

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?**

The state needs to step up and provide resources to address and prevent homelessness. It is embarrassing that our nation has more resources than any other, and yet we have such a high rate of homelessness. First and foremost, we should make affordable housing our top priority. In addition, we should provide resources like mental health care, drug addiction treatment, financial literacy courses, and economic programs to uplift people who may be on the verge of homelessness.

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?**

Rural communities are often forgotten by the statehouse. Frequently, folks in rural communities find themselves in underfunded schools and with limited job opportunities. The state should work to expand work opportunities into rural communities so that rural folks can afford to own homes. Furthermore, I believe that the state should invest in affordable housing, so that people in rural communities are not faced with unattainably high home ownership costs.

3. Ohio Housing Trust Fund (for state candidates only)

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 generates over \$8 in economic activity. The OHTF has been historically funded through a 50-50 split with county recorder's fees, but revenues have declined in recent years. **Do you believe the state should ensure sufficient revenue for the OHTF? If so, how?**

I absolutely support funding the Ohio Housing Trust Fund! This fund does important work to provide affordable housing and fight homelessness. Rather than wasting public money on multi-million dollar special elections like we did in August of 2023, we should be sending that money to programs like these that actually help people. In addition, creating a

fair tax system and closing loopholes that allow large corporations to avoid paying taxes are ways we can afford to fund critical resources like OHTF. Affordable housing, fighting homelessness, and growing the economy are all priorities of mine that I look forward to working on as a State Legislator.

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.