

# District 5 Candidate Questionnaire on Housing

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**COMPLETE**

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PAGE 1

**Q1: Please enter your name and contact information.**

Name:	Katherine Clark
Address:	PO Box 361
City/Town:	Malden
State:	MA
ZIP:	02148
Country:	USA
Email Address:	brooke@katherineclarkforcongress.com
Phone Number:	6175534952

**Q2: Will you advocate for the reversal of recent HUD budget cuts?**

Yes

**Q3: Will you support the protection of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program (LIHTC)?**

Yes,

Please elaborate:

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit program is essential to incentivizing investment in affordable rental housing. This credit has led to dozens of new downtown housing developments that are revitalizing our state's Gateway Cities with new developments offering new affording housing units. We shouldn't be cutting programs that help lift families out of poverty while continuing to give tax breaks to the super rich and big oil companies. When we offer quality, affordable living spaces to our low and moderate-income families, we are strengthening our safety net and giving families the opportunity to thrive.

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### **Q4: If elected, what efforts would you take to help workers afford to live and raise their families in Massachusetts and support low and moderate income people, elders, and people with disabilities who need assistance?**

My top priority is passing a women's economic agenda, which includes securing pay equity by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, increasing the minimum wage, mandating paid sick leave and paid maternity leave, and expanding the availability of quality, affordable child care. These commonsense steps can make a difference in the lives of every family by helping women economically, because when women are successful our families succeed.

We also need to protect Social Security and Medicare for our seniors so that they continue to have reliable access to quality health care and the income they have earned. Our country made a promise to seniors, and I won't short change them while the very wealthy and big oil companies continue to receive tax breaks.

We need to invest in early education and create a universal preschool program across the country. For every dollar we invest in early education, we see a return of at least \$7 of savings. I will not take \$7 away from my children to save myself \$1 now.

In 2012, I authored a state law that takes dramatic steps to get all students reading by third grade. Studies show that students who are reading by third grade are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need government support as an adult. Programs like these are key investments we can make to strengthen our families, save the government money in the long run, and help all children reach their potential.

When we ensure a fair wage, appropriate benefits, a quality education when people are young, and the benefits they have been promised once they have aged, we are ensuring that everyone in Massachusetts can afford to live and raise their families here with the necessary support when facing economic difficulty, disability, or other hardship. The improved quality of life that will result as we move towards a more just society extends beyond the individual, and strengthens the communities of which these individuals are a part while removing barriers between people because of socioeconomic status, culture or age. As a legislator, I have fought to ensure quality education, economic security, and fair retirement benefits because everyone benefits when everyone is guaranteed the opportunity for personal progress. If elected to the United States Congress, I will continue to do the same.