



Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness 2020 State Candidate Questionnaire

The Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness is a statewide nonprofit membership organization formed as an association of emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, nonprofit housing and service programs, government programs, and concerned citizens from across the state. Our mission is to create a sustainable statewide voice and the infrastructure and systemic change needed to empower communities to end homelessness.

We invite you to complete our brief survey to help us, our members, and the agencies serving the homeless in your district better understand your approach to preventing and ending homelessness. We will be publishing your responses on our website (www.mihomeless.org) and disseminating them to local service providers.

Please complete this survey and return to Laurel Burchfield (Lburchfield@mihomeless.org) by Friday, September 11. You may also complete this survey online at: https://bit.ly/MiHomelessQuestionnaire_State.

Name: Julie M. Rogers

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District: HD 60

1. 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)?**

Unfortunately, homelessness is a major issue in Kalamazoo County. In fact, in 2018, Kalamazoo Public Schools had the highest rate of homeless students, yet we were ranked only the 13th highest school district by population. There is a lack of affordable housing in our county. As a County Commissioner, I voted to place our first homeless millage on the ballot to specifically address homeless families with children. We had the goal of providing housing vouchers for 100 families a year for 6 years and have come close to meeting that goal. This year, I voted to support placing a new, larger and more comprehensive millage on the ballot that expands assistance to individuals without children. If passed, the funds generated from the millage will be utilized to subsidize rents and also expand affordable housing options. The stories I have heard from devastated families have made me realize we need to do more to help our residents, particularly our most vulnerable.

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

Very Important
 Important
 Neutral
 Unimportant
 Very Unimportant

3. 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:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Point of Intake Agency (Housing Assessment Resource Agency/HARA) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Care/Local Planning Body <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eviction diversion program <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy assistance and/or home weatherization programs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Banks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homeless and/or domestic violence shelters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing Vouchers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel Vouchers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Housing Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Street outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____
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4. 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:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Addiction and/or substance use disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal activity and/or record <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic abuse and/or personal situation <input type="checkbox"/> Foreclosures and/or evictions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inadequate health care and/or insurance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inadequate income <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of access to reliable transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of identifying documents (ex. birth certificate, state ID, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of employment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of safe, affordable housing units <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of support network <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental health disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability <input type="checkbox"/> Willingness to work <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____
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5. 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?**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging populations (55+) <input type="checkbox"/> Chronically homeless <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely low income individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Families with children <input type="checkbox"/> Formerly incarcerated individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Foster youth and former foster youth <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ youth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People of color / BIPOC	<input type="checkbox"/> People with physical and mental disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> People with substance use disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual assault / human trafficking survivors <input type="checkbox"/> Single adults <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied youth <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I would focus on solutions for everyone <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____
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6. 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 prevent and end homelessness for Michigan individuals and families would you support (select all that apply):**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Champion anti-poverty solutions, including expanding EITC, SNAP, CHIP, TANF, Medicare/Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, etc <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create and expand eviction diversion programs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create avenues for formerly incarcerated individuals to access housing <input type="checkbox"/> Create new renters tax credit <input type="checkbox"/> Create source of income protections and mobility opportunities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declare housing as a human right / create a homeless bill of rights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> End the criminalization of homelessness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expand job training programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase funding for Emergency Shelter Programs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase funding for homeless service providers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase minimum wage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide protections against discriminatory practices for those experiencing homelessness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reform eviction practices, including record sealing, credit reporting, establishing right to counsel, and/or creating an eviction database <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reinstate individual tax deductions for shelters and food banks <input type="checkbox"/> Remove statewide prohibition against rent control <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____
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7. 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:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allocate permanent, dedicated funding for Michigan's Housing and Community Development Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Capture funding for affordable housing from the hotel tax or real estate transfer tax <input type="checkbox"/> Change the way fair market rent and / or area median income is determined <input type="checkbox"/> Charge penalties for empty units if landlords will not rent to low income households <input type="checkbox"/> Create additional tax incentives for developers to create new units <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create and fund a risk mitigation fund for landlords who rent to low-income or voucher holders <input type="checkbox"/> Create incentives for landlords and property managers to make existing units affordable <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage communities to create their own housing trust fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Public Housing Authority resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reform the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to better serve households with greatest need <input type="checkbox"/> Reform what criteria is used to determine borrowers' access to capital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reform zoning regulations that reduce the supply of housing on the market <input type="checkbox"/> Support efforts to create more workforce housing <input type="checkbox"/> Support public private partnerships for new housing developments <input type="checkbox"/> Support trade skills and encourage the return of builders to Michigan <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____
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8. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

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

9. 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 (select all that apply):**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional funds for eviction diversion and rental assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Rent cancellation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional funding to support small landlords	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrictions on late fees/penalties
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eviction moratorium extensions or renewal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sealing of eviction records related to COVID-19
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____

10. 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.

There are several issues interrelated to homelessness. Healthcare bills are the #1 cause of bankruptcy in the U.S. I will champion improving access to affordable healthcare, including eliminating work requirements to receive Medicaid benefits. Additionally, strengthening and funding workforce development programs, including skilled trades apprenticeship programs can help job seekers find employment and help them afford housing. Lastly, criminal justice reform efforts and re-entry programming aimed at assisting those returning to our communities find supportive housing will help them be successful.

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

Yes No I don't know

Please email your responses and any inquiries about these issues to Laurel Burchfield at lburchfield@mihomeless.org. You can also submit this via our online survey at: https://bit.ly/MIHomelessQuestionnaire_State

Thank you for your time!