

#44

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Q1

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Q3

District:

Michigan House District 53 (Ann Arbor)

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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)?

My district is highly economically segregated, pricing working people out of non-student housing. This is due to three main factors-- not enough affordable housing, not enough public housing/vouchers, and low wages. There is also discrimination by landlords against people using vouchers. I support measures to address all of these, although the supply of housing subsidies is largely controlled at the federal level under the current system. I have introduced legislation to end discrimination by source of income. I also support allowing communities to use rent control or inclusive zoning to increase affordable housing supply. As a county commissioner, I initiated the process to convert the abandoned county-owned property at Platt and Huron River to affordable housing, a project that is ongoing. I also support universal healthcare and a wide range of policies to increase worker compensation from raising the minimum wage to increasing the non-exempt threshold for overtime to ending exploitative misclassification of employees as contractors.

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)

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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):

Youth shelters (Ozone House)

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:

Domestic abuse and/or personal situation,

Foreclosures and/or evictions,

Inadequate health care and/or insurance,

Inadequate income,

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?

Families with children,

People of color / BIPOC,

People with physical and mental disabilities

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 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,

Other (please specify):

Universal healthcare, additional worker protections to increase wage leverage

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

,

Create incentives for landlords and property managers to make existing units affordable

,

Increase Public Housing Authority resources,

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

,

Other (please specify):

Raise household incomes by raising wages and benefits such as SSI

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**
- Eviction moratorium extensions or renewal,**
- Restrictions on late fees/penalties,**
- Sealing of eviction records related to COVID-19,**
- Other (please specify):
we need to seek further federal funding or loans to bail out communities that forgive taxes so that landlords can forgive rent

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 think we need to explore the possibility of providing more direct state funding for housing subsidies and public housing, since the federal funding has been so insufficient that it is literally a lottery. We would need to find new revenue sources, but there have been a lot of corporate tax cuts in the last two decades that could be rolled back. We also should invest even more in abating lead in existing housing-- this will pay off many times over in increased wellbeing for children and reduced disease and disability in adults.

Q14

Yes

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