

HB 96 WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 04/07/2025

Name: Students At Meadowdale Career Technology Center

Are you representing: Yourself **Organization**

Organization (If Applicable): Dayton Public Schools

Position/Title: Students

Address: 3873 Whitestone Court City: State: Zip: Dayton, OH 45416

Best Contact Telephone: 937-903-5414 Email: kodonnell@daytonpublic.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? **Yes**

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): House Bill 96

Specific Issue: Housing Funding

Are you testifying as a: **Interested Party**

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? **Yes**

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? **Each testimony is 2-3 minutes. There are ____ testimonies related to affordable housing and homelessness.**

Please provide a brief statement on your position: **The following testimonies advocate for more funding to be allocated to building homeless shelters and affordable housing.**

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

We Need Affordable Housing and Homeless Shelters

December 7, 2024

Lead Testimony by Johnathan Elder. Research by Ja’Kiera Guy

Collection edited by Steven Wilson, Trae Raye-Redmond, Maki Jenkins, and JH4.

Supporting Testimonies by AC4, TH2, RC3, J3, QD4, JT4, DB3, JN2, EC2, JM4, Jamaal Scott, A’Mari Totty, KS3, TBu4, LaMarion Jones, Kingston Tyler, TM7 and Steven Wilson.

Evalea Cortez and Jamaal Scott read testimonies to the candidates for County Commission.

Grammar edits by RM1, HS1, TL1, DA2, JC4, an BD3

We have three main ideas for ways to get more people into stable housing:

1. Build More Affordable Housing
2. Fix Abandoned Houses
3. Increase Support for People Who are Homeless

Read our reasoning and find out how the candidates said they would vote on our ideas for getting housing and shelter for all.

First, here are the facts about homelessness and housing, researched by Ja’Kiera Guy:

Questions	Answer from Internet
1. How many people are homeless in America?	Across the U.S., more than 771,800 people lived without housing in 2024. USA Today https://www.usatoday.com
2. How many children are homeless in Ohio?	There are 25,550 children homeless in Ohio, Ohio Capital Journal https://ohiocapitaljournal.com
3. What is causing the increase in Homelessness in America?	“While there are many drivers of modern-day homelessness, it is largely the result of failed policies; severely underfunded programs that have led to affordable housing shortages; wages that do not keep up with rising rents and housing costs.” United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (.gov)
4. What are ways to get people out of homelessness?	“To end homelessness, a community-wide coordinated approach to delivering services, housing, and programs is needed. The solution to homelessness is simple – housing. Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to quickly connect people to housing and services. Sometimes people need longer-term rental assistance and services to achieve stability. Permanent supportive housing is a proven

	<p>solution to homelessness for the most vulnerable. “National Alliance to End Homelessness, https://endhomelessness.org </p>
<p>5. How much does America spend on homelessness?</p>	<p>The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced nearly \$3.16 billion in the Continuum of Care program. hud.gov https://www.hud.gov </p>

Idea 1: Build more affordable housing.

Many people are homeless due to housing being too expensive. We want to decrease that amount of homelessness by making housing affordable. We can solve this problem by giving more funding to construction workers and the community to build/fix up houses. To the people controlling the tax budget we ask as if you can implement housing within the budget. Any amount of money from the budget towards housing will help. – SW4. Testimonies collected by TRR4.

Johnathan Elder: Affordable Housing Shortage Leads to Homelessness

I respectfully ask the government to address the issue of housing and homelessness in Dayton. There are about 550 homeless people in dayton. Dayton’s housing supply is also short by several thousand houses. This affects people in Dayton because people are suffering and have nowhere to go. Lack of housing can also lead to crime

because people will steal things they need or steal things to feed their addictions.

The facts around the amount of people homeless and the housing shortage rate are related. Another fact is the negatives this can have on people's health and well being. People experiencing homelessness have an increased risk of having poor health and prolonged illness. The homeless population also lacks general wellness care (Unity Parenting and Counseling Inc.). These facts show the seriousness of homelessness because it causes health issues. Health issues can lead to bigger issues if they don't get help, but not all homeless people can get medical help or treatment when they need it.

