



2026 Candidate Engagement and Questionnaire

Introductions!

In the chat share your:

- Name
- Pronouns
- Organization
- Location

Today's Agenda

- **Nonprofit Election Engagement 101**
  - Bailey Sutter, MN Council of Nonprofits
- **Putting Housing on the Ballot:** Launching the 2026 Candidate Housing Questionnaire Campaign
  - Jeru Gobeze, Habitat for Humanity of MN
  - Courtney Schaff, MHP

The 2026 Electoral Landscape: Who's on the ballot?

- All constitutional officers: **Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor**
  - Open seats for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Auditor
- All 201 legislative seats: **67 Senators, 134 Representatives**
  - 17 Senators leaving (7 Chairs)
  - 26 Representatives leaving (12 Co-Chairs)
- **US Senate and House of Representatives** (8 districts)
- **Local races**
- **Ballot questions**

Our Focus: State Legislature

- Generational turnover
- Ongoing need for creative solutions for housing
- Why a Questionnaire?
  - Opportunity for education
  - Fresh perspectives on the housing ecosystem and solutions
  - Informs what we might expect from new leaders

The Questionnaire: 5 questions

1: Inequities in Housing

Housing plays a critical role in economic stability, health, and quality of life for individuals and families. However, disparities in housing continue to affect communities of color, people with disabilities, rural communities, and other historically underserved populations. **What meaningful actions should be taken to acknowledge, address, and eliminate housing inequities and advance housing opportunities for all Minnesotans?**

The Questionnaire: 5 questions

2: Supportive Housing Services

Supportive housing combines affordable housing with support services that help people who face the most complex challenges to live with stability, autonomy, and dignity. Supportive housing provides better outcomes and is fiscally responsible. **What will you do to ensure community members who are unhoused or unstably housed receive the support they need to obtain or keep their own homes?**

The Questionnaire: 5 questions

3: Homeownership

Homeownership is a way to build generational wealth, provide family and household stability, and support community vibrancy. More and more Minnesotans are priced out of owning a home because of rising housing costs, including purchase price, homeowners' insurance, and property taxes. **What steps will you take to increase opportunities for renters and first-time homebuyers to purchase homes, condos, or cooperative ownership models?**

The Questionnaire: 5 questions

4: Zoning and Land Use Reforms

In the last several years, bipartisan action to streamline building of new homes and apartments has passed in several states, including: allowing for multifamily buildings in select commercial areas, limiting parking requirements, allowing smaller homes on smaller lots, and more homes per lot in residential areas like duplexes, fourplexes, and accessory dwelling units. **What reforms do you support to modernize zoning to both enable homes to be more affordable statewide and improve city tax bases?**

The Questionnaire: 5 questions

5: Increasing Revenue for Housing

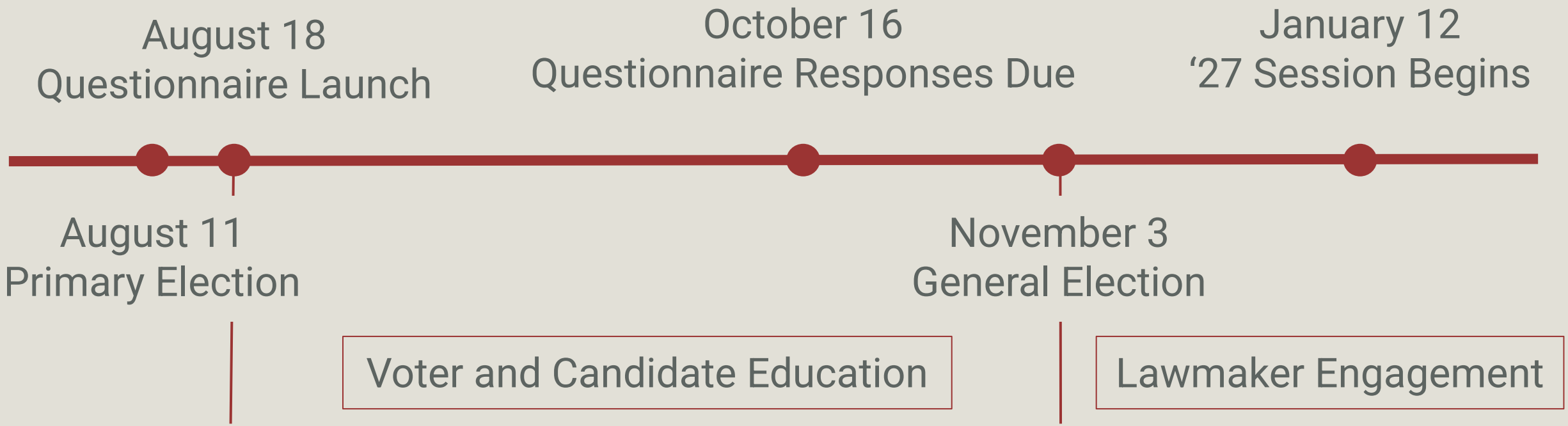
Despite housing being the largest cost in the average household budget, housing receives only a small fraction of the total state budget at just 0.3%. A lack of ongoing reliable funding for housing in Minnesota's state budget has resulted in an undersupply of stable homes affordable to our workforce, our elders, and our families. In recent years, a constitutional amendment for housing, which would dedicate revenues from a sales tax increase to housing, has gained momentum at the legislature. **What revenue options will you champion to more adequately meet our need for reliable funding for homes we can afford?**

The Questionnaire: 5 questions

Bonus 6!

If you have other housing policy priorities, especially specific to your district's housing needs, please share them here.

Questionnaire Timeline



The Questionnaire Website

- For Advocates
  - Advocacy Toolkit
  - Education resources
  - Candidate Questionnaire responses
- For Candidates
  - Education resources
  - Portal for submitting Questionnaire

The Questionnaire Advocacy Toolkit

- Candidate outreach script
- Sample blog post
- Direct opportunities with candidates

The Questionnaire Action Commitment!

Take the commitment survey now!