



## MINDY'S STORY

Mindy is a mom, a veteran, community activist and advocate, and she uses a Housing Choice (Section 8) voucher to help pay her rent. Mindy also struggles with several autoimmune disorders and living in a stable home is crucial to maintaining her health. So, when her landlord told her he would not renew her lease, she knew trouble was ahead - she's been discriminated against as a voucher holder before.

Mindy and her son couch-surfed for months while applying for apartments. She contacted landlords for every apartment she could afford, only to be told over and over "we do not accept Section 8". Eventually, she found a place that would accept her voucher, only to be denied due to a previous, false eviction filing.

Mindy's search for a home took so long that she nearly lost her voucher, save for a three month extension, and in that time she was turned down by six more apartment managers.

Finally, after eight months of being homeless, and two days before her voucher extension expired, she connected with a landlord willing to accept her form of payment. The Catholic Community Services Supportive Services for Veterans program provided assistance for her deposit and credit check, and she moved in immediately.

Luckily, in 2018, Washington passed a law making this kind of discrimination based on source of income illegal. And, now that Mindy has a stable, healthy place to live, she is able to take care of her health, and continue her work as a nanny. She loves her new home and is fulfilled by simple luxuries - like her large balcony, and view of the sunset.

The 21st district is represented by Senator Marko Liias, Representative Strom Peterson, and Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self, and is located in South West Snohomish County. Data below are for Snohomish County and the Edmonds and Mukilteo School Districts.



## 3,223

Housing Trust Fund supported homes



## 858

people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 335 unsheltered



## 977

homeless school children



## \$29.40<sup>PER HOUR</sup>

income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, \$36.12 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom



## 24,415

families who are severely cost burdened and need access to affordable homes



## \$494,600

median home price