Among people without safe places to live, we see increased risk for infections and diseases. Illness can adversely affect virtually every aspect of a person's life from one's sense of safety and social support to overall health and life expectancy. Without a bank account they can't claim benefits or store their money, and without a home it's virtually impossible to open a bank account. Homelessness causes increased crime rates and public safety concerns and shorter lifespans.

This issue matters to me because I have homeless family members and I see them on the stress every day. I wish I could help them but I'm too young to really do anything about it. They should fix up abandoned houses and put homeless people in them if that is possible.

While there are many drivers of modern-day homelessness, it is largely the result of failed policies, severely underfunded programs that have led to affordable housing shortages, and wages that do not keep up with rising rents and housing costs. The Department of

Housing and Urban Development has the responsibility to address homelessness and they need to work harder to fix it and we the people should help fund them more so they can do it fast. It would require about \$11 billion to \$30 billion per year to fix this problem or to even progress. Other states have made long-term housing assistance, which helps reduce homelessness. The Action mentioned above is not enough to solve the problem because we do not have the funding to do it in our state budget.

Some individuals don't have the money or resources to get out of homelessness so that's why they need help. We can make life better for millions of people by increasing availability of affordable housing and housing assistance. We can also address the housing discrimination that perpetuates disparities. Among other duties, representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees. It would help the United States be a better place for all people to live if lawmakers use this power to address our housing shortage and the resulting homelessness. But if we don't address this problem it will get way worse, like a virus. Life would be better for everyone, kids and adults won't get in drugs on the ground and it will be safe.

Lawmakers, please use your power over the budget to add more support to affordable housing and homelessness resources.

TH2: We need Jobs, Rec Centers, and Affordable Housing

We hope to address the difficulties homeless people have to go through in their life without having a home & not having that financial stability. It affects the community and also just ruins the financial environment not in a bad way just economically it just goes down. I don't know anybody personally that is homeless but I do see them everywhere like Downtown even locally just seeing them struggle &

begging for money. Most people make bad financial decisions and decisions in general, and it's not for all people but most just have bad luck or not being on top of their game in life. It will get to the point where there will be so many abandoned homes that can get refurbished that the government will have to do something about it, and the homeless have nowhere to go. The government being more able to help out financially, building more shelters so people can get a head start on working. **I would spend taxpayer funds on more jobs, rec centers, better affordable housing, and also more important rehab centers because most are hooked on drugs.** The outcome of this project is that it will get better as investment towards it. We have a better community & in terms we have a better future.

Edited by TRR4 and RM1

There are people talking about housing & the homeless situation going around seeing all them people Downtown with nowhere to go on the streets. It affects people's lives because they are everywhere with no place to go. The people want the government to address the economic problems and see them fix up housing problems. What if we fix all these abandoned homes with our tax budget? This law seeks to fix up the houses so that we can have more housing available, higher property values, and more jobs. It will help with the housing issue throughout the city. It will help the financial life for the 50% of people who own homes near abandoned buildings, and also for those who struggle to find housing.

We will ask the people to gather homeless people and help with donating money to the cause altogether. We will ask for around \$500,000 up front to start our funding for this project. Each year the government will have to provide \$10,000,000 for all housing and helping out the homeless. A total investment of \$50,000,000 dollars over five years would transform the experience of housing. I mean

everybody needs a place to go and to stay and that's required in other countries, like Norway and Denmark. Everyone deserves a house to live in and not be on the streets. We can all show you examples of how housing is affecting the community we live in. I am asking the housing board or lawmakers with power over fiscal policy to help the situation.

RC3: Build More Affordable Housing

The lack of affordable housing/rent is a problem in the community of Dayton, Ohio. This affects the people of Dayton because people end up homeless with no home or also having to move in with their family members. Rent or mortgages are too expensive to pay because the minimum wage isn't enough. A lot of things are expensive compared to back in the day, and people are living paycheck to check. We experience not enough pay or renters overcharging or ending leases. Things are also a lot more expensive. People will end up homeless with nowhere else to live. To address this problem we could invest money into abandoned houses that already exist and have a structure so it could be cheaper or we could build more Section 8 apartments that house a lot of people or build houses also. I would invest taxpayer funds into building apartment buildings and charge cheap rent and overtime use the money to rebuild more so our tax payers have homes. we would see new homes and buildings around the city of Dayton and less people on the streets. – **Read by EC2, Edited by RM1 and Henry Spivey, TL1, and DA1.**

Steven Wilson: Address Housing Issues

Submitted to the Pulitzer Center's Local Letters for Global Change

I respectfully ask our representatives to address housing issues. There is a high demand for housing in the Dayton region because the cost of living is very unaffordable and home prices are going up. Lack of new homes and the shrinking supply is stressful for buyers because they have to deal with a lot of competition. Since 2019, rent for a one-bedroom apartment has gone up nearly 40%. Several factors have influenced this change, including high interest rates, migration and base change in the value ([WDTN](#)). This leads to financial strain, and makes families choose between paying for rent or paying for healthcare.

