

Candidate Conversation Guide

This guide will help you engage meaningfully with candidates –in-person or online. Ask candidates the questions highlighted in blue, and follow up with the talking points below as needed.

How will you promote affordable homeownership?

Homeownership is key. It's the main way most families build wealth and become financially resilient. Safe and stable housing means children excel in school, workers earn, seniors thrive, and communities prosper.

What policies or strategies would you support to expand the production and supply of affordable housing?

The need for housing is significant and growing. More than 1 in 4 households in Minnesota pays more than they can afford on housing. To meet demand, we need 10,000 new units of affordable housing each year.

What will you do to address racial disparities in homeownership? How will you protect seniors, low-income households, and households of color?

There are grave inequities in homeownership. The transformational benefits of ownership are not accessible to everyone. In Minnesota, 77% of White households own a home, compared to only 24% of Black households. Additionally, households of color and senior households are more likely to be cost-burdened than other households.

Given COVID-19's economic impact, how will you protect homeowners unable to make housing payments, and prevent a wave of foreclosures?

The workers most impacted by COVID-19, including retail and food service workers, teachers, and in-home healthcare professionals, are at risk for losing their housing. Homeowners who fall behind in their mortgage payments will be at risk for foreclosure without policy protections.