

Michael Lynch, U.S. Congressional District 2

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

The people, families, and businesses need to be sure that our public schools are protected and properly funded. In many parts of my district access to reliable healthcare is limited. Our natural beauty is one of the many things that make Northern Michigan special. We need to preserve our natural resources, including waterways and lakes (even the great ones).

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

- a. We need to make sure that farmers and ranchers are properly compensated for their produce and livestock. A healthy agricultural economy affects all areas of local economies. We need to create more competition as much of agriculture is closely limited to a few companies.
- b. We need to partner with tourist boards to present Northern Michigan to Americans and Canadians who might know about all Northern Michigan has to offer. I recently worked with the Ministries of Tourism in Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, and Dubai helping them to create strategies to improve tourism.
- c. We need to create more opportunities for entrepreneurs. This can be done through the Small Business Administration. Most of the jobs created in America are created by small business. Small businesses are frequently more innovative. Some of the best ideas come from small businesses.

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

Incentives should be given to contractors to build more affordable housing, including what are frequently referred to as “starter homes”. Regulations need to be in place to restrict the purchase of affordable housing by investment funds. Incentives should be made available to first time home buyers.

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

I recently attended an event at Central Michigan University. When the 300 or so students were asked how many of them planned to leave the state upon graduation, about 25% raised their hands. The availability of good paying jobs, affordable housing and affordable, reliable childcare will encourage talent to come to Michigan and/or to stay. Many people are looking to relocate to Michigan because of the changes they are seeing in the climates where they live. We need to be ready to take advantage of the talent pool that will create.

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

By setting a proper minimum wage, more employees will consider working at a childcare center. Of course, existing regulations should be closely followed for any childcare facility. That being said, the opportunity to open one's home to being a childcare facility might need to be more streamlined.

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

I was very disappointed to see the Representative for District Two, John Moolenaar, vote against the Restaurant Revitalization Act which would have offered relieve to "mom and pop" restaurants that were affected by COVID. Many businesses are unaware of the programs already in place to give them help. We need to do a better job of communicating. Many supply chain issues have resolved themselves. Improved competition between suppliers will help to stifle corporate greed and bring prices down.