In 2008, Santa Barbara County residents were already struggling to afford rent. Since then, rents have skyrocketed while at the same time, investment in affordable-home production plummeted 69 percent, plunging California into a true housing-affordability crisis.

State investment is a critical piece of the incredibly complicated financing that private developers must pull together to build housing affordable to hardworking families. But California is currently headed in the wrong direction. Elimination of California’s redevelopment program and failure to replace voter-approved bond funds with ongoing investment has left investment in affordable-home production at a record low. “There isn’t a single county in California with enough affordable homes and apartments to meet local needs.”

Right now, in Santa Barbara County, people are working multiple jobs and still having to make impossible choices:

- Rent or Food?
- Rent or Medication?
- Rent or School Supplies?
- Rent or Car Repairs?
- Rent or Bus Fare?

3 in 10 people in Santa Barbara County spend more than half their income on rent.

State Policy Decisions Have Worsened Housing Crisis in Santa Barbara County

Massive State Disinvestment in Affordable-Home Production Is Driving More Families into Poverty

As California continues to disinvest in affordable development, throughout our state:

- College students are sleeping in their cars during the week.
- Businesses like Toyota are moving plants out of California, explicitly citing housing costs as the reason.
- Cities are struggling to keep talented teachers (including pre-school teachers) due to high housing costs.

A Snapshot of Santa Barbara County’s Housing Needs

- $1,451 Average Rent
  For a two-bedroom apartment in Santa Barbara County
- $58,040 Annual Salary
  Required to afford rent for an average two-bedroom apartment

BETWEEN 2005-2015
- Rents Jumped 10%
- Incomes Fell 3%

The Housing Affordability Crisis Is Solvable

Lives have already been positively changed in your district by affordable developments. Everyone talks about California’s high cost of housing—this is the moment leaders like you can support bold solutions to do something about it.

Use your legislative power to invest significant state investment in housing to lift more of your constituents out of poverty and create a meaningful legacy you can be proud of.