In 2008, Sonoma 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.

State Policy Decisions Have Worsened Housing Crisis in Sonoma County

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

Right now, in Sonoma 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?

2 in 7 people in Sonoma County spend more than half their income on rent.

A Snapshot of Sonoma County’s Housing Needs

Incomes fell 4% between 2005-2015

RENTS 0 change

$1,414 average rent

Required to afford rent for an average two-bedroom apartment

$56,560 annual salary

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.

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.