

Paul Clark, Candidate for Carrboro Board of Aldermen

1. What are the highest priority affordable housing issues in your community?

Most important priorities: Affordable homeownership

Top priorities, but not most important: Rental housing, Senior housing, Critical repairs, Mobile homes, Permanent housing for homeless

2. Should local government provide more money or less money to support affordable housing in your community?

About the same amount of money. There is a fine balance to funding affordable housing. The more money allocated for affordable housing could cause an increase in taxes and make areas less affordable for middle-class. I believe in working with developers to create inclusive affordable housing with a regulatory process on time and costs. Developers can make a reasonable profit and affordable housing residents can be included in the community.

3. Do you support donating surplus government-owned land to affordable housing developers?

No. Land is a precious resource and the town needs fair compensation for land sales. However, if the development includes commercial space and career development resources, then the property becomes an investment. We need to create opportunities for affordable housing residents to earn higher wages. The sale price can be negotiated with the appropriate short-term and long-term agreements to ensure the town gets a fair return on the property, and residents get the resources they need.

4. Do you think local jurisdictions do an effective job coordinating housing policies and programs with other jurisdictions in the county, including Orange County government?

Moderately ineffective. Communication between local jurisdictions needs to improve. Communication between departments within each jurisdiction needs to improve. Communication with the public needs to improve. I want to bridge those gaps and I have experience doing it.

5. What's one example of an affordable housing program or development that you think worked well. Please explain why you think that was successful and how you will support more of these successes in the future.

I think the Community Home Trust is a great program. It is the perfect example of how community support can create success. I think homes should be inclusive and encourage ownership. It builds strong families and strong communities.

6. What are your ideas for ensuring that the new Town of Carrboro Affordable Housing Advisory Commission will be effective?

The Board of Alderman needs to trust the experts appointed to the commission and avoid unnecessary delays to accomplishing Town goals.