

Submitted by Amy Cox, candidate for OH 10

Questions for federal 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 federal government do to help end homelessness?

Housing is a human right. As a Member of Congress, I will support and champion the People's Housing platform, to double homelessness funding, expand services to protect people from unjust eviction, and provide funding for states to expand their homelessness services.

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?

Many of our urban centers have a disproportionately larger share of homelessness support services, and rural communities do not have the same access to resources or same root causes of homelessness. A one size fits all approach to homeless mitigation does not necessarily translate from an urban center to rural community, and addressing the root causes will yield better strategies and better results. I will work with and support the many efforts of HUD and USDA to provide greater access to funding and resources to combat rural homelessness.

3. Housing as Safety Net

Unlike Social Security and Medicare, federal housing assistance is not guaranteed, even if a family qualifies for the program. Today, fewer than one in four eligible households receive the assistance they need. Are there existing housing programs that you would want to expand? if so, what specifically will you do to expand access to this assistance?

I believe we should make Section 8 vouchers available to all eligible families without a waitlist, and the federal government should invest in revitalizing public housing by repairing and building new housing units.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views on housing. As a real working class candidate, I have never lived a day off union wages, worked my way through school to be a public school teacher, and some of my earliest memories were watching my family fight for much needed affordable health care. I personally know the need to expand the social safety net, including access to affordable housing.

