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Blueprint for Housing Democracy: Zohran Mamdani's Progressive Policies

By Saumya V



In the United States, the housing crisis has worsened dramatically over the past decade. Many Americans are struggling to pay rent, afford their mortgage and most young people can only dream of homeownership. Under the Trump administration, this issue has only gotten significantly worse with the increasing cost of living. Despite this, a glimmer of hope exists for New York City, where Mayor Zohran Mamdani is proposing progressive housing and rent reforms. His policies are not only possible in New York, but can be replicated all across the country.

Part of Mamdani's platform is to freeze the rent on rent-stabilized apartments. New York City has many rent-stabilized units, however the rent has been steadily increasing over the years, pushing people out of the city. The issue of homelessness has only gotten worse. A rent freeze would allow tenants' wages to catch up to rising costs.

Zohran will also crack down on bad landlords. His administration will overhaul the Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants. Tenants can schedule and track inspections more easily. This would set a precedent in the city having a more direct role in tenant and landowner disputes, in the favor of tenants. His support extends to families who own their houses, too. His policies will fight back against scammers looking to steal deeds, and reflect property taxes in proportion to income.

So what would progressive candidates look like in other states? They would push for rent control and require landlords to prioritize tenants when selling their property. Another progressive policy is his for union-built affordable housing and establishing transitional programs for people without housing. Their platform should include bargaining in good faith with tenant unions to ensure people have safe and stable living amenities.

Better housing for Americans is possible, we have the tools and know how to do it. It's only a matter of combating profit-hungry landlords, struggling against corporate greed and fighting for tenant's rights.

Our Elders Deserve Homes, Not Evictions

By Brian Nuñez



After a lifetime of work, every person deserves dignity and security in retirement. But across the country, retirees are being pushed out of their homes by rising rents, shrinking benefits, and discrimination from landlords.

Many pensioners and Social Security recipients live on fixed incomes that don't keep up with skyrocketing housing costs. A rent hike of just a few hundred dollars can wipe out grocery money or medicine for the month. According to Harvard University's Joint Center on Housing Studies (JCHS), in 2021 almost 11.2 million older adults spent more than 30 percent of their income on housing alone.

That is not stability. It's a crisis.

To make matters worse, landlords often discriminate against retirees. They see pensioners as "risky" tenants, even when the rent is affordable. Application forms set income requirements that Social Security checks can't meet. Some older tenants end up in unsafe units, while others are funneled into expensive, profit-driven "senior housing" that drains their savings.

This problem hits hardest for women, Black and Latino elders, immigrants, and disabled people who already faced low wages, discrimination, or unsafe working conditions throughout their lives. Retirement should have ended their struggles, not extended them.

The truth is simple: housing has been handed over to profiteers. Wall Street investors and corporate landlords treat homes as cash machines, while public housing and senior housing are left to rot.

An injury to one, is an injury to all. Retirees' struggles are not separate from those of younger tenants—they are the same fight. When we unite across generations, we can win real rent control, stronger protections against discrimination, and public investment in housing that puts people over profit—after all we will all retire one day.

Our elders built this country. They deserve more than eviction notices and impossible rent hikes. They deserve homes.

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Join the Fight for Renter's Rights

by James Dugan



Unlawful, exploitative housing practices are a national problem. The National Housing Legal Project (NHLP), a national legal network founded in 1968, has advanced the adoption of a National Tenant Bill of Rights. The NHLP's mission is to advance housing justice for poor people and communities. A national tenants bill of rights is needed because tenants face racially disparate and unjust policies which harm children and persons of color, nationwide.

Between 2007 and 2016, Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 7.6 million people faced eviction each year in the United States. Nearly 40% of these are children. Black Americans compose only 18.6% of all renters and yet they make up 43.4% of those evicted.

The NHLP proposes a seven-point National Bill of Tenant Rights to define and protect the rights of tenants at the national level. The National Bill of Tenant Rights would ensure tenants have the right to fair applications, fair leases, freedom from discrimination and harassment, habitable homes, reasonable rent and costs, organizing, and safeguards to eviction.

For more information, visit:
https://www.nhlp.org

The NHLP suggests some ways you can support this project, including endorsing the National Tenants Bill of Rights, informing your family and friends by using the hashtags #TenantsBillofRights and #ProtectTenants, and by contacting your elected officials at the local, state and national level, to insist they protect tenants' rights by endorsing the National Tenants Bill of Rights.

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Our Mission

The Peoples Housing Council (PHC) aims to provide federally funded, decent housing to all working people.

The blame for homelessness must be placed at the door of the for-profit housing system that creates homelessness. PHC recognizes that the present economic system is constantly moving towards fewer people making higher profits at the expense of the majority.

We see the connection between the increased, bloated military budget and the lack of affordable housing. We seek to move funding from endless wars of devastation to provide housing.

The United States of America was built on the principle that all people have "... certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." But this contradicts the present situation where hundreds of thousands are without housing and millions more are at risk of becoming houseless.

We affirm that housing and employment are directly connected. Real estate industry is concentrated in just a few hands. We want to see an America where there is no homelessness. In order to achieve this, the people must come together and demand a policy for safe, affordable, accessible homes and steady, fair employment.



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