Advocacy Toolkit

2026 Candidate Questionnaire on Housing Issues

We know that where we live impacts everything. Stable and safe housing we can afford is the foundation from which children learn, workers earn, seniors thrive, and communities prosper. It's essential that candidates in the upcoming election cycle understand the central importance of housing to our state's vitality — and that constituents know where they stand on these critical issues.

That's why MHP and Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota invite candidates for the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives to complete a **questionnaire on housing issues**. The questionnaire is nonpartisan and is not meant to serve as an endorsement of or for any particular candidate or political party.

This **Advocacy Toolkit** is intended to support you and your networks to **engage** directly with candidates in the 2026 election and to encourage them to **share their views** on housing issues by completing the **questionnaire.**

Questions? Contact communications@mhponline.org.

Learn more about engaging candidates for office around housing from the National Low Income Housing Coalition's Our Homes, Our Votes campaign and the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits' Nonpartisan Election Guide.

Promo kit contents:

- Candidate Outreach Script (page 2)
- Sample Blog Post (page 3)
- Questions for Candidates (Page 4)

MHP Candidate Questionnaire webpage:

https://mhponline.org/2026-candidate-housing-questionnaire/

Email Outreach Script:

Directly contacting candidates, whether incumbents or challengers, can be a great way to increase the visibility of housing during election season. Use this script to call or email your candidates to introduce yourself and your organization and to encourage them to complete the Questionnaire.

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Dear _____,

Thank you for your commitment to public issues by running for [State Rep/State Senate]. I live/work at _____, in the district you seek to represent.

One of the very important issues for our district is housing [---describe issue in your words ----].

I hope you will provide responses to the **2026 Candidate Housing Questionnaire** sponsored by housing organizations. You can find out more about the questionnaire here.

Your response is important, as housing affects our homes, our health, and our families.

Thank you!
[name, city or address if live or work in district]

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Phone Outreach Script:

Hello _____, Thank you for your commitment to public issues by running for [State Rep/State Senate]. My name is _____ and I live/work at _____, in the district you seek to represent.

One of the very important issues for our district is housing [---describe issue in your words ----].

I hope you will provide responses to the 2026 Candidate Housing Questionnaire sponsored by housing organizations. You should have an invitation to complete this questionnaire from MHP in your email. You can also find out more about the questionnaire on the MHP website at mhponline.org. Your response is important, as housing affects our homes, our health, and our families.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions. You can reach me at _____.

Sample blog:

We know that our communities, from Duluth to Bemidji to St Paul, need safe and stable housing to thrive. But a full-time worker earning minimum wage can't afford to rent a one-bedroom apartment in any of Minnesota's counties, seniors are making tough sacrifices to keep food on the table, and children are struggling in school because they lack a stable place to call home.

This election season, we can tackle these issues, by prioritizing homes we can afford with our ballots. To do that, though, it's essential we educate candidates and that we know where they stand on housing issues.

That's why ____[Your Organization's name]_____ invite candidates for the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives to complete a **questionnaire on housing issues**. The questionnaire is nonpartisan, is not part of an endorsement process for any candidate or political party and covers a range of housing topics.

Read the full questionnaire and candidate responses, posted regularly, here: https://mhponline.org/2026-candidate-housing-questionnaire/

Engage your candidates!

1. First, find your district here and your corresponding candidates here.
2. Download this Advocacy Kit for help engaging candidates, housing advocates, and community members across the state.
3. **Learn more** about engaging candidates for office around housing from the National Low Income Housing Coalition's Our Homes, Our Votes campaign and the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits' Nonpartisan Election Guide.

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Ask your Candidate a Question:

You can use these questions from the Questionnaire when directly speaking with candidates at the doors and in forums to increase the visibility of housing during election season. Choose the one or two that matter most to you!

1. 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?**

2. 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?**

3. 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?**

4. 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?**

5. 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?**