There are many homeless people or people living in beat up houses because of the high demands. The reason this matters to me is because my family is always looking for a better house to live in and it's hard for them to find one because of the high demands. It holds us back from doing other stuff we had planned for the year. Closing the housing affordability gap will require a comprehensive housing strategy that includes both the expansion of rental assistance and development of new units.

As more people move to the city, driven by the area's affordability and proximity to larger job markets in Cincinnati and Columbus, the demand for rental housing is expected to rise. Companies and corporations that own these houses are the ones responsible for this problem. We need to keep up with the high demand for houses to make prices lower. There's all this talking but no one trying to do

anything to help. People can't solve this problem because not everyone is trying to come together to do something about it.

I need for the government & representatives to lower the cost of housing to be affordable for all depending on the area. The legislature can add more money for public housing. This is a reasonable request because who wants to lose people just because you decided to make it harder for them to buy houses? If we do nothing about this, prices and rent will just get higher, and more people will become poor until the whole city is.

Now if we succeed in this, Dayton will be a better place for everyone and have fewer people living on the streets. You'll see the crime rate go down, and see more people moving to our city.

Idea 2: Add Funds to Rebuild Abandoned Houses

The problem of abandoned housing is that it increases crime, health hazards, and taxes. How we can solve the problem? We can solve this problem by rebuilding abandoned houses so there won't be squatters and people having hideouts in abandoned homes also with possibly them doing graffiti to these buildings.

What I am asking: Me being in government class have written a proposal explaining the problems of abandoned houses asking Montgomery County Commission to spend part of its \$1 billion budget to rebuild abandoned houses so more people can have more choices for a place to live and have people worry less of danger in the area of abandoned houses. — **JH4, Editor**

KJ3: Broken Down Homes Affect Us All

I hope to address the problem with housing in our communities. Broken down homes affect people's living space; it wouldn't be a good look for the community or if someone new were to enter the neighborhood. The government or people in general should think about investing money into run down homes, buying them for less and making them worth more for people to have fresh living spaces in the community. I've personally seen fellow citizens drive in a neighborhood and only worry about the rundown homes. It doesn't look good for the community. This problem happens because of the Government's lack of attention. If nothing is done these homes would still be where they are for years, collecting dust waiting for someone to save them and fix them up. To address this problem, we must build a system with the communities to raise money for better living conditions. We will spend county funds to invest in housing and make the communities and environment better to live in. We will know this project is successful if the government invests money to make more money, and see better conditions.

QD4: Use the Abandoned Land and Buildings

We hope to address the problem of abandoned land in Dayton, Ohio. This land that has been abandoned makes the community look very bad. This is such a big problem that people I know personally have lost jobs due to them closing down a business and just abandoning the land. One reason I believe this is happening especially in the Black neighborhoods is because I believe they want the Black neighborhoods to look a certain way. What will happen if we do not address this problem is that the land will continue to be abandoned and our communities will continue to look terrible. What must be done to fix this problem is we must invest in more properties for this land. **With more funds, I would put that towards a couple of lands just to get started with upgrading the lands that are abandoned.** It will

be successful because the communities would have more options of places to go and land would actually be used. **Edited by TRR4**

JT4: Fix the Abandoned Buildings and Make Shelters

I think that we can help people in need by fixing up some of the abandoned buildings, and making them orphanages or homeless shelters. This will help clean up the community and make it easier for people to get up on their feet so they can buy their own house. This problem affects some people I know because I have seen so many friends make a mistake or were were born less fortunate struggle to even find somewhere to sleep at night let alone a nice meal. This problem is happening because of high house prices and rent as long as people are barely paid enough for rent and food so there are multiple people struggling out there who can barely get a house and there are so many abandoned houses we can use some of the money to fix up the houses that are not in use. If this problem isn't resolved the buildings will continue to rot and break as long as homelessness will continue to go up and will make Dayton look less safe to live in. To help fix this problem we can promote homeless shelters and orphanages for people in need as well fix up the abandoned houses in the streets and neighborhood. – **Edited by Henry Spivey and Richawna Maupins**

