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Q1

Name:

Celia Young-Wenkel

Q2

Email:

young-wenkel@gmail.com

Q3

District:

97th District

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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)?

Our district is rural and poor. We don't have enough acceptable, affordable housing. Nor do we have shelters district wide. Our child well-being scores according to the Casey Foundation are as follows: Arenac County 37, Gladwing County 72, Oscela mid-60's and Clare County 78. These are rankings out of 83 counties. I am retired from DHHS, so I understand the economic issues facing our district. I worked in Clare County for five years and Arenac County for 22 years. Substance abuse is a huge issue in our district. I would fight to decriminalize the illness that is substance abuse. Fines and jail time, etc. results in poverty. When people are unable to pay the fines and lose jobs because of jail time they get more jail time or fines and on it goes. Earned sick leave would be a solution. I had earned sick leave from my job so when I was a single parent and my daughter got sick, my car broke down, and my furnace quit running. I was able to use my earned leave time to do what needed to be done. For many people that day would have meant the loss of their job and no way to pay to fix the car and the furnace. We need to raise the minimum wage. The current minimum wage doesn't cover the cost of housing in our district. We need to make reliable, affordable daycare available for families with young children. I would maintain the medicaid expansion and Colorado recently voted to put a 100 dollar cap on insulin costs for one month, I would fight for similar legislation in Michigan.

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,

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,

Other (please specify):

substance abuse and mental health treatment.

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 access to reliable transportation,

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,**
- Expand job training programs,**
- Increase funding for Emergency Shelter Programs,**
- Increase minimum wage,**
- 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:

- Capture funding for affordable housing from the hotel tax or real estate transfer tax**
- ,
- Create incentives for landlords and property managers to make existing units affordable**
- ,
- Reform what criteria is used to determine borrowers' access to capital**
- ,
- Reform zoning regulations that reduce the supply of housing on the market**
- ,
- Create additional tax incentives for developers to create new units**
- ,
- Create and fund a risk mitigation fund for landlords who rent to low-income or voucher holders**
- ,
- Reform the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to better serve households with greatest need**

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. **Agree**
- 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. **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**
- Additional funding to support small landlords,**
- Eviction moratorium extensions or renewal,**
- Restrictions on late fees/penalties**

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.

Decriminalizing poverty.

Q14

Yes

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