

# Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

# 2022



## Dave Pinto

**City/Town:** Saint Paul

**Legislative District:** HD 64B

**Party:** DFL

*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?**

*Housing is fundamental to human dignity and to allowing each person in our state to contribute and thrive. Government must play a central role in ensuring that everyone is able to have that fundamental need met.*

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?**

*A key component in ending homelessness is having enough affordable homes. We need to build more homes and preserve the affordable housing stock that we have. And we need to provide rental assistance, as well as particular supports for those experiencing long-term homelessness.*

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?**

*More housing and rental assistance will mean that more people can afford their rent and avoid eviction. We should also ensure that renters know their rights and that eviction is a last resort, such as through advance notice of evictions.*

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?**

*Our racial disparities in housing are connected with disparities – some of the biggest in the country – in so many other areas of our society. My own work is especially focused on closing racial disparities in the earliest years – which impact all of the rest of life – and in the criminal legal system. With respect to housing in particular, one concrete step is financial support for first-time homebuyers of color.*

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?**

*Again, we need to build many more homes and to preserve the affordable housing stock that we have, including through the investment of public funds.*

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?**

*We should make robust investments in energy efficiency. Such investments are a win-win-win -- improving housing conditions and health for residents, reducing utility costs, and protecting the planet.*

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?**

*We should certainly encourage this. One model may be the legislation that would help the residents of manufactured parks cooperatively purchase their parks.*

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?**

*The centering of community voices is so critical. I'll continue to look for these voices on my own, and even more I'll continue to look to Homes for All and*

*other advocates to help me find and hear from them – and ensure that other policymakers hear from them too.*