DB3: Invest in Housing

We hope to address the houses in the communities. Broken down houses affect people's living space. I have seen people drive through the neighborhood and only worry about run down houses. The problem is the government don't take the time out of their day. If nothing is done with these cops they will hurt everyone. We mostly build neighborhoods with cheap rent. We will spend tax dollars to invest in housing. We will know this project is successful if the

government invests money into houses. – Edited by Bay'Shanna Drake, Richawna Maupins, and Henry Spivey

JM4: Address Abandoned Houses

Letter Submitted to the Pulitzer Center's Local Letters for Global Change

I respectfully ask the representative to address the problem of all the abandoned houses in neighborhoods. To understand the issue of abandoned houses in neighborhoods people need to know a few key things. Economic downturns, job losses, and demographic shifts can lead to a higher rate of abandoned properties. Abandoned houses in our community can have lots of impacts like property values. They can lower the property values in nearby homes, making it harder for homeowners to sell their homes at a fair price. These houses can become hotspots for criminal activities, such as vandalism and drug use.

One fact shows how serious abandoned houses are that they can decrease nearby property values by as much as 20%. This not only affects the financial well being of homeowners but also contributes to a cycle of neglect and disinvestment in the community. The facts show how serious abandoned houses are because a 20% decrease in property values can have a huge financial impact on homeowners. It means people might lose a significant amount of their homes' worth which can lead to more abandoned houses, creating a cycle of decline in the community. Plus, lower property values can reduce the amount of tax revenue available for public services that can affect things like schools and infrastructure.

Abandoning houses can make neighborhoods feel unsafe and neglected, reducing the overall quality of life. As mentioned earlier abandoned houses can lower property values and this can lead to financial losses for homeowners affecting their ability to sell their homes or take out loans. It can result in higher insurance premiums and lower investment returns. Abandoned houses can become breeding grounds for pests and mold, which can cause respiratory issues and other health problems. Additionally the stress and anxiety of living near neglected properties can take a toll on mental health, daily lives and income, creating a ripple effect negatively on the community.

Abandoned houses mean something to me personally because it's a big issue in our community, they attract criminal activities and can lower property values in the area. Plus, they can be a safety hazard especially if they're not maintained properly. It's important for communities to address these issues to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for everyone. To fix this issue we should enforce strict property maintenance codes, initiate community programs to renovate and repurpose abandoned houses, offer incentives for potential buyers or developers to purchase and renovate abandoned properties, encourage investment in these areas, and implement legal actions against negligent property owners who leave their properties abandoned and in disrepair. We can also establish neighborhood watch programs to monitor and report suspicious activities around abandoned properties.

Abandoned houses are connected to broader struggles around the world because in many communities abandoned houses can contribute to economic decline, safety and crime, homelessness, public health and community morale. Addressing the issue of abandoned houses can help reduce these interconnected struggles,

contributing to more vibrant, safe, and economically stable communities worldwide. Abandoned houses happen for a variety of reasons like economic downturns, population shifts, natural disasters, urban decay, legal issues and neglect. Understanding these causes can help communities develop targeted strategies to address and prevent the issue of abandoned houses.

The greatest responsibility for addressing abandoned houses often falls on local governments, regulation and enforcement, community planning, resource allocation and public safety. To fix abandoned houses we should involve better financial investments, skilled labor, permits and inspections, community involvement, government support and long-term planning and by addressing these requirements. Communities can transform abandoned houses into valuable assets, improving the overall quality of life and economic health of the areas.

A lot of actions have been taken to address abandoned houses like rehabilitation grants and loans, land banks, code enforcement, community development programs, tax incentives and vacant property registration. These actions, when implemented effectively, can help reduce the number of abandoned houses and brace communities. The actions mentioned above aren't always enough to solve the problem of abandoned houses due to several challenges. Limited funding is a significant issue; without adequate financial resources, it's difficult to carry out the necessary renovations or demolitions, this lack of funding can stall projects and leave abandoned houses in disrepair for extended periods. Individuals can't solve the issue of abandoned houses on their own due to key factors like financial burden of renovating or demolishing and abandoned houses can be overwhelming. Also these projects often require substantial investments which most individuals may not be able to afford without external support.

