



Housing Questions for Candidates

Your vote is your voice. Getting to know candidates ahead of time is crucial for making an informed decision at the polls. Use your voice for affordable housing by doing your research on where candidates stand on housing. Below are questions that Habitat DC-NOVA recommends to help you meaningfully engage with candidates, and why, when they call or knock on your door.

How will you promote affordable homeownership?

Homeownership is the key to building wealth and becoming financially resilient. Safe, stable and affordable housing means children excel in school, workers earn, seniors age in place, and communities prosper. Habitat DC-NOVA believes everyone should be able to create stability and intergenerational wealth by expanding homeownership opportunities.

If elected, what policies or strategies will you take to address the need for more affordable homeownership?

There is a severe shortage of affordable homes in our region and country that is making homeownership out of reach for millions of families and first-time homebuyers. In the state of Virginia, 1 in 8 households spend more than half of their income on housing, while in D.C., it is 1 in 6 households. To meet demand, Habitat DC-NOVA works to eliminate policy and system barriers to affordable housing development and increase resources, especially for affordable homeownership. We encourage policies that increase housing supply, access to homeownership for lower income households, and stability for existing homeowners. See our policy platform at habitatdcnova.org/advocacy to learn specific solutions we recommend.

What will you do to address racial disparities and expand access to affordable homeownership?

Decades of explicit discriminatory housing policies and practices have prevented poor families, especially Black and other families of color, from owning a decent home where they can access the transformational benefits of ownership. Habitat DC-NOVA believes we need to address the pervasive legacies of unfair housing practices, and make homeownership accessible to all, such as increasing supportive resources and subsidies.

How will you help current homeowners and work to preserve existing affordable housing?

It's important that homeowners and families that have affordable housing can stay in their homes. Resources and supportive policy for home repair and modification programs that preserve existing housing stock, especially for homeownership for low-income families, and improve stability for existing homeowners are much needed and should be increased.