

Jenn Weaver, Incumbent Hillsborough Town Commissioners

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

Most important priorities: Rental housing, Affordable homeownership, Critical repairs, Mobile homes, Permanent housing for homeless

Top priorities, but not most important: Senior housing

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

The question doesn't lend itself well to a town like Hillsborough, with a population of 6,400 people (or even 8-12,000 as it grows). For us it is more helpful to consider "Should we DO more?", and I think the answer is yes. I would like us to always be thinking about how to best leverage the assets we do have (some payment in lieu funds from developments, property, land use strategies, collaboration with other jurisdictions), but Hillsborough is never going to be able to meet the need with our own funding, especially as wages remain flat and federal dollars are all but dried up.

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

Yes. There is so much "it depends" with this - whether Town owned properties are needed to meet another critical need via development or sale, whether the property is well connected to walkable groceries or modes of transportation other than cars, whether it can be well-integrated into surrounding community or is it marooned out somewhere alone. Not all pieces of land are good for housing. But I do think it should be on the table of approaches/solutions to consider.

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. I have recently come to think that local jurisdictions need to do a better job at speaking together with one voice to the state legislature about the depth and breadth of the affordable housing problem in our communities. I think that if we are better coordinated on that front, we may be able to get more assistance or tools from levels of government that are better resourced.

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.

It goes without saying that the AH efforts of the acommunity Home Trust have been extraordinary - the affordable in perpetuity, integrated in with market rate homes, the sheer number of people they e been able to help. Remarkable.

6. As the Town of Hillsborough continues to experience growth, what policies or tools can the Town employ to ensure that housing does not become out of reach for households at or below median income?

Continue too ask developers to incorporate AH into their projects or give the Town payment in lieu. Encourage density, where appropriate and a variety of housing sizes. Accept that growth in desirable places is not only inevitable, but will help prevent (or at least slow down) housing scarcity that further drives up prices and values, and helps prevent gentrification and tearing down older, modest homes to build new ones. We should also be could participants and partners with the Coalition and the Partnership to End Homelessness so that we are always up to date and communicating about new and potential initiatives (like the forthcoming initiative to incentivize more landlords to accept vouchers) we can be a part of.