

# #20

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, October 05, 2019 6:31:14 PM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, October 05, 2019 6:51:40 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:20:26  
**IP Address:** 70.250.119.101

Page 1: Administered by the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition

**Q1** Please enter your name.

Jess Anderson

**Q2** What is the most important affordable housing issue in your community?

Rental housing	<b>Top priority but not the most important</b>
Affordable homeownership	<b>Top priority but not the most important</b>
Senior housing	<b>Top priority but not the most important</b>
Critical repairs	<b>Top priority but not the most important</b>
Mobile homes	<b>Most important priority</b>
Permanent housing for homeless	<b>Top priority but not the most important</b>

**Q3** Should local government provide more money, level funding, or less money to support affordable housing in your community? If you said level or less, why? If you said more, how much more AND how do you plan to achieve this?

**Slightly more money** ,

Please provide an explanation for your response.:

The Town staff is currently working at capacity while it explores strategies for investing the \$10 million bond, designs and builds affordable housing at 2200 Homestead Road, and builds affordable housing on the Town-owned parcel on the Jay Street. While our current staff is working at capacity, there are many others who can help build our affordable housing inventory if given the resources to do so. The best use of the additional money would be to invest in our community partners such as Community Home Trust, Habitat for Humanity, the Northside Neighborhood Initiative, and EmPOWERment, Inc., among others.

## 2019 Candidate Survey on Affordable Housing

**Q4** Utilizing surplus government-owned land is an important tool for creating affordable housing. What are some parcels of public land you think should be made available for affordable housing? Are there any parcels that should not be?

As co-chair of the Town Properties Task Force, I've spent many long hours exploring this very question, and I support the analysis that came out of the task force. We've already flagged properties on 2200 Homestead Road (already in development), Jay Street (RFP to come soon), Bennet Road (in staff analysis phase), and between Southern Village and Dogwood Acres (working through legal with the County) as ideal parcels for affordable housing. In addition to those, I think that a small portion of the town-acquired 36.2 acre American Legion Property could be used for affordable housing, particularly on the side of the property adjoining an existing neighborhood.

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**Q5** What is one local 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 Greenfield Place and Greenfield Commons developments on Legion Road demonstrate what's possible when the Town contributes its land, can access Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and partners with local nonprofit developers. These developments were successful because they were multifaceted collaborations and leaders of the participating groups had the political will to see the projects through. I am fully committed to continuing to leverage the town's resources--including but not limited to town-owned land--to realize more such successes.

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**Q6** How would you ensure that people who have been affected by the lack of affordable housing have a "seat" at decision-making tables about the future development of affordable housing in our community?

One of our best resources for connecting with those affected by the lack of affordable housing is the Family Success Alliance (FSA). It is unrealistic (and frankly, unjust) to expect everyone whose voice needs to be heard on this issue to attend community input sessions or public meetings. FSA can conduct outreach to those who are impacted and listens to their concerns and their ideas. With FSA serving as our "boots on the ground", we can foster a more inclusive--and better--decision-making process. In addition, I successfully petitioned the town to provide childcare and transportation for advisory board members who need it as a way of reducing barriers to participation for those with financial constraints. I personally was able to recruit a member of the Manager Hiring Committee who would have otherwise been unable to participate, and I am hopeful that she and others will continue to engage.

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