

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



James Sceville

City/Town: Thief River Falls

Legislative District: HD1A

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 fully believe housing should be a basic human right. To what extent that brings us I do not know and I fully am aware I have no idea how to make that happen. Our current system is not set up for that but anyone running the country who is okay with children sleeping on the streets is not doing a good job.

Section 8 housing and the old "project" housing was an idea that was given up on too soon and never fully funded or thought out. We should reinvest in our people who can reinvest in our country.

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?**

*Traditional homeless shelters have proven to be unsafe and even dangerous to many people. Moving to a small pod style shelter system where people can have a locked shelter where they can feel safe actually showing up too. It is a massive investment but it can help with the NIMBY people who claim they dont want *those* sort of people in their neighborhoods when their church or community center sets up overnight shelters.*

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?**

A strong set of tenet rights laws should be common through the land. In some states the people are protected and in others they can be tossed into the streets without hardly an notice. Making sure people know what ground they stand on is the start of housing stability for those that need it.

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?**

I wish I knew more about what could be done to truly change this. There are so many chances in renting/buying/selling for subjective and personal bias to come into play and discriminate against people. I would listen to experts and people who live this to help me understand what can and should be done in this matter.

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?**

Many state programs such as SNAP and medicaid should be expanded to help give relief to families which will also help free up money. Expanding rental assistance and reinvesting in section 8 housing. There should also be a look into community owned council housing as another alternative to keep private business from being able to take advantage over the poor.

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?**

Raising standards on new builds and any remodels. Making sure that everything built is built to a future proof standard with climate change

I would love to see roof top wind turbines on new housing to help bring energy costs down on an individual basis.

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?**

Honestly the only answer here is to increase housing supply and that means trying to fund builders to come in with incentives.

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?**

Going out and talking to those that need the help is the only way for them to be included. Far to many people are busy just trying to survive and dont have time to write their senator a letter or show up to a town hall. Their politicians should be coming to them.