

Affordable Housing Questions for State Candidates

Alicia Roshong, 89th District

Homelessness

Q: What should the state do to help end homelessness?

A: Homelessness and poverty are linked. Providing opportunities for employment will help; however, preventing homelessness in the first place by having affordable housing in place is key. Ohio should ensure that state funds for housing remain available, well-funded, and maintained as a top priority. Several Ohio programs and trust funds, such as Ohio Housing Trust Fund, Welcome Home Ohio Program, Housing Development Assistance Programs (HDAP), Housing Development Loan Program (HDL), and Multifamily Lending Program, currently exist to assist homeowners. As a representative, I will work to make sure money is available for these programs and that my constituents are aware that they exist. It's also crucial to bring more sources of employment to Ohio so that people can earn a living, which brings them one step closer to securing housing for themselves.

Housing Challenges in Rural Ohio

Q: How would you address the housing needs of our rural communities?

A: As in urban areas, a comprehensive approach to address housing needs is necessary for rural communities. Throughout the state, housing demands exceed housing supply. I want to bring developers who are interested in building mixed income housing to the area. Our rural areas are prime sites for creating residential settings that are enticing for individuals and families with different income levels. Affordable housing developments exist throughout the country; as a

representative, I would actively seek developers who are interested in coming to my district while talking with my constituents in the community to address their specific needs. Collaboration is key. Such ventures only work when the people in the community address housing challenges collectively.

Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF)

Q: Do you believe the state should ensure sufficient revenue for OHTF? If so, how?

A: Yes, the state should ensure sufficient revenue for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. Currently, it is funded through revenue from county recorder offices in which half of all fees paid to these offices is funneled to the OHTF. However, recorder offices are modernizing by shifting from paper copies to digital storage. Ohio Senate Bill 94, which passed the Ohio House and Senate in June, 2024, will allow a \$5 document preservation surcharge to recoup fees lost from the transition. Unfortunately, more money is still needed to address fiscal year requirements. I will investigate further options to subsize lost funds to ensure that the OHTF can be relied upon for stable and consistent funding.

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.

Within the 89th District I will:

- work with our city and county officials to have zoning regulations in place so that we could move swiftly with development when the opportunities present themselves.
- implement rent-to-own options for our citizens.

- expand project-based vouchers to increase affordable housing options.
- propose a tax for alcohol and tobacco to generate funds for affordable housing.
- incentivize home ownership through tax credits.
- solicit applications to partner with non-profit organizations to create fast-growing neighborhoods with modular housing.