

# HOUSING AS A MUNICIPAL ELECTION ISSUE

*Town of Digby  
Candidate Responses*



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## Town of Digby: Candidate Responses

The Homeless No More Initiative invited candidates to respond to questions about housing. Candidates were provided the opportunity to respond to our questions via email or complete an online questionnaire. Candidates who completed the questionnaire had the opportunity to provide responses to additional questions. This report includes publicly shareable responses.

### Question 1: If elected, what action(s) will you take to address housing in your community?

#### **Heather Burlingham, Candidate for Council**

Since I have never served on council previously, this will be a steep learning curve for me. What comes to mind is if a developer wants to develop land that is currently designated as commercial, and he/she wants to construct housing on it (especially if it's reasonably priced) council should move quickly to make the property residential. I know that there are by-laws, rules, etc.; which must be followed and sometimes environmental studies have to be conducted, but council should make every attempt to make this happen as quickly as possible. Council should be a partner, not an impediment.

### Question 2: In your opinion, what are the housing needs of people living in your district or municipal unit?

#### **Heather Burlingham, Candidate for Council**

The needs as I see it is affordability. In Digby, rents are quite high for decent housing and like many places, there is a short supply.



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**Question 3: What role do you think municipal government can play in addressing those needs?**

**Heather Burlingham, Candidate for Council**

Again as someone who is new to municipal government, I don't see any funds being available to actually construct housing but the council can help by approaching federal or provincial governments about this need. I once worked in a provincial cabinet minister's office and did see that the squeaky wheel does get the oil. You have to be persistent.

**Question 4: If elected, what are you willing to do to ensure that your council addresses the issue of housing in your community?**

**Heather Burlingham, Candidate for Council**

I am willing to join groups, either as a private citizen or as a council member, to assist in the matter of unhoused people.



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**Question 5: Which of the opportunities for municipalities to address housing needs in your community would you be committed to supporting as a member of Council?**

<b>Vacant Property Registration</b>	-
<b>Vacant Property Taxes</b>	-
<b>Incentives for Renting Out</b>	Heather Burlingham
<b>Registration of Tourist Accommodations</b>	Heather Burlingham
<b>Elimination of Non-Owner-Occupied Tourist Accommodations</b>	Heather Burlingham
<b>Landlord Licensing/Registration</b>	-
<b>Developing a housing plan/strategy</b>	-
<b>Initiatives to support energy efficiency for homeowners and renters</b>	-



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**Question 6: Which actions will you commit to doing, as a member of Council, with respect to supporting community housing needs?**

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Adopting a Municipal affordable housing plan that increases the supply of safe, affordable housing that meets peoples' needs</b> | -                  |
| <b>Championing the role of Municipal Government in addressing issues related to housing</b>   | Heather Burlingham |
| <b>Ensuring local policies reflect the vision of Federal and Provincial housing policies</b>  | -                  |
| <b>Engaging with local agencies, NGO's and stakeholders in creating a community driven action plan</b>                              | Heather Burlingham |
| <b>Ensuring local agencies are heard by funders and Government stakeholders</b>   | -                  |
| <b>Ensuring local businesses are supported in the effort to make a living wage the baseline for all employee compensation</b>       | -                  |

**Question 7: If you have identified other opportunities for action on housing, please share them with us here.**

No responses provided for this question.



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### Question 8: What are your questions or comments about housing?

#### **Heather Burlingham, Candidate for Council**

The statement that says landlords should be registered so that tenants have safe housing is worrying to me. We do have the provincial Residential Tenancies Act which is supposed to offer this protection to tenants but I do know that many tenants are intimidated and scared to seek help under this legislation.