



Joe Steckler



## Homelessness and Affordable Housing

I have been writing about homelessness and affordable housing for several years, but it does not seem to matter to those in Brevard County powerful enough to make something positive happen.

It reminds me of the current Naval and Congressional leadership that is eroding our country's naval power. When I came into the Navy—some years ago—we had over 2,000 ships. Today we have 270 operational ships. This is second to China who has close to 300 ships and a building capacity that outperforms ours. We have let ourselves become weaker as a seafaring nation, just as England did, and look what happened to her vast Empire.

I have talked about a one percent sales tax to fund affordable housing. Just as we have let our sea power decline, we are falling behind in the fight against homelessness. Miami-Dade County has put in place a one percent food and nutrition tax to help reduce homelessness, the first such tax in our country according to my information.

We need two plans actually: one for homelessness and one for affordable housing. Homelessness is a complex problem. Affordable housing encompasses lower budget rentals as well as government subsidized housing, which is under the purview of the Brevard County Housing and Human Services department.

This failure to address a significant issue is magnified by a growing number of seniors who need subsidized housing, which has a wait list of up to three years, if it is available at all. Continued inattention to this matter will only make it more difficult to resolve. We must urge our elected officials to do a better job of planning for the future.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at [www.HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org](http://www.HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org), or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

Joe Steckler, President  
Helping Seniors of Brevard

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