We need our representatives in the government to allocate more funding for the renovation or demolition of these properties and the representatives should work on streamlining the bureaucratic processes involved. Simplifying the legal administrative procedures can make it easier and faster to deal with abandoned properties and lastly they should address ownership issues more effectively. This could involve creating clearer guidelines for determining property ownership and implementing programs to assist in transferring ownership to responsible parties. They can propose and pass legislation that allocates funding for housing programs including destroying the abandoned houses. They also have the authority to create and amend the laws that govern bureaucratic processes and make it easier to manage and repurpose these properties, by using their legislative and advocacy powers and representatives can help create a comprehensive approach to tackling the problem of abandoned houses.

This is a reasonable request because addressing abandoned houses requires coordinated efforts and resources that individuals alone can't muster. If we don't take action into this problem then the environment just continues to worsen. On the other hand, if we hold the government accountable to fixing them up and demolishing them to make the environment better, then we can make sure the future generations never have to worry about the safety of the community.

Can you commit to proposing a law that requires the government to demolish and fix up communities' abandoned houses?

3. More Support For People Going Through Homelessness

What do we do about the increasing amount of homeless people on the streets of Dayton? We put these people in rehabilitation centers or compensate these people with co-housing projects and co-op jobs

that help them become proficient in the workforce, and earn the Montgomery County and the city of Dayton money for other recreational or productive activities. — **Testimonies Compiled by Maki Jenkins**

EC2: Homeless Shelters and Direct Aid

This “housing” problem affects the community and people’s lives by seeing “homeless” people living in streets, parks and other public areas. I do know some homeless people this problem does affect them in so many ways, by couple examples “Hunger, Lack of sleep Lack of hygiene and etc” This problem is happening because Jobs and Companies don’t want to hire “homeless people” or hire poverty people and some people already have low confidence and know the wealthy and rich people won’t hire them. People will continue to be homeless and Poor. This also means that the Homeless and Poverty Percent will increase. To address this problem. We should build homeless shelters that include a starter check of \$250-\$500 so they’ll have money to get everything they need as in clothes, food and hygiene products. **I will spend county funds or more by building shelters and public housing for the homeless and Poor people who aren’t able to continue paying bills because of loss of jobs etc.** This project will include public housing and catering for them. We will see less homeless people. We Will also see people who choose the better route in life so they’ll choose to do better and do more in life. **Read by Jamaal Scott and Edited by Bay’Shanna Drake.**

JN2: Housing and Rehab Will Make Communities Safe

I hope to address the constant homeless people on the streets. It is affecting communities across the world and making so less people move there. Most people have family or friends that are homeless, my great grandma has a friend that is homeless and she cares for him by

bringing food and blankets when it's cold. The main cause for homelessness is because of rising rent prices and the harsh reality of getting a job as a homeless person. Addiction is another reason why homelessness is so high. **Having more housing for the homeless and if they are an addict they need to be in rehab to get housing.** It would make communities feel safer. The less homeless people that are homeless and clean from drugs than homeless people won't overdose.

JM4: Help Homeless Veterans

We hope to address the amount of homeless veterans around the world. These veterans are affecting our environment and community. There's stolen carts in alleys, and kids think they can play in them but they belong to the homeless veterans. I have personally seen homeless veterans panhandling on corners and sleeping on the curbs of the street, the cars have to watch out more while driving because of them doing dangerous stuff. The problem is happening because of the military lack of support and social isolation after discharge and the things causing this are mental health problems and disabilities. If nothing isn't done about these poor veterans they will eventually continue to cause our community to look poor and be a little dangerous. To address this we must hire more people willing to help veterans get back on their feet and help them regain their stability. **We will spend funds to hire more people willing to help sick veterans get the help they need.** We will know this project is successful if we don't see homeless veterans laying around decrease by 100% and at least 50% of veterans get the help they need. – **Read by Evalea Cortez and Edited by Henry Spivey and Janiyah Middlebrook**

A'Mari Totty: Employment Opportunities for the Homeless

We hope to address job opportunities to those in need and support individuals in recovery. Jobs affect people's daily life, without jobs people can be homeless and can go from happy to depressed. Being jobless and addicted can take over people's minds. Having to depend on others for your needs can make you feel less of yourself. The problem is happening because jobs can be strict, they also are trying to overwork workers.

