

#24

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Q1

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Q2

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Q3

District:

House District 39

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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)?

According to the map provided in Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness’s 2018 report, the region of Michigan that includes Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb counties has the highest percentage of homelessness in the state. House District 39 is within Oakland County. Homelessness is largely an invisible problem in this district as there are no densely populated downtown areas where one might see homeless people sleeping on the streets or standing next to the road appealing for assistance. Unfortunately, absent these stereotypical images of homelessness, some might assume it is not a problem in this area. That is not true, however. All of the causes of homelessness -- including job insecurity, financial ruin due to illness or injury, addiction disease, undiagnosed and/or untreated mental illness, unemployment benefits expiring -- have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 epidemic. Early in the pandemic my volunteers and I talked to people in the district who were seeking food assistance for the first time in their lives and to others who worried about being able to stay in their homes as their jobs had disappeared. I remain steadfast in my commitment to core Democratic values including protecting our most vulnerable populations, ensuring access to health care (including mental health care, reproductive care, optometry, and dentistry), strengthening the collective bargaining power of unions and the right for workers to form unions, ensuring affordable housing, repairing the gaping holes in our social safety net, and fully funding public schools. All of these measures touch on causes and solutions to homelessness and making sure everyone in Michigan has a place to call home.

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

Central Point of Intake Agency (Housing Assessment Resource Agency)

,
Continuum of Care/Local Planning Body,

Eviction diversion programs,

Energy assistance and/or home weatherization programs

,
Food Banks,

Homeless and/or domestic violence shelters,

Housing Vouchers,

Hotel/Motel Vouchers,

Legal Aid,

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH),

Public Housing Authority,

Street outreach,

Other (please specify):

I am an registered nurse and spent part of my career as a case manager so I am familiar with these resources.

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,**
 - Foreclosures and/or evictions,**
 - Inadequate income,**
 - Lack of identifying documents (ex. birth certificate, state ID, etc.)**
 - ,**
 - Lack of safe, affordable housing units**
-

Q8

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?

I would focus on solutions for everyone

Q9

While Congress guides much of the funding and solutions for homelessness, Michigan's legislature has the opportunity to enact proven policy to make it easier for individuals and families to have access to safe and affordable housing. If elected, which of these potential state-level legislative solutions to preventing and ending homelessness would you support (select all that apply):

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

,

Create and expand eviction diversion programs,

Create avenues for formerly incarcerated individuals to access housing

,

Create new renters tax credit,

Create source of income protections and mobility opportunities

,

Declare housing as a human right / create a homeless bill of rights

,

End the criminalization of homelessness,

Expand job training programs,

Increase funding for Emergency Shelter Programs,

Increase funding for homeless service providers,

Increase minimum wage,

Provide protections against discriminatory practices for those experiencing homelessness

,

Reform eviction practices, including record sealing, credit reporting, establishing right to counsel, and/or creating an eviction database

,

Remove statewide prohibition against rent control,

Reinstate individual tax deductions for shelters and food banks

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:

- Create incentives for landlords and property managers to make existing units affordable**
- ,
- Increase Public Housing Authority resources,**
- Create and fund a risk mitigation fund for landlords who rent to low-income or voucher holders**
- ,
- 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**

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
Communities are 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.	Strongly Agree
People have a personal responsibility to work and be self-sufficient in order to obtain affordable housing.	Strongly Disagree
There is a role for government to increase the availability of affordable housing in the United States.	Strongly Agree
Federal policy should move towards deregulation to increase local innovation with initiatives like Section 8 and Fair Market Rent.	Undecided
The inclusion of strict work requirements to receive certain benefits (housing vouchers, SNAP, Medicaid) will have a positive impact on homelessness.	Strongly Disagree
The United States has the tools to help the people experiencing homelessness out of poverty.	Strongly Agree
The free market is the most effective tool to address homelessness.	Strongly Disagree
The government has a responsibility to reverse the impact of historical housing policies targeting Black communities.	Strongly Agree
Non-governmental service providers are adequate in dealing with homelessness.	Strongly Disagree

Q12

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?

Additional funds for eviction diversion and rental assistance
,
Additional funding to support small landlords,
Eviction moratorium extensions or renewal,
Restrictions on late fees/penalties,
Sealing of eviction records related to COVID-19

Q13

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

I support additional supports for our aging population to get in-home care for their custodial needs.

Q14

Yes

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