

Candidate to be Included on Slate

Michigan Chapter, American Planning Association

Position – At Large Board Member

Christopher Germain, AICP

260675

CANDIDATE'S POSITION STATEMENT

I am honored to seek re-election to the MAP Board of Directors, and after three years of service I intend to seek the leadership track. A second term qualifies me for the ascendancy path, and that's the contribution I think I can best make from here.

These have been three substantive years for MAP. The board made a real choice to push for a stronger voice for planning at the state level, and that work is now well underway—with state agencies, with peer state associations, and with Michigan's planning and development regions. Continuity matters here. This kind of agenda takes years to land, and turnover at the wrong moment is how good initiatives quietly stall. I also think I bring a useful vantage point. Serving as CEO of the Lake Superior Community Partnership has placed me at the daily intersection of planning, economic development, housing, workforce, energy, and healthcare—and those issues play out differently in the rural U.P. than they do downstate. Through the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance and through direct work with the Legislature and state agencies, I've built working relationships in Lansing that I expect will only become more useful as MAP grows its policy presence. I also try, genuinely, to see more than one side of an issue. I'd rather find the durable answer than the loud one.

In the spirit of being upfront: my partner and I are relocating to Midland this year, and I'm working on my next role. Whatever it ends up being, I fully intend to stay in economic development or planning. I also want to be honest that leaving the U.P. doesn't erase a decade of work in and on this region—I'll continue to carry more insight on U.P. priorities than most, and I plan to keep that perspective at the table for as long as it's useful.

One last point. MAP needs to keep a direct economic development voice on the board. Planning and economic development are sister fields, and each is weaker without the other. Planning makes investment, housing, and opportunity possible; economic development gives planning real-world stakes and partners at the table. I'd like to keep bridging those communities through MAP, and I'd be grateful for the chance to do so on the leadership track. Thank you for your consideration.

Work Experience

- 2022 – Present | Chief Executive Officer, Lake Superior Community Partnership, Marquette, MI
- 2016 – 2022 | RRC Planner / Senior RRC Planner, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Statewide
- 2012 – 2016 | Planner – Materials Management, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Northeast Ohio

Education & Accreditations

- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), 2014 – Current; Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP), 2020 – Current
- Master of City and Regional Planning, The Ohio State University, 2012; Bachelor of Public Administration, Northern Michigan University, 2008
- Citizen Planner & Zoning Administrator Certificates, MSU Extension, 2017; Certificate in GIS, Columbus State Community College, 2012

Current Affiliations

Michigan Association of Planning (Board Member, 2023 – Present); American Planning Association; Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance (Vice Chair); U.P. Economic Development Alliance; Michigan Economic Developers Association; Community Economic Development Association of Michigan.