

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



Emy Minzel

City/Town: Princeton

Legislative District: SD 22

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?**

I have definitely been paying attention. One of the biggest reasons I am running is to address affordable housing for all. The state of MN needs to have a more reasonable income ratio for housing assistance. Leaving the working poor and out of the equation for housing help is detrimental for millions of people. Income levels need to be adjusted to reality.

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 don't know an all-encompassing answer for this question. However, I believe there are others who have great ideas to utilize so we can work towards accomplishing progress in housing homeless folks in Minnesota.

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 don't know an all-encompassing answer for this question. However, I believe there are others who have great ideas to utilize so we can work towards accomplishing progress in housing homeless folks in Minnesota.

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?**

This is heartbreaking. Again, we need to adjust the income levels required to meet eligibility for housing assistance to a realistic level. Rent has increased by almost double in the last decade and the assistance we offer has stayed the same. This needs to be addressed and changed.

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?**

This is heartbreaking. Again, we need to adjust the income levels required to meet eligibility for housing assistance to a realistic level. Rent has increased by almost double in the last decade and the assistance we offer has stayed the same. This needs to be addressed and changed.

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?**

By strengthening laws that hold landlords accountable for maintaining safe and healthy housing.

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?**

Increasing eligibility for new homeowner down payments and low interest rates.

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?**

By reaching out to have conversations with people who are living the reality of housing insecurity.

