

# District 5 Candidate Questionnaire on Housing

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**COMPLETE**

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

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

Yes,

Please explain:

The impact of sequestration on HUD programs is causing terrible harm to families throughout the nation. We must reverse those cuts and also restore funding lost over recent years. America must invest now in affordable housing, it is an economic development issue, a quality of life issue and a moral issue.

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

Yes,

Please elaborate:

I have always worked to promote public private partnerships to attain policy goals. The LIHTC is a program that rewards those partnerships. It is very important that we maintain this model. Further, we must fund it regularly and consistently so the private sector and local communities have the incentive to do the necessary planning to keep building affordable housing stock.

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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?**

One of our first and most important steps must be to raise the national minimum wage and index it to inflation, including an increase in the tip minimum wage. In Congress I will fight for that increase and to require equal pay for equal work.

We must also protect and strive to increase subsidies for health insurance so that moderate income residents are able to meet the cost of insurance and medicine without being forced to choose between food and health care. I support reducing the age of Medicare eligibility and I want to see changes in some of the arbitrary rules governing eligibility for rehabilitation services, particularly the unreasonable restrictions attached to "observation" status in hospitalization and the restrictions on physical therapy.

We must fund public transportation adequately so that we can expand service to meet the needs of a growing population that does not and cannot rely on cars to get around and also avoid prohibitive fare increases. I am currently fighting to pass legislation in Massachusetts that will cap the fares charged to the elderly and disabled who use the RIDE. The population that needs this para-transit service is mostly on fixed income and every fare increase results in a choice among necessities.

We must put more resources toward building housing that is affordable to very low income families as well as housing for low to middle income workers. The cost of living in eastern Massachusetts is very high and families are being priced out of the market for rental housing as well as home-ownership. We need to create incentives to encourage communities where most of the housing stock is single family to welcome rental housing. I would support increases for the Section 8 voucher program and funding for supportive housing programs for persons and families with significant needs.

I have always been a forceful and successful advocate for people with disabilities. As a legislator, it has always been a priority of mine to make sure that we as a society provide the means and the path for each person to live a life of dignity and purpose. This has meant fighting for funding and even changing the name of the Department of Retardation to the Department of Developmental Disabilities to reflect respect for the clients served. I am the guardian for my sister with Down Syndrome and have learned what it means for families to navigate a difficult bureaucracy to get the services they need. I plan to continue that advocacy in Congress and plan to co-sponsor the ABE act (Achieving a Better Life Experience -H.R. 647) as one of the first bills I support.