

# Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

# 2022



## Patrick Baustian

**City/Town:** Luverne

**Legislative District:** HD 21A

**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 believe that if private industry doesn't work to fill the housing need and in the income levels that are represented or identified as being short for housing that local and state governments need to get involved.*

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 would work with the housing partnerships in SW Minnesota to help identify the needs within my district and look into what could be done to help remedy this.*

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 would work with local health and human services, and state agencies to collect information on what communities are struggling with this problem and then collaboratively work across the aisle to ensure all of our constituents and citizens of Minnesota have housing.*

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 would ensure that if this problem is factual in my district I would work with every city council and county commission in my district and work with them to come up with solutions that could work in each city and county for them to address this locally with possible state financial assistance with construction.*

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?**

*I've experienced the level of state grants for work force housing in my community as Mayor. These levels of grants need to be greatly increased in order to get more builders interested in building homes and or apartments in Greater MN.*

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?**

*I would work with the local regional housing agencies that we have and listen to their suggestions for increased funding levels to expand these services.*

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 would work with fellow legislators to define "affordable" and come up with more solutions to get households of color into housing. I would also like to work to educate those of color on current opportunities and programs that are out there to get into home ownerships. IE serve in the military.*

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?**

*I would look to determine if those best practices in deed relate to communities in my district and if so work with the housing partnerships to implement them and also work to increase funding programs that work.*

