

Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

2022



Steve Samuelson

City/Town: Brainerd

Legislative District: SD 6

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 the Government has to have a seat at the table in trying to solve this issue. I grew up in a working class neighborhood where people had Union jobs and people owned the homes. Good paying jobs left and now the homes are over priced rentals.

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?**

That is a very complicated issue. We even have it here in Brainerd Mn 56401. If we need to build homeless shelters than we should. We need something for people with Winter around the corner.

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 don't have a simple answer. But it needs to be addressed promptly.

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 to fight for equal rights for all under the law. When are we going to start following the Constitution and the bill of rights. Some people think the Constitution ends after 1st and 2nd Amendments

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 am only living on my Social Security check. We need better funding to cover all. Enough with the wealthiest tax breaks!!

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 State has had plenty of past weatherization programs. We need more of that.

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?**

We need better paying jobs. And maybe we need more Contract for Deed home purchasing like I had to do in 1978 when Interest rates were 20%

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 better paying jobs. And maybe we need more Contract for Deed home purchasing like I had to do in 1978 when Interest rates were 20%