

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 12, 2020 1:37:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 12, 2020 1:50:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:11
IP Address: 73.190.20.191

Page 1

Q1

Name:

Chokwe Pitchford

Q2

Email:

chokwefor79th@gmail.com

Q3

District:

79th

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)?

Homelessness can be solved, but as a community must actively work to prevent and end homelessness. Everyone living in Berrien County deserves a safe, affordable home, especially during a pandemic. In 2006, Berrien County had 293 people experiencing homelessness and in 2011 this number increased to 594. This suggests that we need to work together on prevention and intervention by creating awareness and much needed policy changes. The top reasons for homelessness in Berrien County are housing costs and income, unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence, and incarceration. To end homelessness we need to: increase the supply of safe, affordable housing, invest in programs for consumer education, skill development, and employment opportunities, increase transitional housing units, and increase services to people with disabilities, addictions, and mental health disorders.

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,

Food Banks,

Homeless and/or domestic violence shelters,

Housing Vouchers,

Hotel/Motel Vouchers,

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,

Inadequate income,

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?

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:

- 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 what criteria is used to determine borrowers' access to capital**
- ,
- 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. **Disagree**
- 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. **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. **Agree**
- The inclusion of strict work requirements to receive certain benefits (housing vouchers, SNAP, Medicaid) will have a positive impact on homelessness. **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. **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. **Agree**

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,**
- Rent cancellation,**
- 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.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has wreaked havoc on our economy, working families, and people experiencing homelessness. Chokwe believes people in Michigan need more federal relief to get through these hard times. As your next State Rep, he will fight to make sure you get what you deserve. No one should go bankrupt or homeless because of a pandemic they can't control.

Q14

Yes

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