



2021 Municipal General Elections Candidate Questionnaire

Please answer each of the following questions in 150 words or less. Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition (OCAHC) is a non-partisan association of organizations and individuals interested in affordable housing, and does not endorse candidates. Instead, OCAHC members will share the completed questionnaires from all candidates throughout our networks, including with local media and organizations that make endorsements. (If you do not return a completed questionnaire, we will note that when sending the questionnaires to our networks.) Our goal is to help voters make informed decisions to elect leaders who will prioritize the policies and resources needed to address our community's housing crisis.

Thank you in advance for completing this questionnaire. Should you have questions, please contact OCAHC Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs George Barrett (george@jacksoncenter.info) or Jackie Jenks (jjenks@ifcmailbox.org).

Please submit your completed questionnaire via email to ochousingcoalition@gmail.com by Saturday, September 25th at 12:00 pm.

1. Describe the current housing situation in our community. What are the main drivers of affordability challenges (property taxes, development types, lack of land, etc.)?
 - a. The housing situation is a crisis for those at and below 30% AMI. From my perspective, the combination of high property taxes, ocean-liner high rise development, and Mayor Hemminger's administrative blindspots that come from her own benefit of profiting off her private real-estate company are the main drivers of affordability challenges in the community.
2. What is the most important role of an elected official/local government in ensuring all community members can afford housing?
 - a. The most important role of an elected official in prioritizing the eradication of homelessness is exercised in their commitment to prioritizing evidence-based policy that demonstrates a clear line between people over profit when it comes to housing and all other human rights.

3. What is your prior experience in creating and promoting affordable housing?
 - a. My experiences as Youth and Family Development volunteer with the United States Peace Corps compounded by my own lived experiences with oppression as a minoritized person and lack of access to affordable housing in the Chapel Hill community inform my perspective and motivate me to center affordable housing as a human right as a central tenet of my platform for the mayoral race.
4. In order of priority, what are three specific policy or funding initiatives related to affordable housing that you will support if (re-)elected?
 - a. Pursuing a bond for affordable housing that targets the needs of those at and below 30% AMI
 - b. Refurbishing the Trinity apartment complex that has been empty for almost a decade to re-purpose the space for homeless populations in the community.
 - c. Fostering more inter-institutional collaboration with the University administration to increase access to affordable housing on campus for students in the community who cannot afford to live here.
5. How would you create affordable housing for individuals 30% AMI and below?
 - a. I would use my access to the university library catalogues, and specifically those of the ecological and city/regional planning departments to create a comprehensive plan for increasing affordable housing and decreasing marginalization with the most cutting-edge research kept within the university catalogues.
6. Our community has seen growing polarization on arguments for increased housing density weighed against environmental impacts. What is your position on this discussion?
 - a. These issues are not mutually exclusive. It will take a combination of informed intersectional analysis and praxis to inclusively craft evidence-based policy that draws a hard line prioritizing people over profit when it comes to human rights like housing, water, food, healthcare, and transportation.
7. How would you implement systemic solutions to inequitable property taxes in our community?
 - a. I would have the council review a set of literature comprised of progressive housing initiatives, research from the university's departments of city/regional planning and ecology, compounded by research from the school of law around environmental justice in administrative law settings.
8. How do you view affordable housing as a racial equity issue?
 - a. It's another form of oppression that is based in historical exclusion and needs to be centered in conversation/targeted in administrative proceedings by minoritized members of the community who live the reality of that exclusion.

Please answer the following questions with Yes or No

9. Will you support a new bond for affordable housing within the next two years?

Yes or No

YES!

10. Are you willing to dedicate at least 15% of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds toward affordable housing?

Yes or No

YES!

11. Do you support building affordable housing for people 30% AMI or below on the Greene Tract? (Town of Chapel Hill and Carrboro candidates only).

Yes or No

YES,

12. Do you support building affordable housing for people 30% AMI or below on the former American Legion Property? (Town of Chapel Hill candidates only).

Yes or No

YES