

The Draft Cottage Housing Development Ordinance: Who Backs the Ordinance, and Why It Matters

The Issue: Some opponents claim that “nobody supports” the Cottage Housing Development ordinance or that only one organization is behind it. This does not reflect the reality of community sentiment in Georgetown.

The Fact: A growing range of residents, workers, civic groups, service organizations, faith communities, housing advocates, and business owners support the ordinance because it reflects Georgetown Values and addresses a clear need for modest, well-designed homes within Town. While individual voices differ in their reasons, the pattern of support is broad, grounded, and community focused.

Why Many Residents Support the Ordinance

Across Georgetown, many residents see the ordinance as a practical tool that gives the Town more control over how small homes are designed and built. Common reasons include:

- A desire for homes that local workers can afford
- Interest in modest, right sized homes for young adults and new graduates
- Concern for seniors who want to stay close to family and services
- Support for veterans seeking low maintenance housing in walkable neighborhoods
- A belief that the Town should set strong design standards rather than leave development to chance

Residents often express that Georgetown should grow in a way that reflects Georgetown Values such as modesty, stewardship, and neighborliness. The ordinance gives the Town a way to do that.

Why Civic and Community Leaders Support It

Many civic minded residents and organizations back the ordinance because it:

- Helps address the shortage of attainable housing across Sussex County
- Encourages in town growth instead of sprawl into farmland
- Strengthens local institutions by allowing workers to live closer to where they serve
- Promotes public health and safety through predictable design and walkable neighborhoods
- Reflects best practices used in small towns across the United States

This support is not about any single project. It is about giving Georgetown a zoning tool that aligns with the Town's long-term interests.

Why Faith and Service Organizations Support It

Groups committed to community wellbeing often back the ordinance because it helps the Town provide:

- Modest homes for people already part of Georgetown's daily life
- A stable option for older residents on fixed incomes
- Opportunities for young adults to remain close to their families

This support reflects longstanding local traditions of caring for neighbors and maintaining a welcoming, steady town.

Why Local Businesses Support It

Local businesses understand that stability in the workforce matters. When workers can live close to their jobs:

- Staff retention improves
- Commute times are shorter and more predictable
- Businesses benefit from more regular local customers

For many business owners, cottage housing is a practical step toward meeting Georgetown's workforce needs.

A Broad Base of Community Support

Public letters, Planning Commission testimony, and conversations across Town show steady and diverse support for the ordinance. Many residents with deep roots in Georgetown, as well as new families building their lives here, view it as a responsible and forward-looking policy.

Supporters consistently emphasize that the ordinance:

- Reflects Georgetown’s scale and character
- Protects farmland by encouraging in town growth
- Offers modest, stick-built homes for local workers, young adults, seniors, and veterans
- Gives the Town strong design standards and predictable review processes

The Bottom Line

The Cottage Housing Development ordinance is supported by a broad range of residents, civic groups, faith communities, and local businesses who want Georgetown to grow responsibly.

This support is rooted in Georgetown Values and in the desire to provide stable, modest homes for the people who already make Georgetown work every day.

There are more than 35 comparable cottage housing developments across the United States. The oldest opened in 2003. Cottage housing is normal, safe, and mature.

