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Q1

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Q2

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Q3

District:

89th

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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)?

The issues of homelessness across Western Michigan goes unnoticed. A family isn't going to stand on a street corner saying I am homeless. The cause can have many litigating factors including, lack of work, unaffordable rent, no family or availability to obtain help, to name a few of the issues contributing to homelessness. Mental Health availability is limited, thus making it difficult to reach those in need and address their needs. I believe one solution could be a correlation of services to address all needs, homelessness, mental health, and employment. We have agencies but lack the continuum of care part of the process. Children under the age of 18, are unnoticed as being homeless. I believe this happens because to much information is required to help young adults in the manner they need.

Education, housing and mental health are areas that need support to meet the demands of the homelessness.

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

Continuum of Care/Local Planning Body,
Energy assistance and/or home weatherization programs
,
Food Banks,
Homeless and/or domestic violence shelters,
Housing Vouchers,
Hotel/Motel Vouchers,
Legal Aid,
Public Housing Authority,
Street outreach,
Other (please specify):
Community Action Agency / Communtiy Action 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:

Addiction and/or substance use disorder,
Domestic abuse and/or personal situation,
Inadequate health care and/or insurance,
Lack of identifying documents (ex. birth certificate, state ID, etc.)
,
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?

People with substance use disorder,
Sexual assault / human trafficking survivors,
Chronically homeless

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

,

Increase funding for homeless service providers,

Provide protections against discriminatory practices for those experiencing homelessness

,

Other (please specify):

It is equally important to address the misuse of funds by individuals, that can be used to help homelessness families, and persons.

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:

Capture funding for affordable housing from the hotel tax or real estate transfer tax

,

Change the way fair market rent and / or area median income is determined

,

Increase Public Housing Authority resources,

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. **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. **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. **Strongly Disagree**
- The United States has the tools to help the people experiencing homelessness out of poverty. **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. **Agree**
- Non-governmental service providers are adequate in dealing with homelessness. **Disagree**

Q12

Additional funds for eviction diversion and rental assistance

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?

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.

Knowledge is power. Sometimes the problem is lack of ability to understand the concept of homelessness. The what, where, how questions and formulate a process that will work for the population of homelessness, not a one shoe fits all. Being of Hispanic culture, and my husband is African American, I have an understanding of how cultural competency comes into play when working with homelessness. This is something that needs to be provided as an educational tool for state legislature. Identifying not the person but the situation, addressing all needs not just housing. But, the components to maintain affordable housing.

Q14

Yes

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