Housing Network of Rhode Island

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We believe Rhode Island should be a state where all residents live in safe, healthy, and affordable homes in thriving communities.

1 ADVANCE A $150 MILLION HOUSING BOND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

State investment remains the single most powerful tool to scale development of long term affordable homes. We support a General Obligation Bond request of **at least $150 million** to finance the production and preservation of deeply affordable rental homes, permanent supportive housing for Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness, and homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income buyers.

2 INVEST $25 MILLION TO CREATE RHODE ISLAND'S FIRST STATE-FUNDED RENTAL SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Federal homelessness resources that support permanent housing and provide stability to low-income Rhode Islanders are increasingly insufficient and unpredictable. Recent federal actions exposed vulnerabilities that placed thousands of people at risk of losing their housing and critical supportive services. **A state-funded rental subsidy program capitalized with $25 million** will help protect existing permanent housing interventions and provide stability to Rhode Islanders experiencing or at-risk of homelessness amid growing federal uncertainty.

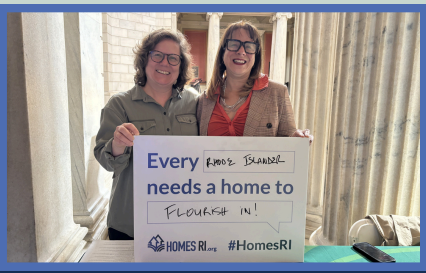
3 EXPAND HOUSING SUPPLY WITH BY-RIGHT MULTIFAMILY ZONING IN PRIORITY AREAS

Multifamily housing is a proven way to increase housing supply and promote walkable, transit-oriented communities. We support expanding and codifying by-right zoning for duplexes, triplexes, and other types of multifamily homes in priority areas to encourage greater supply, affordability, and smart growth.

4 MODERNIZE RHODE ISLAND'S CONDOMINIUM LAWS

Condominiums represent a growing share of Rhode Island's purchased housing stock, yet outdated statutes create barriers to transparency, long-term planning, and financial stability for residents. We support reforms to improve predictability, governance, and accountability that will create more stability for residents and associations.

5 ADVOCATE FOR SAFE, HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE, AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Housing production succeeds only when paired with systems that support stability, mobility, and civic participation. We support a suite of complementary policies that will strengthen communities, including:

- **Housing stability and tenant protections,** such as right-to-counsel and just-cause eviction, that help prevent displacement and homelessness.
- **Fair tax and revenue policy** to help sustainably fund unmet needs in Rhode Island.
- **Public transit investments and safe streets legislation** to help Rhode Islanders better connect to jobs, services, and housing, and to improve mobility and quality of life.
- **Voter protections** that safeguard Rhode Islanders' ability to participate fully in civic life.