

Lisa Trombley, House District 103

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

Michigan is the best of the 50 states, but as good as it is, businesses and families face a variety of challenges. I believe thriving businesses and good jobs are the way to economic recovery. I want to leverage my experience to be an advocate for (Northern) Michigan businesses in Lansing to empower them to do what they know best, as well as invest in and enable the underlying economic ecosystem to improve everyone's quality of life.

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

Northern Michigan is blessed with a vibrant and mature economic ecosystem. Even though Detroit is the #1 tourist destination, I support fully funding Pure Michigan, because there is value to the northern Michigan economy, particularly if there is some matching of local business or private funds. Economic growth can also be enabled by strategic investments via MEDC, PPPs, etc., in infrastructure or regional priorities and/or growth areas like agritourism or the blue economy/freshwater innovation.

Other strategies to be considered could include minimizing barriers to entry, reducing overly restrictive regulations/mandates and/or taxes (CIT, state income tax) or employing R&D tax credits. Specifically, the legislature must take action to address the MI Supreme Court's recent decision regarding the tip tax credit phase out, PPO and minimum wage provisions of the 2018 law, which will take effect in February and will have a devastating impact on restaurants and other industries across Michigan.

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

This is a complex challenge that will not be solved by state government alone. Funding sources are one challenge. Assessing funding constraints, e.g.,

MSHDA restrictions regarding city water/sewer, particularly in rural or areas immediately adjacent to urban regions, might help identify additional housing development opportunities. Mandates typically raise costs. Are there opportunities to identify/assess reducing building energy regulations or standards that increase cost (assuming no major safety or environmental implications) without commensurate value-add to property owners/managers?

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

In addition to the fabulous natural resources, (Northern) Michigan has diverse and valuable human resources and talent, evidenced by the established and emerging businesses and workforce. Attracting more and retaining the current talent will always be a focus area for businesses in the district. Strategies that provide focus on and appropriate investments in STEM programs and skilled trades can assist in maintaining and evolving the workforce, as well as enabling job training and apprentice programs (or removing unnecessary barriers to them).

Enabling programs that leverage skills from legacy industries, like automotive or pharmaceutical, to support expanding areas, such as defense/aerospace or blue economy, can be effective for retention within the state. Additionally, it's important to support programs like You Can in Michigan and the Going Pro Talent Fund to the extent that they deliver value to our community.

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

Access to childcare is a critical need, and state government is likely a small part of the solution. Quality of care is not negotiable. However, feedback received during this campaign cycle by providers has indicated that a review of the regulations and fees, as well as investigating potential incentives such as tax credits, may be helpful in addressing the gap.

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

State legislators can alleviate some of the inflation pressure by reducing or avoiding additional regulations and mandates on businesses that will add labor costs (e.g., increasing minimum wage, PTO standards, converting/eliminating contractors/1099 employees) or operating costs (e.g., recycling requirements, etc.) Empowering business owners to establish pay,

benefits, etc, appropriate for their employees and markets—particularly during challenging economic times—will likely yield the best employment/economic results.

Supply chain costs are complex and government attempting to weigh in may not yield productive results. That said, transportation/fuel prices are a component wherein being flexible regarding funding the transportation network and controlling fuel prices could yield economic benefits, hopefully as part of an overall affordable, responsible energy policy.

