

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



John Marty

City/Town: Roseville

Legislative District: SD 40

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?**

All people deserve safe and secure housing. It is government's obligation to promote the general welfare, which includes ensuring everyone has a safe, secure home. This includes more public housing, but also partnerships, especially with non-profit affordable housing developers and with private landlords to make affordable housing available to people at every income level.

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?**

We can do much more to stop people from falling into homelessness, by addressing causes of financial stress, such as medical costs (medical debt could be eliminated if we implement a true universal healthcare system like the MN Health Plan). Teaching financial literacy skills could help some people prevent financial crises that lead to eviction and homelessness. Fundamentally, we need to invest significantly more in affordable housing. We need to adopt zoning and housing policies that will ensure that the necessary housing is built. We must establish laws and policies that prevent hedge funds and investors from driving up housing prices. Furthermore, we must make sure that housing is served by transit and other services. I will continue working with MHP and Habitat and other housing groups on addressing the housing crisis.

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 supported the eviction moratorium and will continue to support financial assistance so people facing hard times are not forced out onto the streets. The federal emergency rental assistance program during COVID prevented a catastrophic eviction crisis. That shows that it is possible to prevent evictions. The problem isn't that we don't know how to address the problem, it is that we haven't had the political will to do so. It is time to change that and address the crisis that is faced by so many families.

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?**

We need to continue fighting against discrimination by landlords and from mortgage lenders, but we also need to address the historical discrimination that leaves BIPOC families with virtually no assets to qualify for home ownership, and need targeted programs to help first time homebuyers, and to assist any renters struggling to afford the rent.

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?**

Expand rental assistance! This costs money, but it is the responsibility of government to promote the general welfare... and, it is cheaper to prevent homelessness than to deal with all of the other, much higher, public costs that occur when people lose their stable housing. An ounce of prevention really IS worth a pound of cure!

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?**

This is one of the most important steps we need to take, both to address the climate crisis, and to make housing affordable. It isn't simply building weatherization, it is also energy-inefficient appliances, leaky faucets, etc. There is a huge need for investment in this, and we need laws as well as creative policies to incentivize landlords to make changes.

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?**

I strongly support a wide range of initiatives to help increase ownership, including helping manufactured home residents to buy up the parks they live in. There are many creative models out there, but they need funding, and should be available to all, not mere pilot programs.

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?**

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