Dear Neighbor,

I am pleased to say that since taking office, I have personally held public, local office hours every month and in every county that I represent in Northern Michigan. Coming into this position, I made a commitment to never forget where I came from and to never forget the people I serve.

I believe that government needs to be held more accountable, and that starts by staying accessible, listening, explaining my votes and staying true to my core principles.

My staff and I are committed to serving you with integrity and staying accessible.

Whether you have questions or concerns regarding legislation or you are encountering problems while navigating state government, please never hesitate to contact me.

Thank you very much,

LEE CHATFIELD
State Representative
107th District

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www.RepChatfield.com
Rep. Chatfield and a group of legislators recently introduced a 10-bill package that will create the Legislative Open Records Act (LORA), demanding more transparency from the legislative and executive branches of government.

"Transparency is about people, and I don't believe people can have faith in their government if it fails to set an example for honesty and openness," said Rep. Chatfield. Last November, the Center for Public Integrity published a survey that slapped Michigan with an 'F' grade for transparency and ethics in government. The survey's authors cited "dead-last Michigan" has failed to adopt the types of ethics and open records laws common in many other states. The proposed plan (House Bills 5469-78) will create LORA as part of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), to remove barriers to transparency and give the public better access to internal documents and records within both the governor's office and state Legislature.

"Our state government shouldn't operate in secrecy, and I am reminded of my grandfather's cautionary advice growing up: 'people do what you inspect – not what you expect.' It has also been said that sunshine is the best astringent for a cure. So, it is time that we let the sunshine in and it's time that we set a new standard in the state of Michigan, not just for ourselves, but for future legislators and future administrations," said Chatfield.

Chatfield Working to Create Sales Tax Holidays in Michigan

Under new legislation introduced by Rep. Chatfield, consumers across Michigan may soon purchase back-to-school clothing and school supplies without having to pay the six percent state sales tax on those items. The bill would also allow for the tax-free purchase of camping, fishing and hunting equipment, and Pure Michigan products.

"I believe hard-working parents deserve a break, and this bill will be a boost for tourism and outdoor recreation which are driving forces in Northern Michigan and our statewide economy," Rep. Chatfield said.

Helping Northern Michigan Families Get Ahead

Better paying jobs for the people of Northern Michigan has been my number one priority since taking office. From tourism to small businesses, I am looking for ways to repeal and deregulate unnecessary laws to encourage new job opportunities in our local communities. While Michigan's unemployment rate is now the lowest in 15 years, our state has a way to go in order to build a lasting foundation for long-term economic growth and stability. The truth is that many families are still struggling. Government must continue to pursue policies that create a pro-jobs environment, and we must not repeat the failed policies of the past that killed jobs and drove our economy into the ground.

Chatfield Fighting to Make Governor and Legislature More Accountable

Legislative Report

My primary concern in the Legislature is securing your rights, making government accountable and promoting the general welfare of the people of this state. I am guided by the Michigan Constitution every day. You, your family and our future are my greatest concern in each vote I cast. Here are just a few of the issues and current pieces of legislation that I am working on:

- **SPENDING:** Clean up the budget mess by ending millions of dollars in film subsidies and prohibiting extending tax credits that we can't afford (HB 4333, 4122)
- **FAMILIES:** Protect children and respect parental authority by fighting President Obama's and the State Board of Education's plans to allow boys and girls to use whatever bathroom or shower they want at school
- **TOURISM:** Boost Northern Michigan's economy by establishing a weekend when people can purchase camping, fishing and hunting equipment tax-free (HB 5428)
- **GUNS:** Defend 2nd Amendment rights by holding government officials accountable for violating the Constitution (HB 4795)
- **EDUCATION:** Establish more local control by repealing Common Core in Michigan and securing funding equity for Northern Michigan schools (HB 5444, Proposed FY 2017 School Aid Budget)


STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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