

Home Means Nevada FAQs

This isn't going to solve homelessness. What about mental health, addiction, etc?

- That is correct. Homelessness is a complex issue with many contributing factors. However, the goal of Home Means Nevada isn't to address every aspect of this complex issue. It is to address the economic factors that are leading so many of our neighbors into housing insecurity and homelessness.
- Mental health professionals, counselors, and social workers will all tell you that no amount of services or treatment will help someone get out of homelessness if they cannot find affordable housing.

Why do we need to involve government in this? Why not just work together to provide the housing and services ourselves?

- This scale of this problem is massive. It is important to work together to address immediate needs, but unless we also work together to create big picture change there will be thousands of neighbors we will never be able to help.
- The root cause of the housing crisis is a lack of regional policies designed to spur on affordable housing development and ensure that economic growth benefits the whole community. Spending all of our time, energy and resources on addressing the symptoms while ignoring the root cause will not get us out of the whole we are in. The problem will only get bigger and people will keep getting hurt.

Why should we get involved in the local elections? Why not just wait till the leaders are elected and then come talk to them about these concerns?

- The local election cycle is a perfect opportunity to have a large community conversation about housing. Our community (and the candidates) will already be talking about a wide variety of local, state, and national issues.

We want to make sure the housing crisis doesn't get ignored, but is rather at the center of the conversation.

- Local decision makers pay close attention to who votes and a large base of civically engaged residents with a shared goal will get them to take our concerns seriously and work hard to address them. Voter registration, pledge cards, and public assemblies are very effective tools to engage elected leaders in a meaningful way.
- 2018 is a key year to have this regional conversation. 2019 is a state legislative year and 2020 is a national election and the U.S. Census. If we don't drive the conversation this year, we might get a chance again until 2021. We can't wait another 3 years to act.

Is this a political or partisan program?

No, Home Means Nevada is a non-partisan voter engagement program.

- The goal is not to support a candidate or issue that is on the ballot or influence the outcome of the election.
- The goal is to increase civic engagement and make sure that every local elected leader knows how important it is to boldly and quickly address our housing crisis by creating much needed regional policies.