

## **Rep. Joseph Fox, House District 101**

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

I have lived and raised my family in northern and Western Michigan for most of my life. I have a strong desire to see this area thrive for the sake of future generations of Michiganders.

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

- A strong emphasis on career and technical training to meet the demands presently and in the future.
- A focus on enhancing and maintaining our infrastructure throughout the region.
- A reliance upon fossil fuels, in particular natural gas, and not upon experimental solar and wind sources of energy.

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

Policies that focus on the idea that the government alone can fix the shortage are most ineffective. We need the combined efforts and partnership of businesses, builders, and the government to respond to the needs. We need to also stress having strong infrastructure in place to accommodate the new housing needs.

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

A positive emphasis upon the numerous amenities (nature, fishing, hunting, hiking, trails, etc.) available to all who live and visit. The pace and quality of life that is very different and conducive to raising families, i.e., less hectic and stressful.

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

Is childcare the real question? The most affordable and best quality childcare takes place with the parents. If the question is one of increasing parents in the workforce, then we will need to grow and develop businesses that place the needs of children and parents above the bottom line. This will require flexibility in hours and on-site or nearby childcare. We could also help parents greatly if we would move toward policies as a state and a nation that do not cause inflation, higher gas prices, and more stress on the family income.

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

- Return to being energy independent as a nation.
- Develop legislation that favors the business and the worker, e.g., leave our minimum wage system to the market, not government control; allow tipping to remain as is in restaurants, and; avoid arbitrary laws that regulate sick days for part-time employees.
- Encourage robust competition in the supply chain.

