

Lydia Lavelle, Incumbent Mayor of Carrboro

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

Top priorities, but not most important: Affordable homeownership, Senior housing, Critical repairs, Permanent housing for homeless

Important, but lower priorities: Rental housing

Not too important: Mobile homes

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

Slightly more money. Local governmental leaders must balance many priorities. Affordable housing is certainly one of these.

Slow, steady, increased funding at the local level, and working to leverage money with local partners or affordable developers, is a sustainable, realistic way for local government to support on affordable housing.

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

Yes. This is a way to arrive at a win-win: local government is able to achieve a goal that is a value of the community, and an affordable housing developer is able to keep costs down by not having to absorb the cost of property.

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 effective. This is in the process of improving, i.e., the CASA effort on Merritt Mill Road is an example.

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.

The CASA project on Merritt Mill. Property owned jointly by two jurisdictions, financial backing by three jurisdictions, leveraging federal monies: if and when built, a success story of many metrics.

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

We specifically appointed Bethany Chaney, who most recently chaired our Task Force, as our board liaison to this commission, in order to ensure a smooth transition. We also need to have an able Town staff liaison (with Nate Broman Fulks' departure) assigned to this group; this is imperative in order for the new commission members to understand the history of this issue in Carrboro and what has been accomplished so far. There is a lot of potential in the goals and strategies of the Task Force report, but it will be essential for the commission members to study and understand each part of the report. The final product was approved after many months of deliberation, and is an important document.