

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



Ashley Klingbeil

City/Town: Alexandria

Legislative District: SD12

Party: WTP

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?**

The role of government in ensuring that everyone has a place to call home is to limit restrictions and regulations on construction, improvement and maintenance of homes to the bare minimum. It is also the government's responsibility to ensure it is taxing Americans as little as possible to ensure they retain their hard-earned money so they can put it towards important things like housing. In short, the government needs to get out of the way.

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?**

I will seek out policies that empower non-profits to develop and maintain shelter services for homeless individuals.

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?**

I will support and vote in favor of any bill that ensures that executive powers are not used to halt our economy and create the economic conditions that we saw during the pandemic. Property owners have the right to evict tenants who do not honor their leases. Government should not create conditions, such as economic shutdowns, that cause families to be without financial resources in the first place.

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?**

I will evaluate, and strengthen when necessary, antidiscrimination laws and apply social pressure to the State's Attorney General to investigate and prosecute credible allegations of discrimination.

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?**

I will work to eliminate income taxes for all Minnesota income earners, freeing up more money for families.

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?**

I support tax credits for making improvements that reduce energy consumption.

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?**

I would consider legislation that ensures that most homes are being purchased by families, not developers. It's developers with significant access to financial resources that are driving the prices of homes up.

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?**

I am running to represent We the People, and I will always include them in conversations about legislation affecting them by hosting regular town halls.

