

## Questions for Department of Housing Commissioner Nominee

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### Department of Housing (DOH) Commissioner (CGS § [8-37r](#))

The DOH commissioner is responsible for (1) all aspects of state housing policy, development, redevelopment, preservation, maintenance, and improvement of the state's housing stock and (2) developing strategies to encourage housing provision in the state, including for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families.

DOH is located within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for administrative purposes only.

### Questions

1. How has your past experience, including as executive director of NeighborWorks New Horizons, prepared you for this role?
2. What do you see as the most important short- and long-term goals for DOH?
3. Is there any area related to housing in which DOH should be more involved? Are there programs in other agencies that should be transferred to DOH?
4. Other than lack of funding, what do you consider to be the greatest challenge to increasing the state's affordable housing stock?
5. Governor Lamont's Housing Transition Policy Committee [recommended](#) that the state encourage public-private partnerships to drive inclusive and equitable development. What actions, if any, should DOH take to implement this recommendation?

6. The Housing Transition Policy Committee set a goal of ending all forms of homelessness in the state by 2023 through maintenance and coordination of cross-agency resources. What role should DOH play in achieving this goal?
7. Which housing programs have been most effective in creating housing opportunities for Connecticut's low- and moderate-income households? What are your ideas for improving the current programs or creating new ones?
8. Special Act 17-19 required DOH to study three state-funded housing projects that provide housing to elderly tenants and younger tenants with disabilities. In order to reduce tensions between the two populations, the report recommended that, among other things, (1) DOH request funding for additional resident service coordinators (RSCs) and (2) housing authorities provide increased training to RSCs, including information on addressing sexual, racial, and ethnic harassment, as well as undiagnosed mental health and addiction issues. Do you agree with these recommendations? Do you have any other recommendations?
9. What types of housing-related programs or incentives could the state offer to young professionals to encourage them to live in Connecticut's urban centers?
10. What types of housing-related programs or incentives could the state or municipalities offer to municipal employees, such as teachers or police officers, to help them afford to live in the communities where they work?
11. Has the state's supply of affordable housing increased since the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Procedure (CGS § [8-30g](#)) was enacted in 1990? Where has this housing been built? Has it kept pace with demand? What changes, if any, would you like to see made to the procedure?
12. The legislature is currently considering SB 54 and sHB 5713, both of which limit a landlord's ability to review a prospective tenant's criminal history. What are your thoughts on these proposals?
13. The legislature is also considering HB 5844, which would require housing authorities to include voter registration applications with applications that they distribute to individuals or families for admission to, or continued occupancy with, the authority. What are your thoughts?

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