

# #4

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, September 27, 2019 9:29:17 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, September 27, 2019 10:35:54 PM  
**Time Spent:** 01:06:36  
**IP Address:** 162.198.200.225

Page 1: Administered by the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition

**Q1** Please enter your name.

Susan Romaine

**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>Most important priority</b>
Mobile homes	<b>Top priority but not the most important</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 of Carrboro is in a position to spend slightly more money this year and next, thanks to the half penny tax hike designated for affordable housing. I would not recommend any additional tax hike, however, or we risk Carrboro becoming even more unaffordable for the very people we are trying to assist with 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?

Our largest remaining parcel of public land is the 164-acre Greene Tract, jointly owned by Orange County, Town of Chapel Hill, and Town of Carrboro. Support from the towns and the county, and community members needs to be coordinated to ensure the largest possible number of units of affordable housing is built. In addition, the town owns some small parcels of land on Crest Street, Pathway Drive, and Hill Street that could be used for affordable housing. I don't know of any public land that should NOT be used for affordable housing in Carrboro.

## 2019 Candidate Survey on Affordable Housing

**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.

Perhaps the Town's most cost effective affordable housing program involves critical repairs allowing residents, especially seniors, to stay safely in their homes. Some of these repairs can be as simple as repairing a collapsed roof, building a ramp for a wheelchair, or installing protective handrails in bathrooms and along staircases. These kinds of repairs are not particularly expensive (say, several thousand dollars), but they can make the difference between an individual remaining at home and being forced to relocate. Given the town's limited resources for affordable housing, I would support full funding for a comprehensive repair program allowing residents to stay in their homes.

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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?

It would be nice to see more residents who are living in affordable housing, sitting on our affordable housing advisory board. Strategies for encouraging more participation include free transportation (i.e., Uber) to advisory board meetings; free day care during meeting times; teleconferencing; and mentoring opportunities. Scheduling advisory board meetings at times and locations that are most convenient for residents of affordable housing may also increase participation.

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