

## **Questions for federal candidates: KEVIN COUGHLIN OH-13**

### **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?

*Homelessness is a result of numerous catalysts, ranging from lack of affordable housing a systemic failure to address mental health issues. Considering the outsized impact that those experiencing homelessness have on our Medicare and Medicaid systems, it makes considerable sense to address the whole person, with shelter being one of the key aspects - to this end, greater support for the spectrum of difficulties should be addressed through programs like Strategies to End 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?

*Ohioans in both rural and urban areas have been ignored by the traditional banking system ever since the enactment of Dodd-Frank. Upon election to Congress, I will join other colleagues in co-sponsoring H.R. 3464, the Affordable Homeownership Access Act that specifically makes available additional capital in the housing market, without any risk to the federal government or taxpayers, thereby enabling more people to acquire homeownership in both rural and urban areas in Ohio.*

### **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?

*Local and state governments in combination with local charities are the best response to housing related issues. The unintended consequences of federal funding are tremendous. They distort the market, and typically result in less housing due to fraud, abuse and a misguided one-size fits all approach. I recommend block granting HUD funding back to states primarily on a per capita basis with some additional consideration for rates of poverty. Housing safety nets are not meant to be generational housing, but rather a hand up during a difficult time. Helping our neighbors find shelter during a tough patch is far different than supporting a bloated Washington DC based housing program. Upon election to Congress, I will meet with representatives of the various local housing authorities in the district to better understand their concerns relative to financial accounting and transparency, eliminating abuses, waste and fraud within the system, and finding a way that makes federal housing assistance programs like Section 8 more desirable by both housing providers and tenants.*