



Using the Grants Pass Decision to Change the Conversation on Homelessness

When the Supreme Court announces the Grants Pass ruling and reporters come to us for comment, we have an opportunity to talk in a different way to the bystanders who are watching. Let's create an echo chamber for the thing we want – abundant housing options for everyone in our nation, starting with those who are unhoused and most in need!



When the reporters call or the cameras go on, think about the conversation you want to be hearing in your community and start making it happen.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Position the decision WE get to make.

We don't get to decide Grants Pass v. Johnson, or vote on a piece of legislation in our state house of representatives, but we do get to choose from a different set of options.

Speak to the momentum, energy, and excitement that we see building around our collective action.

Endorse immigrants' rights—without explicitly saying it. We don't want the politicization of immigration to become a dividing line that pulls people away from the broader coalition we're building. We must take on the issue now, before it gets ahead of us.

Tell people we have solutions. Say this early and often to stop people from saying "We have to find solutions ..."

WHAT THAT SOUNDS LIKE

Thank you for asking me about this issue. I care very deeply about making sure everyone in our community has a roof over their head, and I'm not waiting around for the Supreme Court to make its decision because I've already made mine. Every person in this nation deserves to share in the prosperity and abundance of the world we have created together. And there's a growing coalition of everyday people, like me, who are rising to the occasion.

At my organization, we're working with community members and business leaders every day to make sure that we create more abundant housing options and so more people get to experience the best of what this community has to offer.

We're working hard with neighbors all over this community to do everything we can to ensure that every person—no matter where they come from or what brought them here—has a place to live.

The smartest investment we can make is showing our unhoused neighbors that they are loved and cared for—and we do that through our compassionate response to their hardship using thoughtful solutions that cosign our compassion and get a roof over their heads as quickly as possible. Those solutions aren't always easy but they exist, they work, and they are often less destructive and less costly than what we see playing out today.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

WHAT THAT SOUNDS LIKE

Frame the conversation we should be having.

This should never be a conversation about whether we should destroy the makeshift tents that people have tried to make into homes in our streets or about forcing people into places that make them feel even more vulnerable. The conversation we NEED to have is: How do we get everyone in our communities involved in solving homelessness? And how can we get our communities to commit to abundant housing options for all.

Get people into the future.

How we show up right now as a community is not about a Supreme Court decision, it is about our future. And if we fail to show up for that future, by acknowledging the real hardships that many in our communities face today, we will get a front row seat to the fallout of our choices, as more people are forced to live in our streets, in our jails, in our hospitals, camp in front of our businesses and in our parking lots, outside city hall, and in our parks.

You and I, together, get to make that decision. We either: (1) figure out a way to lean into the abundant and prosperous community that we are, by providing better housing options that acknowledge the hardships many people are facing OR (2) watch as ever more inhumane and short-sighted approaches to homelessness emerge and swell the number of people who are living in our streets.

Show your resolve and commitment.
Underscore why those on the side of housing justice will win.

The Supreme Court's decision later this year won't change the decision I have made. Knowing the justices are considering this case only increases my resolve to bring more neighbors to this fight. And here's why we will win: Every person in my community is asking for more abundant housing options. That's where the common ground and energy is!

WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY



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