

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 3:52:34 PM
Last Modified: Friday, August 28, 2020 2:08:30 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 24.189.252.81

Page 1

Q1

Name:

Bryan Berghoef

Q2

Email:

ben@bryanberghoef.com

Q3

District:

Michigan 2nd Congressional District

Page 2

Q4

In 2018, there were 65,104 individuals who experienced literal homelessness in Michigan, including families with young children, unaccompanied youth, veterans, and seniors. What can you tell us about the issue of homelessness in your district (causes, related issues, and solutions)?

Homelessness is on the rise in West Michigan. There are many reasons, but the growing gap between stagnant wages and rising rents is a major cause. The shortage of affordable housing, and obstacles to building more, are additional major factors.

Holland, MI, despite having some of the best economic growth in the state, still sees low income families spending more than half their paychecks on housing, as rent outstrips inflation. As representative, I will fight for a living minimum wage, and index it to median wage growth.

To address the low-income housing shortage on the federal level, I support expanding and strengthening the Affordable Housing Tax Credit. Allocation of the credit is a state issue, but I would urge the Michigan State Housing Development Association to ensure it's process does not unfairly favor big cities and major developers. I also support increasing funding to the National Housing Trust Fund.

Substance abuse and mental health are also major contributors to homelessness. This speaks to our broken health care system. As congressman, I will support affordable and accessible health care, including strong public options.

Homeless was a problem before the mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic, and I am afraid it will be worse now. Republicans have refused to contain COVID-19 with science-based solutions, preventing Michiganders from getting back to work safely, and forcing more families out onto the street due to unpaid rent. I support effective solutions like those enacted by Gov. Whitmer that will contain COVID-19 and let Michigan get back to work responsibly.

Q5

How important do you feel it is to find solutions to housing insecurity and homelessness for your district?

(no label)

Very Important

Q6

Each Michigan county develops its own plan to end homelessness and provides services that assist those at-risk of, or currently experiencing, homelessness. Check as many local resources used to assist those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness that you are familiar with

**Food Banks,
Homeless and/or domestic violence shelters,
Housing Vouchers**

Q7

Homelessness can happen to anyone -- with many households just three paychecks away from losing their home. Select the top 5 issues that you believe are causes of homelessness:

**Addiction and/or substance use disorder,
Inadequate health care and/or insurance,
Inadequate income,
Lack of employment,
Lack of safe, affordable housing units**

Q8

I would focus on solutions for everyone

MCAH supports solutions to prevent and end homelessness that will assist as many people as possible, but also recognize that certain demographics may require unique solutions to preventing and ending their homelessness. If elected, what are the top 3 subpopulations you would prioritize?

Page 3

Q9

The majority of funding and policy decisions that affect Michigan homelessness comes from Congress. If elected, which of these potential solutions to prevent and end homelessness for Michigan individuals and families would you support (select all that apply):

Advance fair housing,

Champion anti-poverty solutions, including expanding EITC, SNAP, CHIP, TANF, Medicare/Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, etc

,

Oppose changes that limit access to vulnerable populations, including immigrants and LGBTQ+ individuals

,

Provide protections against discriminatory practices for those experiencing homelessness

Q10

We are in the middle of an Affordable Housing crisis. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines Affordable Housing as a unit that a household can obtain for 30% or less of its gross income. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) annually reports the number of households that are 'cost burdened,' or paying more than 30% of their income on housing (2020 Out Of Reach). In 2020, NLIHC found there were only 9 counties in Michigan where a full-time worker earning minimum wage can afford to rent a 2 bedroom unit at Fair Market Rent without being cost burdened. Select the top 5 solutions you believe will increase access to affordable housing, including developing new units, expanding access to new rental units, and/or increasing access to home ownership:

Reform the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to better serve households with greatest need

,

Support trade skills and encourage the return of builders to Michigan

,

Protect and expand the national Housing Trust Fund

Page 4

Q11

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| The government is sufficiently addressing the issue of homelessness in my district. | Strongly Disagree |
| People who work full-time have a right to affordable housing for themselves and their families. | Agree |
| There is a role for government to increase the availability of affordable housing in the United States. | Agree |
| The United States has the tools to help the people experiencing homelessness out of poverty. | Agree |
| The government has a responsibility to reverse the impact of historical housing policies targeting Black communities. | Agree |
| Non-governmental service providers are adequate in dealing with homelessness. | Strongly Disagree |
-

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

COVID-19 will have a long-term impact on low-income households. The state allocated \$60 million from the CARES Act to support rental assistance and eviction diversion programming. MSHDA estimates this will only provide assistance for 20,000-25,000 households through December 2020. What additional actions would you support the state take to make sure low-income households are able to stay in their homes?

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Please share any additional thoughts or concerns with regards to housing instability, homelessness and affordable housing availability in the state of Michigan, specifically any action you would be interested in taking at the Congressional level.

Q14

Yes

If elected, I will champion the issues of housing affordability and homelessness:
