

Candidate Name: Aaron Neumann

Questions for state candidates

1. Homelessness

On any given night, nearly 11,000 Ohioans are experiencing homelessness—sleeping outside or in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. **What should the state do to help end homelessness?**

I support an all-of-the-above approach to ending homelessness and housing insecurity across Ohio. The state can and should take measures to support those struggling to stay in their home, including property tax freezes for seniors and disadvantaged residents, greater protections for renters from out-of-state management corporations and absentee landlords, and housing subsidies for single parents and families with young children. At the same time, the state must use every tool at its disposal to encourage counties and municipalities to build more new housing, ensuring that a substantial portion is affordable and accessible to the working and middle class, and provides temporary housing facilities and support for those who find themselves unhoused. With stable, secure housing, people who have lost so much are better able to pick themselves up and rebuild.

2. Housing Challenges in Rural Ohio

Although millions of Ohioans throughout the state have trouble paying their rent or mortgage, housing insecurity in rural areas is often overlooked. Resources for rural communities have decreased while housing issues have increased significantly. **How would you address the housing needs of our rural communities?**

By increasing state supports and empowering county boards of housing and development, Ohio can allocate funds responsibly and equitably across all communities, ensuring that no one is overlooked in their basic needs. Just as we now consider food deserts and pharmacy deserts, we should consider whether communities might fit the bill of affordable housing deserts, and focus resources accordingly, whether in the form of supports to help people stay in their homes or plans to develop new housing or rental units.

3. Ohio Housing Trust Fund

The Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) is the number one source of state funding for local affordable housing development and homelessness programs in the state. Each OHTF dollar generate over \$8 in economic activity. The OHTF has been historically funded through a 50-50 split with county recorders fees, but revenues have declined in recent years. **Do you believe the state should ensure sufficient revenue for the OHTF? If so, how?**

Not only is ensuring sufficient revenue for the OHTF a central platform in my Action Plan for the Next Generation, but I also aim to increase OHTF revenues drastically to at least double the amount of new homes and rental units produced across the State each year. OHTF revenues should be stabilized by augmenting funds collected through county recorder fees with additional dedicated state funding to stabilize activities funded through the OHTF and grow its positive economic and human impacts.

4. Additional Comments

Feel free to include any additional comments you may have about ways the state/federal government can reduce homelessness and/or expand access to affordable housing in Ohio.

My Action Plan for the Next Generation, Aaron's ABCs, includes as the first plank: A is for Affordable Housing. Alongside my A and B priorities – Baby & Child Care and Career Pathways – finding homes for new neighbors and ending housing insecurity for Ohio's families and children is foremost in my campaign and will be hallmark of my time in office. I am interested only in helping my neighbors and investing in the next generation, not catering to party leaders or wasting time with partisan distractions. Please visit my campaign site – NeumannForOhio.com – for the detailed steps in my ABCs for the next generation.