

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Homes RI and Housing Network of Rhode Island Join Campaign to Support the State's Affordable Housing Production Efforts by Voting "Yes on 3"

Pawtucket, RI— Housing Network of Rhode Island (HNRI) and Homes RI coalition proudly joined the campaign encouraging Rhode Islanders to vote "Yes on 3" to support the state's affordable housing production efforts. With a crisis of rising rental and home costs, limited affordable options, and increasing homelessness, this bond is crucial for creating affordable homes our communities urgently need.

"Having access to safe, decent housing can have a profound impact on shaping our lives," said Melina Lodge, Executive Director of HNRI. "Our mental and physical health, social wellbeing, and economic stability and security are all influenced by the ability or inability to secure housing that is affordable to us. When we individually thrive, our neighborhoods, communities and state also thrive. The data is clear - the cost of housing in Rhode Island, either for rent or for sale, is out of reach for far too many Rhode Islanders. Rhode Island urgently needs more affordable housing, and this bond will ensure that the resources to develop those homes are available."

The Housing Network of Rhode Island is the state's membership association of 20 agencies committed to developing affordable housing and vital communities. Members of the Housing Network currently have the capacity to produce and preserve over 2,100 affordable homes over the next three years, providing much-needed relief and stability for families across the state.

"Question 3 is a critical step in addressing the housing crisis our communities face," said Linda Weisinger, Executive Director of Pawtucket Central Falls Development Corporation. "By approving this measure, Rhode Islanders can help build safe, affordable homeownership and rental homes that are so desperately needed."

The Housing Network is also the lead organization for Homes RI, a multi-sector coalition of advocates, and housing and social service organizations committed to ensuring everyone in our state has access to safe, secure and affordable housing. Homes RI includes over 90 organizations and 200 individuals dedicated to this mission.

"'Yes on 3' is an opportunity for Rhode Island to make meaningful progress in tackling the state's severe housing shortage," said Joe Garlick, Executive Director of NeighborWorks Blackstone Valley. "The affordable homes created and preserved by voting yes on Question 3 serve to uplift families and strengthen our neighborhoods, which is something we all benefit from."

\$80 million of the proposed \$120 million Housing Bond will support the development of affordable housing. The Housing Bond is a ballot measure that will appear as Question 3 on every Rhode Islander's general election ballot across the state this November.

“Access to safe, affordable housing is a fundamental need,” said Christian Belden, Executive Director of Church Community Housing Corporation. “By voting ‘Yes on 3,’ we can secure the resources necessary to increase housing production across the state. Investing in affordable housing is an investment in the future stability and prosperity of our communities.”

This investment is essential to continue the progress made in building affordable homes that started with the support of federal State Fiscal Recovery Funds and will help ensure projects are completed on time.

Join us in voting “Yes” on 3” to build a better, more affordable Rhode Island for all.

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The Housing Network of Rhode Island (HNRI) is the state’s membership organization for agencies committed to developing affordable housing and vital communities. Currently composed of 19 community development corporations and affordable housing developers, our members have created thousands of affordable housing units from Westerly to Woonsocket and are leading community revitalization and economic development efforts across our state. Their wide array of activities— including real estate development, financial asset building, housing counseling, resident empowerment, and engagement, and much more— create tangible community change and transform the lives of Rhode Islanders.

HNRI members include: Church Community Housing Corporation, Crossroads Rhode Island, Foster Forward, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Providence and East Bay, House of Hope Community Development Corporation, Jonnycake Center, NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley, Omni Development Corporation, One Neighborhood Builders, Pawtucket Central Falls Development, Pawtucket Housing Authority, Providence Revolving Fund, Sojourner House, South County Habitat for Humanity, SWAP (Stop Wasting Abandoned Property) Inc., Valley Affordable Housing Corporation, WARM Center, West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation & Women’s Development Corporation.

[Homes RI](#) is a cross-sector coalition of organizations coordinated by HNRI working together to increase and preserve the supply of safe, healthy and affordable homes throughout Rhode Island. We believe Rhode Island can and should be a state where all residents are able to live in safe, healthy and sustainable homes in thriving communities. Learn more at www.homesri.org.