If nothing is done about job opportunities or supporting individuals most likely to address their substance use, make positive changes and work towards abstinence. If others are not serious about leveling up then we're not gonna waste resources on people who don't want help. We will spend funds to fund clothes, shoes and individuals in recovery. Our investment will be successful because we can actually help the people in need in both categories.

Jamaal Scott: Build More Shelters

The problem I hope to address is getting homeless people off the streets. This affects the community because people can't clean themselves and don't have shelter. The impact this could have will be to shower and look presentable enough to get jobs and have somewhere to live. People not being able to afford rent/getting kicked out. More homeless people will stay homeless and dirty. More shelters programs to get people on their feet. Give tax dollars to a program and a shelter. The homeless people will get jobs and get out of the shelter.

— **Read by Ania Clemmons, Edited by Bay'shanna Drake**

KS3: Make Places Where People Can Get What They Need

We hope to address the amount of homeless people. It's affecting people's lives because people are in need of a place to stay, eat, and drink. I personally have seen lots of homeless people around who are

in need. The problem is happening because some people may be getting fired from their jobs and can't provide for themselves. If we do nothing there will continue to be more and more people in need asking for things. **To address the problem we can have an area where homeless people can have free food, showers, and a place to sleep.** I would spend tax dollars to solve this problem by making places where anyone could get what they need. We will know the project is successful if there are less homeless people on the streets over time. – **Edited by JC4 and BD3**

People talk about how homelessness affects their family sometimes. This problem is impacting people's lives because they have no place to sleep or clean themselves. People need the government to make more free homeless shelters around the areas. *This law is to help out more families in need.* This law will provide a home and food for the people who need it and for their children. This law will not impact anyone's taxes or financial life. This district will start by asking people to help donate things for anyone in need. The district will need to purchase supplies to build shelter homes, provide food, beds, and clothing. The district will spend around 10,000 on bedding and clothes. The program will need to also keep paying for heat and water and light bills, buy new bed sheets every so often and new clothes if needed. The amount of money over 5 years will honestly be unpredicted because it really depends on how much of everything you buy. No one should have to worry about having no safe place to sleep at night. Everyone deserves to sleep in a warm bed at night. *By voting yes on this law , we will be able to help out many families and children in need.* We should call on the government to help pass this law for families in need.

AC4: Get Kids Off the Streets and Drugs

We hope to address homeless children on the streets, 12-19 years old. It causes them to be addicted to drugs and ruining their future. It ruins their lives and they end up giving up their dreams for the future. People leave their family, they get abused at home and no one cares. They get treated unfriendly. More Children will depend on the streets and they will give up ruining their lives. Give teens housing and programs to help and encourage them to be better before it's too late. Build housing, fund programs, and get kids off drugs. When they turn 20-21 years old they will have a job and do good in life. **Edited by Henry Spivey, Deborah Azode, and Bay'Shanna Drake**

LaMarion Jones: We Need Rehab and Job Programs

We hope to address the poverty and homelessness in the city of Dayton. It would make the community look better. It can reduce the poverty rates. It could bring in people who want to buy a house and get more residents. I have seen homeless people almost everywhere I go. I have younger siblings who see things like that and I wouldn't want them to experience homelessness in the future. This problem occurs when people make bad decisions in their lives and just sit around and not do anything with their lives. If we don't fix this problem, poverty and employment will increase. It puts a bad look on the city, it also draws away people from potentially buying or renting a property. We need rehabilitation centers around the city and help the homeless get stable jobs so they can afford to get a home and things to eat along with other necessities. I would make a schematic of a rehabilitation center and start building and I will also try to run a job program through the rehab center. We will have a computer database to track their progress, we will have meetings.

