

# #10

COMPLETE

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## Q1

Name:

Peter Meijer

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## Q2

Email:

peter.meijer@votemeijer.com

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## Q3

District:

MI-03

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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)?

Grand Rapids has an apparent homelessness problem, and the issue has exacerbated since COVID started. And the same is true across the rest of the district. As folks lose their jobs, their homes, and their livelihoods, unfortunately, there are those left homeless. There must be a solution to this problem. For one, I believe we must support churches, non-profits, and other organizations that offer temporary housing to homeless individuals so that these people have short-term solutions. But in the long-term, we must find ways to bring jobs, opportunities for affordable housing, and in certain cases mental health assistance for individuals who are currently homeless. This all includes a safe COVID reopening plan that continues to promote vaccine research while allowing certain sectors of our society and economy to reopen so long as they adhere to the social distancing norms of the present. As people lose their jobs due to COVID shutdowns, it is important that we find a solution that protects people's health while allowing for these individuals to get back to their jobs, so that the risk of going homeless is decreased.

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**Q5**

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

(no label)

**Very Important**

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**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,**  
Other (please specify):  
Support for businesses to expand job opportunities, promoting non-profits and churches who offer temporary housing

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**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:

**Foreclosures and/or evictions,**  
**Inadequate health care and/or insurance,**  
**Lack of employment,**  
**Lack of support network,**  
**Mental health disorder**

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**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?

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**I would focus on solutions for everyone**

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**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):

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**Respondent skipped this question**

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**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:

- Encourage communities to create their own housing trust fund
- ,
- Reform zoning regulations that reduce the supply of housing on the market
- ,
- Support efforts to create more workforce housing, Support trade skills and encourage the return of builders to Michigan
- ,
- Support public private partnerships for new housing developments
- ,
- Increase resources to build and preserve housing in tribal and rural areas

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**Q11**

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

Respondent skipped this question

**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?

Respondent skipped this question

**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 action you would be interested in taking at the Congressional level.

Respondent skipped this question

**Q14**

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

Yes