

Aaron Stephens to ELi, October 31, 2017:

I want to be very clear. I have not discussed any specific housing policy with them [the realtors], I have made no promises and I have no control over their spending or advocacy. I do appreciate their support, but this is a bit beyond my understanding. When they endorsed me I figured they would do a little bit of advocacy but I really had no idea it would be to this extent.

I'm proud to have their support. I'm also proud to have earned the support of several community leaders as well such as Erin Graham, Mark Grebner, Sam Singh, and many more. While we haven't discussed any specific policy, and I have no control or input into what they choose to do with their resources, the truth is we need change in East Lansing. What we are doing now just isn't working. They, along with all my other supporters, like my energy, my willingness to listen and to work with others. If I had to guess, I'd say their biggest reason for supporting me is my commitment to a better relationship with MSU. We have a lot of serious issues to solve here, and we're going to need all the help that we can get. Having their support doesn't mean we agree on everything, it just means they see my drive and vision, and they wanted to help make it a reality.

I'd say throughout this campaign I've gotten the support of people one might not expect for a 21 year old running for city council. But at the end of the day, I think that's a really good thing. The fact that I have the support from people like the Realtors PAC, student leaders, community leaders and every age, race, religion and identity out there, means that my message of a unified community is solid, and resonates with the people of this city.