

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?**

As a State Representative, I believe ending homelessness requires a comprehensive approach. While I fully support building more affordable housing, we must also address the root causes. I've advocated for expanding Ohio's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (OLIHTC), securing \$50 million annually to support affordable housing development. I also worked with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to streamline access to these funds for developers.

But it's not just about housing. We need better access to mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and job training to prevent homelessness. Rising property taxes are pricing many Ohioans, especially seniors and working families, out of their homes. I support tax relief to ensure homeownership remains affordable.

We must also support foster youth, who too often face homelessness without adequate resources. That's why I'm proud to have introduced bipartisan legislation to create the first-ever foster care scholarship, providing them with the support they need to build a brighter future.

## **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?**

Addressing the housing needs of rural communities across Ohio requires targeted solutions. As a State Representative, I would advocate for increased state and federal investments in rural housing development, specifically by expanding programs like Ohio's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (OLIHTC) to ensure rural areas receive their fair share of funding. Additionally, I would support incentives for developers to build affordable housing in rural regions, where construction costs are often higher, but returns on investment may be lower compared to urban areas.

I also believe we need to increase access to public-private partnerships and innovative financing models that can help bring down costs and improve the availability of affordable housing in rural communities. Lastly, I would work with my colleagues to review existing housing assistance programs to ensure they are tailored to meet the specific needs of rural residents, including addressing issues like home repair and weatherization for aging housing stock.

### **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?**

Yes, I look forward to working with my colleagues to identify innovative solutions to adequately fund the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.