Creating more affordable housing plus local flexibility
Vote Yes on HJR 201

Everyone in Oregon should be able to access opportunity, which starts with a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. In rural and urban communities across the state, far too many of our neighbors and community members are struggling to afford housing costs, and are forced to choose between paying rent or buying groceries, medicine, or transportation.

Today, local jurisdictions can issue bonds for affordable housing. However, our constitution limits how these bonds can be used, and prohibits local jurisdictions from working with private and non-profit affordable housing developers to get the best value and the greatest number of affordable housing units built with these dollars. As a result of this limit in our Constitution, a local government must own and control the housing built with the bonds, and cannot use bond dollars to leverage other resources to build affordable housing.

HJR 201 creates an exception to this limitation for affordable housing, giving local jurisdictions more flexibility while ensuring accountability. Should voters approve this amendment, local jurisdictions—with local voter approval—will be able to partner with non-profit and private developers to build affordable housing and leverage other funding sources, such as federal tax credits and private capital.

With the additional flexibility provided by HJR 201, each local jurisdiction can ask its voters to approve general obligation bonds to build the type of affordable housing that best addresses local needs, and maximize public resources by leveraging other sources of funding. In addition, smaller jurisdictions without dedicated housing staff could consider a bond as a potential way to develop more needed homes in their community. In addition to voter approval of bonds, HJR 201 ensures that local jurisdictions provide for public reporting and annual audits when using bond proceeds.

We urge your support for HJR 201.

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