



Housing and Community Revitalization

Omaha Housing Code Enforcement is complaint-based so the City does not inspect for safety and habitability unless the resident files a complaint. Tenants who are the most vulnerable—those who don't speak English; don't know their rights under the law; are poor and have few alternatives—often do not file a complaint for fear of losing their place to live. These tenants live in slowly deteriorating rental units that are unhealthy for the families and too often are ultimately abandoned and demolished at taxpayer expense.

Will you work with OTOC over the next 12 months to convene a series of discussions bringing all stakeholders to the table, including renters, landlords, city staff, and housing agencies to figure out how we make sure that all rental housing meets basic housing safety codes? Please give us your yes or no answer, then elaborate on what you think about a Rental Property Registration & Inspection Ordinance and how the city might best solve substandard rental housing problems.

Environmental Sustainability

Co-mingling yard waste: City of Omaha has allowed our waste contractor to co-mingle yard waste with garbage, and we are no longer composting and creating the OmaGro product. The contract for waste collection will be renegotiated soon. OTOC believes we should not co-mingle yard waste with garbage, and we should compost yard waste.

Will you assure that the Request for Proposals and bidding process for future waste collection contracts are fair, transparent and open for public comment regarding environmental concerns before those contracts are let? Do you support immediately returning to the existing contract with Waste Management so yard waste is collected separately and delivered to Omaha's composting facility to produce Omagro?

PACE: City Council will vote soon on creating a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) district for commercial properties. While this is a good first step, OTOC wants the City Council to provide home-owners with the same opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Once the PACE financing process for commercial properties is successfully implemented, will you then support PACE financing for residential properties? Please stand if you agree with OTOC's position that the City should create the possibility of PACE financing for both commercial AND residential properties.

Immigration and Refugees

The Omaha Police Department (OPD) sees its primary mission as reducing crime and the fear of crime. OPD has adopted community policing practices which dictate that local police will NOT take on the role of federal immigration enforcement agents and will not inquire about immigration status or detain people for immigration violations when those persons have not committed a crime.

Do you agree that the Omaha Police Department should continue using their community policing practices when dealing with immigrant communities in Omaha? What would you do to ensure that immigrants and refugees feel welcome and safe in Omaha?

Pay Day Lending:

There are 50 Pay Day Lending locations in the Omaha area, and Omaha borrowers pay them about \$10 Million in fees each year. Under current Nebraska law, these locations are allowed to charge interest and fees that total 461% A.P.R. OTOC has worked this Session to pass LB 194 which would limit the total charges permissible to 50% of the total principal over the life of the loan. LB 194 has stalled in the Banking Committee which has 3 Omaha Unicameral members, including the chairman.

Will you work with OTOC to convince the Unicameral to adopt reasonable limits on the interest and fees that Pay Day Lenders can charge? What would you do to limit the predatory practices of Pay Day lenders in the City of Omaha and to encourage other lenders to develop alternative loan products which have more consumer safeguards?