

# Candidate for 6th In-District | Tiffany Moore

## 1. What is your lived experience and background on housing issues?

Housing, as a building type, is closest to our personal lives and reflected in nearly every memory we have. Over the course of my life, I've experienced the housing impacts from 4 significant economic downturns, including the 1980s farm crisis that decimated the community around me as a teenager, resulting in tragic, desperate decisions I will never forget.

Stable housing is associated with holiday traditions, childhood sleepovers, height marks on door frames, prom pictures at the front door, and even the anxiety of committing to a first home. It provides comfort and security, which translate into positive physical and mental health outcomes, educational achievement, and hope. Without access to stable housing, the memories are very different and have lifelong repercussions.

I have owned residential real estate for decades – primarily renovating old homes - and began following housing research as my involvement in local concerns deepened. I've worked through the emotional process of making housing decisions with aging family members and neighbors and understand the uncertainty and fear associated with housing instability.

My housing vision will integrate a variety of models and strategies to retain existing housing, stabilize costs, and generate more affordable options throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> district.



## 2. What role does the City have in creating affordable housing or ensuring its availability? What measures would you propose to promote affordable housing solutions in KC?

Housing must be viewed as an ecosystem, not as individual parts. Every aspect of our development strategy and zoning code must be coordinated under an overarching housing policy that sets priorities and defines measurable outcomes. Workforce housing cannot be sacrificed for larger homes. Neighborhoods cannot be sacrificed for short term rentals. All participants must be held accountable for their involvement.

The City's role should include ensuring that public participation in the development process, which is inclusive of direct funding, tax and fee abatements, zoning accommodations, and property transactions, supports the overarching housing policy and that we have a resilient housing ecosystem capable of meeting the wide-ranging needs of Kansas City residents.

Private investment is essential to increasing the number of attainable (available and affordable) housing units, however, we cannot build our way out of the growing housing crisis. I will recommend a series of efforts for the City to acquire and rehabilitate existing homes and buildings that more quickly and cost effectively generate affordable housing units within existing neighborhoods and reduce the blighting influence of problem properties. My recommendations will also include shifting the current development requirements to a model based on square footage that produces broader options to house families.

### **3. What would be your priority and first steps to end homelessness in Kansas City?**

My approach to homelessness connects housing policy, education, and employment. Reducing the stigma of homelessness, collaborating with the Students in Transition teams (McKinney-Vento Act) at all 4 public schools in the 6th District, and fully integrating private and public social services organizations are the first steps.

Establishing policy that supports a resilient housing ecosystem will allow public funding to target deeply affordable projects that include holistic services capable of interrupting transitional and episodic homelessness. It is imperative for these efforts to include housing units that preserve families and households.

Parallel efforts that include crisis intervention teams and social workers will target mental health support, substance abuse treatment, and other services on the chronically homeless population that may not be candidates for fully returning to independent living.

Pairing these initiatives with broader City employment opportunities will directly reduce poverty through paychecks and provide housing stability through living wages and better, upward career mobility, benefits, and retirement options.

### **4. What components define an equitable neighborhood and what would be your first step to ensure all neighborhoods thrive?**

Equitable neighborhoods are defined by safe, healthy built environments that nurture families and individuals through every stage of life. Built environments include housing stock; infrastructure; and public amenities such as parks, libraries, schools, and community centers. These elements along with a variety of businesses and faith-based organizations create an equitable environment when they benefit and serve all the people who choose to live, work, and play there.

True neighborhood equity includes infrastructure designed for mobility that supports children learning to walk and neighbors with physical disabilities while providing safe spaces for aging adults to remain active. It includes housing options for life-long residents to remain connected to their community and embraces new residents while reserving space for public amenities that build strong connections and a sense of belonging.

Neighborhood equity encourages investment and reinvestment in response to the needs of residents and includes the community in those decisions. This inclusive approach weighs community needs against the value of investment decisions that may increase displacement of legacy community members or erode cultural identity.

My passion is healthy neighborhoods. I will continue to be present, engage with community members, and support long-term decision-making that ensures neighborhoods are vibrant and continue to thrive.

### **5. How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process around affordable housing and homelessness in KC?**

I plan to implement an educational series on development topics in a setting that is not associated with a project or hearing. Too often the constraints of a pending action limit the amount of time that can be invested in the information, and, in some cases, the timeline establishes an atmosphere of distrust.

The series will include types of housing, development, and homelessness; approaches to each; and related areas of interest. This effort would, ideally, include first-hand experiences associated with successful projects in other municipalities that could address similar needs in Kansas City.

Additionally, I intend to establish Area Plan Implementation Advisory Committees to proactively use the plans, which represent community consensus, to engage with community improvement districts, the development industry, and other organizations on future projects.

And finally, I will work to identify key priorities at the neighborhood level to maximize opportunities that retain existing housing, stabilize costs, and generate more affordable options throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> district.