

Steve Hansler Will Retire in 2027 After More than 40 Years Leading MaxHousing

CLEVELAND, Ohio | July 28, 2026 — The MaxHousing Board of Directors announced today that Steve Hansler, the organization's first and only President, will retire in early Spring 2027 after more than 40 years of leadership.

MaxHousing Board Chair Jordan Batch said, “Steve's leadership has positioned MaxHousing for continued success. His vision, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to accessibility and independence for people with disabilities has strengthened the organization and expanded its impact throughout our community. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership and look forward to building on the strong foundation he has created.”

Hansler joined MaxHousing, then known as Maximum Independent Living, in 1984, fresh out of graduate school. That year, the organization opened the first fully accessible affordable apartment community in Northeast Ohio. Today, MaxHousing's five Vistas Accessible Apartment Communities provide 148 affordable apartments designed for people with mobility disabilities. A tenant-centered approach to management combined with consistently high ratings from regulators has earned the Vistas a reputation for excellence. As one tenant describes them, they are “the Cadillac of accessible housing.”

Over his tenure, Hansler transformed MaxHousing from a nonprofit focused primarily on developing and managing accessible housing into a recognized leader in accessibility and systems change. He broadened MaxHousing's impact through initiatives including launching the Accessible Housing Resource Center and later the Anderson Center for Accessible Living, redeveloping Circle Vistas into the award-winning Cotman Vistas, and, most recently, leading the launch of the Accessibility First Program.

Throughout his career, Hansler has served on numerous advisory boards and other collaborative efforts, locally and statewide, advocating for improved housing, accessibility, and inclusion. He has been a leader in teaching people how to make their housing more accessible. Steve is a member of the Leadership Cleveland Class of 2017 and the Board of University Circle, Inc.

“When I joined MaxHousing, I could never have imagined the journey ahead.” said Hansler. “It has been a privilege to spend more than four decades working alongside dedicated colleagues, committed Board members, community partners, and advocates. I am proud

of what we have accomplished together and the difference we have made in the lives of people with disabilities.” He also emphasized that his focus remains unchanged. "There is still important work ahead," he said. “I look forward to continuing this work over the coming months and helping lay the groundwork for a smooth and successful leadership transition."

As part of a thoughtful succession planning process, the MaxHousing Board of Directors will soon launch a comprehensive executive search. The Board's goal is to have Hansler's successor in place before the end of 2026, allowing for an opportunity for Hansler and the incoming Executive Director to work together before his retirement.

Batch noted that “Steve didn't simply lead MaxHousing, he helped create and shape the organization from its earliest days, leaving a legacy that will benefit individuals with disabilities for generations to come, including an organization that is financially strong, mission-focused, and well-positioned for continued growth.”

About MaxHousing

MaxHousing is a nonprofit organization with a mission to advance accessibility, independence, and inclusion in homes and communities. MaxHousing owns and manages 148 fully accessible apartments in its five Vistas Apartment Communities throughout Northeast Ohio. Through its Vistas Apartment Communities and Accessibility First program, MaxHousing works to increase the quality and quantity of accessible housing and connect people with housing that meets their accessibility needs.