

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



Eric Leitzen

City/Town: Hokah

Legislative District: SD26

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?**

Exactly that. The government can and should make sure everyone has a home.

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 want to Tax The Rich and their multiple houses in order to build new public housing.

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 want a moratorium on evictions and proper representation for those being evicted. Eventually I would like to do away with the concept of landlords entirely by ensuring everyone can have a home.

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?**

Higher wages, good and cheap public housing, crackdown on racism, and higher taxes on the rich.

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?**

New and excellent public housing financed by getting your money back from the richest, available at reduced or even no cost in some cases. We need to help people get back on their feet after having the fruits of their hard work essentially stolen from them for decades.

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?**

Low or no cost improvements available through government funds, financed by taxing the rich.

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?**

Taxing the rich and increasing public housing (including co-ops) will bring down the prices of houses and stabilize the market.

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?**

We need to hire more folks to go to the communities, listen, and take their findings back to the state to make sure each individual needs are met.