

Katie's Plan: Confront the Housing and Homelessness Crisis

Sacramentans are facing [increasing rental prices](#), and [a startling number](#) of our neighbors are experiencing homelessness. [A recent report](#) documents that 19% of Sacramento County residents have severe housing burden, meaning they pay more than 50% of their income on housing, and [research shows](#) that higher rent burden correlates to higher rates of homelessness - which is part of the reason that [demand far exceeds supply](#) for housing vouchers in our region. [Data shows](#) that high housing costs contribute to economic insecurity and hurt employers' ability to hire and retain skilled workers. These challenges are particularly acute in District 4. If we don't act soon, we risk losing the very people that make Sacramento an incredible place.

I have worked for the Sacramento Housing Alliance and have spent the last three years as a volunteer organizing to create the Sacramento Community Land Trust, a new nonprofit that will pull land out of the market for community benefit. I have been on the ground fighting for homeowners, renters, and unhoused individuals and families, and am ready to continue that fight as your representative on the City Council.

As your Councilmember, I will:

- **Immediately increase the quality of life for unhoused people** by installing public restrooms, lockers, and safe camping sites staffed by professionals trained in mental health and substance abuse treatment.

When our neighbors fall on hard times, they should have a safe, healthy place to get back on their feet. Many people in District 4 know how dire the situation has become, with tents popping up on many public streets. Sacramento needs to provide basic safety and sanitation services to unhoused people which will improve their quality of life, as well as the quality of life for the residents and businesses nearby. [Research shows](#) that providing more permanent housing is far more cost effective than other methods of addressing homelessness. I will work with housing and homelessness advocates to identify and address the gap in transitional and supportive housing to accommodate those coming off the streets or out of temporary shelters as well as to prevent those who need assistance from ending up on the streets in the first place.

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CITY COUNCIL

- **Stop the increase in homelessness** by adopting stronger rent stabilization and just cause eviction policies that prevent landlords from impulsively evicting tenants without reason.

Over the past 8 years, rents in Sacramento have skyrocketed. People who serve our communities everyday - from child care to food service, janitorial to administrative - are increasingly unable to stay in the neighborhoods they call home. By adopting policies that protect renters- who make up nearly half of District 4 - from eviction or sudden and significant rent increases, we can keep Sacramento a place for all of us to thrive.

I will push to strengthen local measures to curtail rent increases, and fight for stronger just cause eviction policies. I will also push for more resources for the Rental Housing Inspection Program to ensure tenants don't worry about getting evicted for asking for repairs.

- **Increase our affordable housing stock** by making appropriate publicly held vacant parcels available to nonprofit affordable housing developers and updating the city design guidelines to require developers to build a variety of unit sizes.

The City must immediately stop selling publicly-owned vacant parcels, and reserve all of those parcels not planned for open space for nonprofit affordable housing developers. The City must also secure and prioritize funding for the affordable housing trust fund so we can provide meaningful resources to developers looking to build affordable units. We could also implement a version of [Washington D.C.'s Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act \(TOPA\)](#) to enter properties into tenant ownership when they are to be sold by the owner.

By entering properties into community ownership through the Sacramento Community Land Trust, we can preserve affordability with less public subsidy and help prevent displacement of residents.

- **Pave the way for creativity** by updating the city design guidelines to provide stronger density bonuses for affordable housing and establish building standards for tiny homes.

I believe the City should make it easier for people to develop accessory dwelling units or to develop higher density housing where it's appropriate. The City should also implement design standards for tiny homes to open the door to innovation in our communities.