



City Council Candidate Questionnaire

The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) has crafted a #PutHousingFirst Platform of policy recommendations for City Council candidates to commit to, based on seven key pillars that we believe to be the most effective solutions towards alleviating our city's affordable housing crisis.

Goal #1: Preserve existing and expand the total supply of affordable rental and homeownership opportunities throughout the City of New Orleans.

1. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to protecting the Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund (NHIF) from expiring or being reappropriated?
2. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to prioritizing housing within the city's budget process so that funding for housing is identified and allocated in a timely and impactful manner?
3. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to proposing adequate funding for related departments like the City Planning Commission and Office of IZ Administrator?
4. Dating back to 2017, affordable housing advocates have urged city officials to implement the Smart Housing Mix, which would require and incentivize private developers to create a percentile of affordable housing units in their projects throughout New Orleans. Four years later, this mandate has yet to be enacted and has gone through several iterations that threaten to undermine the original intended impact of expanding affordable housing opportunities in our city. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to prioritizing and supporting inclusionary zoning policies in the future, including a regulated mapping re-examination process for the Smart Housing Mix every two years?
5. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to finding and securing resources to specifically house our unhoused populations?

Goal #2: Prevent future displacement through development activities and continued study and policy review.

6. Measures like the parking regulations under The University Area Off-Street Parking Overlay will further segregate neighborhoods and discourage the production of affordable housing in areas with high job prospects and public transit access. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to promoting transit-oriented development that would allow culture bearers, service workers, and everyday citizens to live close to employment opportunities and have access to essential neighborhood resources?
7. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to developing a strategy that actively combats displacement under a Right to Stay or Return initiative that would include tax relief for long-term residents and supportive services (including legal aid for evictions) to stabilize vulnerable populations?

Goal #3: Enforce and promote fair housing policies throughout New Orleans.

8. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to supporting and proposing policies that fight income-based housing discrimination?
9. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to exploring policies that would encourage more landlords to accept vouchers, including mobility counseling and landlord recruitment?
10. HANO scattered sites and multi-family housing play integral roles in expanding the footprint of affordable housing in New Orleans, but policies that support these measures are normally opposed by wealthy, white homeowner associations over fears of density and disruption of neighborhood character. The "Not-in-My-Backyard" rhetoric normally correlated with these concerns are often voiced at public meetings for scattered site project proposals and zoning ordinance hearings, ultimately contributing to affordable housing developments being stalled or denied altogether. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to combatting negative stereotypes associated with the disruption of the "Suburban American Dream" by promoting the need to establish more mix-income neighborhoods?

Goal #4: Encourage sustainable design & infrastructure for all New Orleanians.

11. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to utilizing regulatory power over the Sewage & Water Board to alleviate the water cost burden for New Orleans residents?
12. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to rejecting any efforts by Entergy to water down or reinterpret the City's Renewable and Clean Portfolio Standard?
13. More than 18,000 NOLA households pay 20% or more of their income on Entergy bills, compared to a national median of 3.1%. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to reducing New Orleanians extreme energy burdens by requiring Entergy to develop programs to drive energy cost burdens down to national averages?
14. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to prioritizing a federally-funded large-scale community solar program that includes buy-in for low-income residents?
15. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to supporting weatherization and efficiency funding for residents with unaffordable utility bills?
16. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to supporting a large-scale program of home-based backup batteries?
17. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to advocating for improved transmission to move low-cost renewable energy to New Orleans?

Goal #5: Increase accessibility for all walks of life, including special needs residents.

18. In 2018, the city passed the Ban the Box Ordinance to fight employment discrimination for the formerly incarcerated. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to drafting and passing a study resolution to remove questions about prior criminal convictions on applications to live in publicly funded housing developments and units operated by private landlords?

Goal #6: Promote transparency and utilize community input in decision-making.

19. ***As part of a Just Recovery***, if elected or re-elected, will you commit to promoting transparency in all budgeting plans and procedures, particularly with American Rescue Plan funds and other federal fund allocations?
20. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to ensuring thorough and intentional community education and outreach strategies to ensure a fair and equitable redistricting process?
21. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to rejecting campaign donations from Entergy or any of its consultants, contractors or affiliates?
22. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to supporting root-and-branch administrative reform at Entergy, including a comprehensive management audit and turning the page on the City Council's current, exorbitant "legal and technical advisor" contract?

Goal #7: Improve quality of life in New Orleans neighborhoods.

23. The Healthy Homes Ordinance, a rental registry proposal approved by City Council's Community Development Committee in 2017, was withdrawn by the full council on May 3, 2018. This ordinance would have acted as an accountability piece for landlords to maintain their properties and ensure that their units are safe and habitable for tenants through third-party inspections. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to supporting policies that protect renters, including a rental registry, a renter bill of rights, and right to counsel?
24. Based on the National Low Income Housing Coalition's [2021 Out of Reach Report](#), the estimated mean renter wage for New Orleans is \$16.14/hr., but the average housing cost for a 2-bedroom home is \$20.40/hr. If elected or re-elected, will you commit to closing the gap between the local housing wage and federal minimum wage by supporting a city-wide minimum wage increase?