

Candidate to be Included on Slate

Michigan Chapter

Board Member at Large

Lenny Avery

Chapter Only Member 2000839811

Position Statement

My background is rooted not in traditional land use planning, but in the community-level systems and relationships that make planning successful. I come to this role with deep experience in community advocacy, nonprofit leadership, and public-sector coordination—particularly in rural and underserved regions of Michigan.

As an Economic Development Coordinator and former nonprofit executive, I've led cross-county initiatives that bring together local governments, marginalized populations, and public agencies to address housing, economic, and infrastructure challenges. I've served as a bridge between state policy and local need, working hands-on with municipalities, land banks, and regional housing programs to deliver real-world results in complex environments.

This planning-adjacent experience—grounded in implementation, equity, and coalition-building—brings a different but highly relevant lens to the MAP Board. I understand the limitations local governments face and the barriers many communities experience in accessing resources. I also understand how effective planning can be a tool for justice, inclusion, and resilience when rooted in genuine community engagement.

If elected, I will bring this practitioner's perspective to the MAP Board, advocating for greater inclusion of voices often left out of planning discussions and helping MAP strengthen its presence and relevance in rural, low-income, and historically marginalized communities. I believe MAP's next chapter must include stronger cross-sector collaboration—and I'm ready to help lead that work.

Work Experience

2023 – Present	Economic Development Coordinator	Alpena, MI
2019 – 2023	Executive Director / Chief Financial Officer	Lincoln, MI
2015 – 2019	Social & Community Health Worker	Mid-Michigan
2014 – 2015	Youth Care Worker	Buena Vista, MI

Education

Central Michigan University	Master of Public Administration
Southeastern Louisiana University	Bachelor of Arts, Government (Political Science emphasis)

Achievements & Affiliations

Certified Economic Developer (CEcD)

Regional Housing Lead, Statewide Housing Initiative

Community Health Worker and Master Trainer

Certified Peer Recovery Coach

Developer of Multi-County Housing Plan and Land Bank

Minister & Pastor

Experienced grant writer and regional liaison for state and federal housing programs