

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS

**Name**

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District

10th Congressional District

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

Very Important

2. Check as many local resources used to assist those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness that you are familiar with:

Eviction diversion program

Energy assistance and/or home weatherization programs

Food Banks

Homeless and/or domestic violence shelters

Legal Aid

Public Housing Authority

3. Homelessness can happen to anyone -- with many households just one paycheck away from losing their home.**Select the top 5 issues that you believe are causes of homelessness:**

Addiction and/or substance use disorder

Inadequate income

Lack of access to reliable transportation

Mental health disorder

Physical disability

4. MCAH supports solutions to prevent and end homelessness that will assist as many people as possible, but also recognizing 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

5. While Federal sources provide 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 solutions to prevent and end homelessness for Michigan individuals and families would you support (select all that apply):

Advance Fair Housing

Champion anti-poverty solutions, including expanding EITC, SNAP, CHIP, TANF, Medicare/Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, etc.

Support eviction diversion programs

Create avenues for formerly incarcerated individuals to access housing

Increase the federal budget for affordable housing, including Housing Choice Vouchers, public housing, project-based rental assistance and homeless assistance grants

Oppose efforts to cut housing benefits, including work requirements and time limits

Oppose changes that limit access to vulnerable populations, including immigrants and LGBTQ+ individuals

Provide protections against discriminatory/criminalization practices for those experiencing homelessness

Reform eviction practices, including record sealing, credit reporting, establishing right to counsel, and/or creating an eviction database

6. We are in the middle of an Affordable Housing crisis. In 2021, NLIHC found there were NO 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:

Charge penalties for empty units if landlords will not rent to low-income households

Create and fund a risk mitigation fund for landlords who rent to persons with low-incomes or voucher holders

Increase Public Housing Authority resources

Protect and expand the national Housing Trust Fund

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

7. The government is sufficiently addressing the issue of homelessness in my district.

Strongly Disagree

8. Communities are sufficiently addressing the issue of homelessness in my district.

Strongly Disagree

9. People who work full-time have a right to affordable housing for themselves and their families.

Strongly Agree

10. People have a personal responsibility to work and be self-sufficient to obtain affordable housing.

Disagree

11. There is a role for the government to increase the availability of affordable housing in the United States.

Strongly Agree

12. Federal policy should move towards deregulation to increase local innovation with initiatives like Section 8 and Fair Market Rent.

Agree

13. The inclusion of strict work requirements to receive certain benefits (housing vouchers, SNAP, Medicaid) will have a positive impact on homelessness.

Strongly Disagree

14. The United States has the tools to help the people experiencing homelessness out of poverty.

Strongly Agree

15. The free market is the most effective tool to address homelessness.

Strongly Disagree

16. The government has a responsibility to reverse the impact of historical housing policies targeting Black communities.

Strongly Agree

17. Non-governmental service providers are adequate in dealing with homelessness.

Strongly Disagree

18. COVID-19 will have a long-term impact on low-income households. The state received nearly \$1 Billion from the CARES Act to support emergency rental and utility assistance and eviction diversion programming. More than 250,000 households applied for assistance, with the program projected to end by September 2022. 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):

Additional funds for eviction diversion and rental assistance

Restrictions on late fees/penalties

Sealing and expungement of eviction records related to COVID-19

19. In 2020, there were 30,805 individuals who experienced literal homelessness in Michigan, including families with young children, unaccompanied youth, veterans, and seniors. While this represented a 19% decrease over the previous year, it was likely an undercount based on Covid-related factors. What can you tell us about the issue of homelessness in your district (causes, related issues, and solutions)?

As a Macomb County Probate Court Judge I witnesses how mental illness and developmental disabilities contribute significantly to homelessness. I still have burned in my memory the experience of a young man who went missing for days. Eventually we found him in a makeshift camp sight sleeping in a field behind the funeral home which hosted his father's funeral. I use his example as a microcosm for how countless, unforeseen events can trigger the start of a homeless problem.

20. Please share any additional thoughts or concerns with regards to housing instability, homelessness and affordable housing availability in the state of Michigan, specifically any action you would be interested in taking at the Congressional level.

I have often quoted the title of an Ernest Hemingway short story called "A Clean, Well-Lighted Space" as my wish for every human being to have. Every human being has a right to decent housing and decent nutrition. He or she should be warm in the winter and cool in the summer. These are not luxuries. These are essential for basic human dignity.

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

Yes

Yes