

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



Greg Hendrickson

City/Town: Long Prairie

Legislative District: HD 5B

Party: IA

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 Government should due everything it can to provide reasonable housing to everyone. From the top down. Our local governments should also have a high priority on this. In rural areas of the state, young families are struggling to find housing and are more likely to move away from the area adding to the labor shortage and the decreases in the tax base.

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?**

Working with Housing First and other organizations like the Habitat for Humanity and the VA. Its a shame for what we have done to our Veterans.

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 support Emergency rental assistance. I helps stabilize not only the families, kids going to school and the landlord.

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?**

Racial and social disparities do exist. We need to offer a living wage to people and eliminated the barriers for new housing construction would help.

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?**

We need to expand that number so everyone that has a desire to own a home, should have one. Home ownership gives a person and families pride. livable wages and home ownership has a very good benefit to a community. From schools, businesses and the tax base.

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?**

Tax rebates should be expanded to make these improvements. Not only the home owner by also the landlords. Also energy rebates should also be a great incentive.

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?**

Rent to own opportunities should be expanded. A portion of the rent should be applied to the ultimate goal of purchase. There should an incentive for the land owners, landlords and construction companies to do this.

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?**

Home prices are going up due to the short supply of homes. We need more housing, supply and demand will work to bring down house cost.