Kingston Tyler: Build More Shelters

There aren't enough local homeless shelters because if there were more shelters, people wouldn't have to sleep on the streets. People who are homeless need somewhere to sleep/stay because it isn't safe to sleep on the streets. The impact that this has on people is that people feel like they have hope. This problem is happening because people are getting fired. The cause of this problem is that people's jobs are losing customers or their income. If we do nothing about this problem then people will stay on the streets. We need to take this to the government because they have all the money. I would spend it all on food supplies and more shelters for homeless people. You will know when you don't see as many people living on the streets or begging and starving. – **Edited by Darion Pace-Anders**

Bay'Shanna Drake: Address Homelessness Now

I am writing to bring to your attention an issue that requires immediate change. The rising rates of homelessness in our community. As a concerned citizen and student, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles faced by individuals without stable housing. This problem affects not only the homeless population but also the broader community, impacting public health, safety, and economic stability.

One of the primary causes of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. Many families are being priced out of their homes due to increasing rent. I urge you to consider policies that promote the development of affordable housing units and provide rent subsidies to low income families. Expanding access to mental health services and substance abuse treatment can help address some of the root causes of homelessness.

Another crucial aspect is the need for comprehensive support services. Shelters are often overcrowded and underfunded, unable to meet the needs of those they serve. By increasing funding for shelters and support programs, we can ensure that individuals have access to the resources they need to regain stability and rebuild their lives.

Furthermore, job training and employment programs are essential for helping homeless individuals achieve. Providing opportunities for skill development and job placement can empower people to secure stable employment and housing.

In conclusion, addressing homelessness requires an approach that includes affordable housing, support services, and employment opportunities. I urge you to prioritize this issue and take decisive action to improve the lives of our more vulnerable citizens. Your leadership and commitment to this cause can make a difference in our community.

TM7: We Can't Solve Homelessness Alone

I want the local rep. to address the homelessness in dayton. When so many people are homeless we have to learn to be more compassionate. If people can better understand the issue they might be more willing and open to help. This issue is causing people to have to walk around people and trash on the sidewalks and around the community. This issue is affecting people's daily lives because there are homeless people living on the streets that could be bugging and irritating people. This issue also affects the bank accounts of many because I know plenty of people that will give money to hopeless people or go and buy them food or something. Not only people's daily lives and bank accounts it also has an affect on their health, seeing all the homeless freezing, starving, overheating, etc. Some people are

very heavy empaths and it brings down their mood and makes them feel very hurt and ruins their mood because they see these helpless people suffering on the streets. This affects me personally because my mom is always going out of her way to give the homeless money, or buying them something small regardless if we're able to afford it or not just because she's a kind person and wants to help out any way she can. We must find a way to come together and persuade the government or higher up to restore/rebuild buildings to get housing for the homeless and to help get them off the streets. Another thing that we could do to assist them could be to get them food, it may not help them get housing or get them off the streets but it would just be something to help boost their mood or give them more hope or motivation to go out and try and help themselves. This is connected to other people's struggles around the world because there's homeless everywhere, practically anywhere you go there's bound to be homeless on the streets unless you go to some very high wealth areas.

This problem is happening for many reasons, first off the combination of high cost of living and low income. That alone will create an imbalance in income and bills and slowly drop your wealth. Another cause for homelessness is drug use. Some people get addicted to drugs and spend their money on drugs and end up losing their homes. I feel like that's the responsibility of the state government or the DOH or the DOD. It will cost around \$100 million that way we could build around 100 homeless shelters each sheltering dozens of people each. We need to get the government to get some sort of background check set up specifically for the homeless to get them lined up for potential assistance with housing. Just saying that we will give them assistance isn't enough to fix the problem because we need to help them actually get access to housing rather than just giving them money for when they get housing, if that makes sense.

Individuals cant solve this on their own because we don't have enough power to have a drastic effect on homelessness; yeah we can give money to them and assist but that's not enough for them to go get houses and living assistance

We need our representatives to step up and get out there and start working to help the homeless. My rep has the power to do what he pleases to a certain extent within the community. I think this is a reasonable request because it just over all makes the community look better, it builds a good reputation for the representative, it can help reduce trash and the spread of illness in higher populated areas, ect. The number of homeless will continue to rise and worsen, which will make the area look worse and increase trash exponentially as the homeless rates increase. worry about the safety of the class of water they're drinking. We won't have to worry about there being any homeless people on streets and it will make the community look so much better and just overall bring better vibes to towns and communities as a whole. Do you think you would be able to commit to this and try to decrease or even bring an end to the homelessness in our communities?