

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. What do you consider as DOH's most significant accomplishments during your first term as commissioner? What do you see as the most important short- and long-term goals for DOH moving forward?
2. Other than lack of funding, what are the greatest challenges to increasing the state's affordable housing stock? Additionally, what are the biggest obstacles to increasing the state's housing stock generally?
3. In your opinion, is the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Procedure ([CGS § 8-30g](#)) an effective tool for increasing the state's supply of affordable housing? Why or why not? What changes, if any, would you like to see made to the procedure?
4. In 2017, the legislature required municipalities to prepare affordable housing plans specifying how they intend to increase their number of affordable housing developments

([CGS § 8-30j](#)). Do you think these plans will result in the production of additional affordable housing units over time?

5. In recent years, the legislature has considered various proposals to require that local zoning regulations allow for a diversity of housing types to be built. What are your views on this policy approach? Are local zoning regulations a barrier to increasing the state's housing stock generally?
6. What steps can be taken to increase the success rate for Connecticut voucher recipients under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program? Do you think housing authorities administering vouchers should be encouraged to allow recipients to use them outside of that city or town?
7. What is the success rate for households that receive a certificate under the state's Rental Assistance Program, and what are the obstacles to increasing this rate?
8. Given the recent above-average rates of eviction filings in Connecticut, can you describe the programs the department currently operates to aid in preventing evictions? Can you specifically provide information on the current status of the (1) UniteCT Program; (2) Rent Bank Program, which received \$1.5 million in funding under last session's implementer act ([PA 22-18, §§ 55 & 482](#)); and (3) statewide Right to Counsel Program?
9. Last session, the legislature enacted [PA 22-30](#), which requires municipalities with populations of at least 25,000 to have a fair rent commission by July 1, 2023. With more municipalities now required to establish these commissions, are there additional statutory changes you would recommend related to how fair rent commissions function and the criteria they must consider in determining excessive rental charges?
10. This session, several proposed bills would establish various forms of rent control in Connecticut for the first time since the mid-1950s. Do you think the legislature should pursue rent control policies?

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