

Dear Homes for All Advocates:

As a follow-up to the Housing for All forum, here are some steps you can take in the next two weeks to focus political will on affordable housing. We need concentrated action during the next two months of budget hearings and candidate forums to put pressure on officials and candidates to expand affordable housing.

1. Speak out at the last local budget town hall on the need to fund affordable housing:

Tuesday, April 2, 7pm Lee District Budget Town Hall Franconia Governmental Center Community Room, 6121 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310

2. Send a You Tube video or speak at the county budget hearing April 9-11

Sign up now to speak on April 9, 10, or 11 at the public hearing on Fairfax County Budget, County Government Center Fairfax <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form>. Video instructions are provided at the link. Just tell your story about your experience with unaffordable housing and tell the county board to add more funds not and adopt the full Affordable Housing Resource Panel recommendations for FY2021.

3. Support Mary Paden and President Kofi Annan at the Budget Hearing on April 9th, about 4-5 pm at the Fairfax County Government Center Board room. They are speakers number 9 and 10 at the hearing. We will have badges or cards for you to hold up in support of affordable housing. Meet outside the board room at 4 pm.

4. Ask questions at candidate forums, for example...

- Do you support the recommendation to add about \$25 million a year in the FY 2020 budget guidance to support new affordable housing? It would subsidize developers to build about a third of the units needed over the next 15 years? Do you support even more funding for affordable housing?
- A new survey shows there are 9,500 market rate housing units affordable to families making less than \$70K in Fairfax County. As land values rise and drive rents up, we are in danger of losing these affordable units. Do you support using county funds to help redevelop some of these units so there is “no net loss in affordable housing?”
- Do you support making Fairfax County a community in which people of all income levels can live? If so, how would you expand the amount of housing affordable to low and mid wage workers?
- If elected, how will you drive the county’s political will to expand affordable housing so people of all income levels can live here?

- Do you believe it is a moral issue to make sure that people of all income levels, races, and ethnicities can live in Fairfax County? An economic issue?
- Gentrification and rising land values often drives out people of color and people with lower incomes. How do you propose to keep these communities in Fairfax County?
- Do you support compensation for communities destroyed by gentrification caused by public investment in transit or in attracting big businesses to the area?

Some upcoming Candidate Forums are:

Hunter Mill: Candidates Forum on Affordable Housing. Hunter Mill District Supervisor candidates. **May 13**, 7-9pm, Heritage Fellowship Christian Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road, Reston, VA 20191. All four declared candidates have agreed to participate. Sponsored by Cornerstones.

Providence. Forum for Providence District Supervisor Candidates. Monday, **April 1**, 7:30 pm. Luther Jackson MS, 3020 Gallows Rd, Falls Church

Hunter Mill: Board of Supervisors Candidate Forum, **April 29**, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Reston Community Center, Hunter's Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd. Reston.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS IN EACH DISTRICT TO HELP ORGANIZE PEOPLE TO ATTEND CANDIDATE FORUMS. If you can be the point person for a district contact housing@fairfaxnaacp.org

5. **Help form a broad movement of organizations—to include businesses, chambers of commerce, and labor unions– to take sustained public action together to support more affordable housing in Fairfax County.**

The Housing for All forum was just the start of forming a broad coalition of organizations and people to demand a Fairfax County in which all can afford to live. Encourage your faith communities, unions, businesses, and others to join the movement.

[Ask them to sign up here](#)