

2020 Questions for Candidates



The 2020 election season has begun. We must continue to raise our voices about policies that advance our vision forward that ***all people have a home.***

Beacon does not get involved in impacting the outcomes of elections or supporting specific candidates. Beacon wants to move our values and issues forward, not particular candidates or parties. In addition, as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization we are prohibited for participating in electoral politics.

We can and will talk about our issues to educate and inform candidates and voters. One way to do this is for all of you, as leaders in the Beacon collaborative, to ask questions of candidates whenever you encounter them.

The conversations and questions that candidates engage in shape what they will know about and act on later. It is essential everyone seize the opportunities they have to engage candidates at every level.

Either in a candidate forum event, a side conversation, or a personal meeting, we encourage you to include questions like these.

Sample Questions:

County/Local

- What is your vision for our city/county to have affordable housing that is accessible to the lowest income people?
- Do you support the city/county increasing investments in affordable housing for the lowest income people?
- Do you support Bring It Home, MN, which creates a statewide rent subsidy program for all low-income Minnesotans?
- Will you work with Beacon and other housing advocates to build the support and energy needed to pass Bring It Home, MN?

State

- What is your plan to respond to the housing crisis facing our state?
- Do you support Bring It Home, MN, which creates a statewide rent subsidy program for all low-income Minnesotans?
- Will you work with Beacon and other housing advocates to build the support and energy needed to pass Bring It Home, MN?

- Housing is a fundamental issue, yet that is not reflected in the state budget (.05% towards housing), and it does not even have its own committee in the Senate. Do you support increasing the housing budget and having a committee in both legislative chambers?
- Permanent supportive housing - housing with services in the building - is a key solution to meeting the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness. Housing bonds and service funding from the state are what make this type of housing possible. Do you support increasing housing bonds and service funding for permanent supportive housing?

Federal

- Right now, only one in four people who are eligible receive federal rental assistance. Do you support fully funding Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)?