell. Reigning in the bureaucracies and their order authority, and repealing counterproductive regulations are essential to giving small businesses the breathing room they need so they can focus on the products and services they offer our region.

