

Q & A with the Candidates!

United States Congress

* We did not receive responses from the following candidates: Jerry Cannon and Jeff Holmes

Q1: What is one specific pro-business tax or regulatory reform you will champion if elected?

1ST Dan Benishek : Small business owners across Northern Michigan have told me that overzealous regulations are making it difficult for them to grow and expand, making it difficult to hire. Ultimately, this only hurts working families in Northern Michigan and across the country. In Congress, I have championed a number of regulatory reforms, including the REINs act, which would require Congressional approval of any new major regulations (meaning regulations with an economic impact greater than \$100 million). Without timely approval, the regulation would automatically be not approved. Consent of both the Executive and Legislative branch would help restore balance to the regulatory process, giving a voice to impacted families and small businesses owners in our communities.

4TH John Moolenaar : Our income tax system must be simpler, fairer, flatter, and more growth-oriented. I believe there are several common-sense and bipartisan reforms that can be enacted today that will save American families time and allow them to keep more of their hard earned money, including making Section 179 of the code permanent. I also support repealing the estate tax to provide certainty that family businesses can continue to be passed to future generations.

Q2: Road conditions have become a huge issue for northern Michigan businesses. What solutions do you have to provide sustainable funding for the federal Highway Trust Fund?

1ST Dan Benishek : Investment in our highways and byways are an investment in our future. At the federal, state, and local levels, much work remains to transition Northern Michigan's road systems to a truly modern infrastructure. I am committed to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives on a long-term approach to passing a sustainable, long-term approach to funding the Highway Trust Fund for the future.

4TH John Moolenaar : In federal transportation policy, as well as many other areas, one of our biggest problems has been trying to do too much. Over a quarter of Highway Trust Fund dollars go to non-highway, and sometime non-transportation, projects. I believe that, especially when dealing with a user fee, as some have proposed, the federal government has the responsibility to give people what they have been paying for with gas taxes before asking them to chip in even more. Prioritizing actual highway and bridge projects will go a long way towards achieving our goals.

Q3: The cost of energy and health care are major issues for job providers in nearly every sector of the economy in northern Michigan. What specifically will you do to address both of those concerns?

1ST Dan Benishek : If you talk to nearly any business owner in Northern Michigan, they will cite high energy prices and health care as obstacles to growing or expanding their companies. The same is true for families

and seniors trying to manage their monthly budgets. In Congress, I have worked with my colleagues on expanding access to all forms of energy on federal lands as an effort to drive down costs. In addition, I have supported cost-effective sustainable energy solutions right here in Northern Michigan. As a doctor, I have seen first hand how the increasing cost of health care can impact both a business owner and the consumer. In Congress, I have worked on alternatives to the President's health care law, as well as changes within the existing legislation, that will work to keep prices down and health care options between a doctor and the patient.

4TH John Moolenaar : Energy costs continue to put a squeeze on family budgets and the economy. We must become an energy independent nation. Energy independence will help guarantee both our safety and our prosperity. As a Member of Congress, I will work towards implementing a comprehensive, workable plan for long-term energy independence. We have to explore, we have to conserve, and we have to pursue responsible development of our energy resources including: natural gas, oil, nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, clean coal, biodiesel, and biomass. It really must be an all-of-the-above strategy. Additionally, the health care law, the Affordable Care Act, represents an unprecedented expansion of federal power and intrusion into the lives of American citizens. It needs to be repealed. In the Michigan Legislature, I fought against Obamacare's health care exchanges and Medicaid expansion. If elected, I will work to repeal and replace Obamacare with free market solutions that build a better healthcare system for all. I support selling insurance across state lines, encouraging the use of medical savings accounts, and enacting tort reform. Health care in America should be about choice. At its core, it is about American families having the ability to choose the health care plan that best meets their needs.

Q4: If elected, what do you hope to accomplish in the next Congress?

1ST Dan Benishek : As a doctor for over thirty years, I was always focused on improving the health of my patients. In Congress, my approach is similar-I will support policies that create opportunities for families and seniors that live and work in Northern Michigan to prosper. I want all who are blessed to live in this beautiful area to have a shot at the American Dream, and, working together, I believe we can achieve that.

4TH John Moolenaar : If elected, achieving sustained economic growth and creating jobs in Michigan will be my number one priority in Congress. My plan for getting our economy moving again includes the following: repealing and replacing the most egregious provisions in the health care bill so small and large businesses alike are not crushed by skyrocketing health care costs and taxes and penalties; lowering the tax burden on all American families and businesses, and reforming our broken tax code to eliminate winners and losers while also providing incentives to keep investments in the United States; getting energy prices under control; enforcing our trade laws so other countries do not have an unfair advantage when competing with our workers; and investing in our workers and in Research and Development.