



Candidate Questions – City Council

- The city has committed to create 7,500 affordable housing opportunities to address the needs of over 30,000 cost burdened households identified by HousingNOLA. How do you plan to honor this commitment?
- In order to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment in New Orleans, renters need to earn \$18.54 per hour. That's more than the typical renter earns and more than twice what minimum-wage workers earn. Will you support the Smart Housing Mix policy to ensure that a percentage of new units coming online are affordable to the average worker?
- Will you agree to protect existing city-level sources for affordable housing, such as the Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund, and work to allocate additional funding to develop more housing?
- How will you work with the state to secure more funding for affordable housing?
- Do you commit to allocate more resources for first-time homebuyers including homebuyer education, financial literacy and loans and/or grants to make homeownership possible? If so, how?
- The Finance Authority of New Orleans is the city's housing finance agency and can provide a range of support to citizens and developers in order to create new housing opportunities. Do you commit to support the expansion of the utilization of resources and programming for the Finance Authority of New Orleans?
- What is your vision for wealth building for low-moderate income households?
- As New Orleanians struggle with a housing crisis, over four thousand units in the city are being used as short-term rentals for tourists, especially in rapidly-gentrifying neighborhoods. Even with the current permitting system, many residents complain that the concentration of short-term rentals disrupts the residential character and sense of community: for example, the city has issued 8 permits - representing 31 bedrooms, and only two units owner-occupied - on just one block of Ursulines in the Treme. Given the difficulty of building hundreds of new units in historic neighborhoods, how would you like to amend the short-term rental ordinance to respond to current housing needs?
- New Orleans is a majority renter city with thousands of units in disrepair, few rules for landlords, and almost no enforcement. Will you support the Healthy Homes Ordinance to create basic health and safety standards for all rental units?



- Neighborhoods such as the Bywater, Treme, and Mid-City have seen significant public investments, but these investments often increase housing prices and make it difficult for long-time residents to remain. How will you ensure that new investments in neighborhoods likely to gentrify—like the \$140 million Resilience District project slated for Filmore—include protections for existing residents?
- Despite being far less transient than market-rate renters, Housing Choice Voucher ("Section 8") households are often held up as examples of problem neighbors. Will you repudiate negative stereotypes of voucher households and challenge NIMBY-ism based on similar stereotypes of low-income renters?
- In 2016, the City and Housing Authority of New Orleans submitted what is widely regarded as a model fair housing plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This Assessment of Fair Housing plan calls for targeting new affordable housing in low-poverty neighborhoods near job centers and transit, while simultaneously increasing infrastructure and economic development investments in higher-poverty, underserved communities. Will you support this goal and if so, what ideas or strategies do you have to achieve it?
- The largest and most flexible subsidies available to the City to incentivize and direct affordable housing and economic development are not traditional housing and community development funds, they're tax reductions offered through the Industrial Development Board (IDB). Will you commit to nominating IDB members who support HousingNOLA's goal of targeting affordable housing investments in low-poverty neighborhoods near job centers while targeting economic development investments in underserved communities?
- Will you advocate for the Council Utility Committee to require that Entergy invest in energy efficiency measures that would mitigate the need for the proposed power plant in New Orleans East?
- Do you support the continued implementation of UNITY of Greater New Orleans' Bold Plan of Action, which includes goals of attaining functional zero in youth homelessness by Dec. 31, 2019 and reducing street homelessness by 75% by Dec. 31, 2020?

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