

Sherrod Brown COHHIO Questionnaire

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?

We know housing is a pathway to opportunity – it can be key to getting a job, staying healthy and safe, and getting your children into school. When I became Chair of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, I made sure one of the first hearings we held was on the state of housing, because housing is too expensive for too many across our country.

We also know what it takes to prevent and end homelessness: affordable housing and access to supportive services. We need to bring down the price of housing and create more housing, including housing that is more affordable and accessible to people experiencing homelessness.

That means we need to keep investing in HUD's housing and homelessness assistance programs and continue working on bipartisan efforts to expand and improve the Housing Choice Voucher program. I also support community efforts to prevent evictions before they happen. We also need to invest in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to build and improve affordable housing, and we need to pass my Neighborhood Homes Investment Act to create a new tax credit to cover the cost difference between building or renovating a home in an older neighborhood and the price at which it can be sold. I'm also fighting to pass my Stop Predatory Investing Act to deny tax benefits to deep-pocketed investors that too often outcompete families to buy up large numbers of single family homes, jack up rents, and then fail to maintain safe and healthy housing.

We also need to maintain existing affordable housing and ensure that landlords are doing their jobs to upkeep it.

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?

Accessing safe, affordable housing isn't just an urban problem, it's a problem that's affecting every community in Ohio. To target housing issues in rural communities, we need to support and improve U.S. Department of Agriculture programs that help make single and multi-family housing more accessible to Ohioans living in rural areas.

And just like in urban areas, we need to maintain housing and hold landlords accountable who fail to do so. This also includes supporting residents in Manufactured Housing Communities, where predatory investors are buying up

communities and raising rents -- like what happened in Navarre Village in Ohio. We need to keep standing up and putting a stop to the practices that are hurting Ohio communities.

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?

For too long, federal housing programs have been neglected and suffered budget cuts. The lack of support for these programs only makes the existing affordable housing shortage worse.

I support robust funding for both HUD and USDA programs that make housing more accessible and affordable for Ohio families.

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.

In every part of the country, everywhere you turn, housing is too expensive and families have too few housing options. Earlier this year, we held a hearing in the Banking and Housing Committee to examine bipartisan proposals to address housing affordability and availability. Because these are issues across the state and across the country, we need more than just one solution to these problems.

These include the efforts discussed above to build and preserve safe, affordable housing; to prevent and end homelessness; and to help seniors age with dignity in their homes and provide communities with safe, affordable housing options.

As aspiring homeowners struggle to afford their first home and build generational wealth, I've put forward additional proposals to help expand access to affordable homeownership for veterans and servicemembers, first responders, teachers, and first-generation homebuyers.

The proposals aren't all of the solutions we need to solve our housing crisis, but they're a good start. I'm committed to continuing to work with members of both parties to make housing more affordable and more accessible for the people we serve.