

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



Andrew Schuler

City/Town: Golden Valley

Legislative District: SD 43

Party: LMN

Candidate responses in italics.

1. In July 2021, a [national poll](#) found that 68% of the public believes that elected officials are not paying enough attention to the rising cost of housing and ensuring everyone can afford a place to live. **What do you believe is the role of government in ensuring everyone has a place to call home?**

All basic needs should be provided to everyone.

2. Nearly all counties in Minnesota (92%) are not able to provide sufficient shelter or temporary housing to those who are homeless. **What will you do to end homelessness?**

Allocate more federal emergency funds to protect and house homeless populations and focus the aid on permanent housing and homeless prevention.

3. Emergency rental assistance keeps people stably housed, as we saw with federal pandemic-related funding. Historically, nonpayment of rent is the most common reason landlords evict their tenants. During times of financial crisis, families without access to financial resources may be displaced, evicted, or even become homeless. **What will you do to prevent evictions?**

Guaranteed emergency rental assistance.

4. Minnesota's housing crisis disproportionately harms families of color, especially Black and Indigenous households. Minnesota is one of the worst states in the nation for racial disparities in homeownership. Additionally, 58 percent of Black renters are paying more than they can afford on housing costs. **What meaningful steps will you take to eliminate racial disparities in housing?**

Increase access to down payment assistance and affordable credit. Invest in affordable homeownership. Retarget the mortgage interest deduction. Tax credits to rehabilitate distressed homes in communities with low home values. Expand affordable homeownership opportunities. Property tax relief for low-

income homeowners and investments in home repairs. Reform zoning to allow mixed-income communities. Build and preserve affordable homes in communities of opportunity. Establish a Minnesota State Bank to ensure low interest loans for homebuyers.

5. There are approximately 170,000 renter households in the state that earn less than \$31,200 per year. But rental assistance is only available to one out of every four income-qualifying households. Even though more than 100,000 lowest income households need homes, the state only supports the production of 100 homes each year for these families. **What will you do to support the housing needs of those at the lowest income level in Minnesota?**

Enact a cost-free universal healthcare system in Minnesota similar to that of Canada, expand assistance for home repairs and tax breaks for low-income earners.

6. Energy efficiency improvements in multifamily buildings and weatherizing single family homes improve indoor air quality, eliminate drafts, and protect residents from extreme cold and heat—delivering health benefits and lower health care costs. **What strategies do you support to improve housing conditions and reduce utility costs?**

Update the grid with fiber optics and high-speed internet similar to the examples made by Chattanooga, Tennessee, and South Korea, which has some of the fastest and cheapest internet/utilities in the world. Home repair assistance for low-income homeowners.

7. Minnesota's home values are increasing rapidly, constraining low- and middle-income families from achieving affordable homeownership, including more than 64,000 households of color. **What steps will you take to increase opportunities for renters to purchase homes, condos, or cooperative ownership models?**

(Draft legislation which contains the solutions previously answered from question 4:) Increase access to down payment assistance and affordable credit. Invest in affordable homeownership. Retarget the mortgage interest deduction. Tax credits to rehabilitate distressed homes in communities with low home values. Expand affordable homeownership opportunities. Property tax relief for low-income homeowners and investments in home repairs. Reform zoning to allow mixed-income communities. Build and preserve affordable homes in communities of opportunity. Establish a Minnesota State Bank to ensure low interest loans for homebuyers.

8. Including the recommendations of the community when developing policies and programs is a best practice for effective and lasting solutions. **How will you include those most impacted by housing needs in developing and implementing housing solutions?**

As a struggling homeowner who makes less than \$32,000 per year I consider myself as an individual who is impacted by many of the housing needs mentioned in this questionnaire so if elected I will include those most impacted by literally representing them in the Minnesota Senate.