

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



Duane Quam

City/Town: Byron

Legislative District: HD 24A

Party: R

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?**

Prevent cost escalating regulations / fees, and allow more local options.

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?**

Allow more local options, such as the mini structures, and repurposing.

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?**

The rental aid should have gone to the landlords. Too many never got paid and got out of renting. The bad actors that trashed rentals and never paid have contributed to the shortage for the many in need of affordable housing. The bad actors drive the evictions, because they make it harder for the others.

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?**

Fix the bad policies in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

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?**

Rollback the stupid policies that make house unaffordable.

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?**

Have the extra LGA, that comes from old housing stock, be used to fix the old housing up. Hundreds of millions of dollars are/have been given to Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and other cities, but not spent on old housing or urban renewal.

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?**

Reform the property tax system, and the fees/regulations that drive up costs.

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?**

Drive regional reviews on affordable housing. Then look at best practices across the national. Pull together a bill to promote options that could be used locally. Thinking one solution fits all of Minnesota is silly.