Chaz Ortega



Chaz is a Detroit-based graphic designer who has spent the last decade navigating the complexities of the Michigan rental market.

Having dealt with "greedy" landlords and distant corporate entities, Chaz advocates for housing stability and the pride of ownership.

Chaz's housing experiences highlight the struggle of dealing with limited options in the housing market, but **his goal is the "pride and safety" of owning a home that is truly his own.**

- Many Detroit properties **often fail to meet basic living standards.**
- **High prices and a lack of clear information on the purchasing process** prevent young workers from revitalizing empty homes in their own communities.

The Data:

1) 61% of Michigan's housing units were built before 1980, significantly higher than the national average of 49%. This older stock often lacks necessary upgrades, forcing owners or renters to contend with high maintenance costs despite high asking prices. (MSHDA)

2) 85% of the empty lots in Detroit are currently illegal to build on due to arbitrary zoning requirements, hindering housing development and preventing the community from maximizing the use of existing land to address the shortage. (Strong Detroit)

3) Renters are disproportionately rent-burdened. Nearly 51% of Detroit households spend over 30% of their income on housing, often while facing arbitrary rent increases driven by market "greed." (Detroit Housing Strategy Report)

Proposed Legislative Solution:

Chaz supports the **Michigan Housing Readiness bill package (HB 5529-5532 & 5581-5585)**, which aims to cut through the "tricks and hoops" of housing acquisition.

What can Legislators do?

Vote YES on the Michigan Housing Readiness bill package to increase housing options and ensure that residents like Chaz can invest in the long-term future of their city.

Watch the full video:
https://youtu.be/vJaeCTdA-RA