

Bishop's Committee on Affordable Housing: Advocate Welcome

Open doors by raising our voices for housing policies and priorities. Resources for current issues:

Federal priorities nlihc.org National Low Income Housing Coalition State priorities nchousing.org NC Housing Coalition

Local priorities: contact your community housing organizations, watch for public hearings by county or city government

Hearts--shared values from our faith

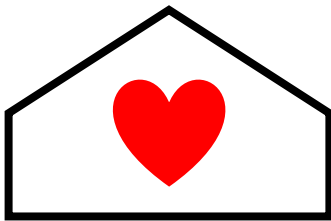
Love your neighbor as yourself.

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded towards your fellow people who are poor and needy in your land.

Deuteronomy 15:11

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has appointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. Isaiah 61:1

My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. Isaiah 32:18



Voices--bold advocacy about housing needs and solutions

- Engage family, friends, colleagues, neighbors in conversations about housing
- Organize and provide educational presentations in faith communities, civic organizations, public forums, and media
- Provide public comment online and as speakers from the floor in public hearings
- Write letters and make calls to elected officials about housing issues
- Advocate with decision-makers about housing opportunities
- Serve as Habitat Ambassadors to speak up about affordable housing

Votes--wise selection of decision-makers who support housing

- Study the records and platforms of candidates for leadership positions in your parish or mission, neighborhood association, precinct, legislative and congressional district, statewide and national elections
- Consider running for office at any of these levels
- Vote and encourage others to vote!

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Minds--clear understanding of housing

Know who is at risk

- For example: Greensboro is in the top 10 US cities with unaffordable housing and 4th in NC evictions
- 12.8% of NC children and 10.2% of seniors live below the poverty line and can afford no more than \$365 for 1 BR unit or \$636 for 2 BR
- Children, seniors, and people with disabilities are most likely to be left out of housing

Recognize underlying problems

- Short supply + high demand = rising cost of existing housing
- High construction + land cost = escalating price of new housing
- 84% of Greensboro land zoned single family; few housing options, sprawl, less farmland
- Resistance to change

Explore proven models of solutions

- Housing diversity: land use policies for broader range of options. Ex: accessory dwelling units, twin homes, cluster homes, group housing
- Creation of more compact walkable neighborhoods
- Public investment and charitable donations for housing construction
- Rental supplements and downpayment assistance to reduce cost burden
- Supportive services for at-risk households to access and retain housing
- Legal counsel for tenants and homeowners at risk of displacement
- Community Land Trusts for longterm affordability
- Models of shared housing
- Landlord-tenant-service provider partnerships
- Repurposing of public, commercial, and faith community properties for housing

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