

#30

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, September 28, 2020 12:40:15 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, September 28, 2020 12:59:49 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:19:33  
**IP Address:** 73.18.186.10

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Name:

Mari Manoogian

---

**Q2**

Email:

mari@mariformi.com

---

**Q3**

District:

40

---

---

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)?

While recognizing that it is likely lower in the 40th district than in other areas of Oakland County or of our state as a whole, our district does have a growing set of issues with homelessness, particularly in West Bloomfield. In recent days, I believe that the unemployment situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic has increased our district's issue with homelessness, and my staff and I have worked with several individuals experiencing homelessness to assist them in finding temporary shelter and resources in order to find permanent housing and, eventually, employment. The communities in our district do have issues surrounding our homeless population, including anti-homeless architecture being installed around our downtowns to target rough-sleepers. This has the effect of rough-sleeping individuals often wandering around looking for shelter for the night, which tragically is what ended the life of a homeless constituent just in August when he was struck by a car at night on Woodward Avenue in Birmingham. I do believe, however, that our municipalities and Oakland County at-large has quite a robust program of government resources available to homeless individuals if they are directed properly to those resources, not to mention the non-profit and faith-based resources that our office regularly points constituents towards as helpful resources. There are problems of mobility that could prevent homeless individuals from taking advantage of these resources that I believe should be addressed, which is one reason of many that I am such a strong proponent of a strong regional transit plant for the metro Detroit area.

**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**

**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,
- Domestic abuse and/or personal situation,
- Foreclosures and/or evictions,
- Lack of employment,
- 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?

- LGBTQ youth,
- Sexual assault / human trafficking survivors,
- Foster youth and former foster youth

Page 3

**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,
- 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:

- Allocate permanent, dedicated funding for Michigan's Housing and Community Development Fund**
- ,
- Increase Public Housing Authority resources,**
- Support public private partnerships for new housing developments**
- ,
- 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. **Agree**
- Communities are sufficiently addressing the issue of homelessness in my district. **Agree**
- 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. **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. **Disagree**
- 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. **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.

It is my opinion that the looming, COVID-19-induced eviction crisis will be what leads to the upcoming wave of homelessness to wash over Michigan and our country at-large. This is a blow that can be softened, but policymakers will need to come together to recognize our role in stopping this crisis, both supporting small landlords through this crisis so that eviction is not necessary, while also assisting individuals in crisis who may not have the financial stability to stay in their homes any further. I applaud the Governor on striking a positive balance on this with her Eviction Diversion Program, and believe that this should become the basis for a more just affordable housing policy going forward. I also believe that the fallout from this crisis should be cushioned by putting more funds into local and county-wide CCs and HARAs in order to provide those who are evicted with resources that they can look toward in order to get back on their feet.

Further, I believe that our state must reexamine MCL 123.411 and whether such a prohibition on rent control is appropriate or positive for Michiganders. We have seen colleagues in New York's legislature recently overturn decades of anti-renter, pro-landlord policies, and even they have already had a robust system of rent control. Other states, including New York, have proven that property ownership can still be profitable while being rent-controlled to some level, and it is time that Michigan lawmakers recognize this as well. Frankly, other industries, such as hotels or restaurants, have thin margins, too; there is no excuse that the law must shield property owners' rights to charge whatever they want and let the free market solely determine the value of a housing unit.

---

**Q14**

**Yes**

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

---