

Housing Los Angeles

Why Join Housing LA?

Housing LA, the broad coalition that fought for and won Los Angeles' Housing Trust Fund, is now working to significantly increase the supply of safe, decent homes that people can afford.

Our current housing crisis is tearing at the social and economic fabric of many Los Angeles neighborhoods. For many people - school teachers, health care workers, bus drivers, security officers, and many middle class professionals - our city's sky high rents and home prices are out of reach. To make ends meet, many employees live hours away from where they work. In the midst of great wealth, 48,000 homeless men, women and children sleep on the streets each night.

The housing market is broken. Most developers are only building expensive new apartments and houses. Some owners are also evicting poor and middle-class renters to convert their apartments to high-priced condominiums. The gap between the rich and the working poor - those who can afford housing and those who cannot - continues to widen. **Hardworking people should be able to afford housing and still have enough money for groceries and other basic necessities.** Creating more affordable housing that people can afford is necessary if we are to restore the middle class in Los Angeles.

It's time for our City Council to approve a comprehensive plan that gives everyone from all walks of life more housing choices: the choice of a home that meets your budget, the choice to stay in your neighborhood, the choice to live near your work, the choice to get off the street. With strong leadership, we can build many more homes that people can afford, as well as protect the ones we have.

In November 2006, we sent a clear message that we want the Mayor and Council Members to address the city's housing crisis. In 13 out of 15 council districts, strong majorities voted for new housing bonds, state Proposition 1C and local Proposition H. **We know reliable and practical ways to increase housing choices do exist - if only the Mayor and City Council will take action.**

Housing LA's 3-point plan:

- 1. Commit to long-term funding for Los Angeles' Housing Trust Fund.** Because there is no quick fix and it will take years to build the homes we need, the Trust Fund must have a reliable dedicated source of revenue.
- 2. Build mixed-income neighborhoods.** In over 170 cities, when developers build new apartments, condominiums or houses they must make some of each development affordable to people with low and moderate incomes. We need to do this in LA.
- 3. Protect the affordable homes we have.** Many cities limit the demolition and conversion of apartments and residential hotels. LA must do the same. Rent control laws must also be enforced to ensure that people are not illegally forced out of their homes.

Here is what you can do

- Sign up, collect endorsements and recruit more supporters.
- Participate in delegation visits with City Council members.
- Contact Housing LA at 213-480-1249 or email at fdelarosa@scanph.org.

The time to act is now. Your participation is critical. Join Housing LA's campaign to build the affordable housing we all need.

Housing LA's 3-Point Plan

1 Dedicate Funding for the Housing Trust Fund

We need to take the next steps to ensure the continued building of homes people can afford. To do this, the Housing Trust Fund must be taken out of the annual budget wrangling by dedicating permanent sources of local funds. Each dollar spent from the Housing Trust Fund will bring about \$4 in other public and private moneys into the City. These funds will also create good construction jobs within the City.

2 Build Mixed Income Housing

More than 170 cities and counties in California have programs that create mixed-income homes – including San Francisco, San Diego, Pasadena, and Santa Monica. It's time for Los Angeles to adopt this strategy. Housing LA supports a balanced mixed-income housing program where developers get some incentives to build moderate and low income homes and we preserve our single family neighborhoods. In-lieu fees from the ordinance would go the Housing Trust Fund.

3 Preserve What We Have

We are losing homes people can afford faster than we can build them. We need to protect residential hotels and apartments from both demolition and conversion to condominiums. Housing LA also supports strong enforcement of rent-control laws to ensure that people who live in rent-controlled apartments are not illegally forced out.

Join Housing LA!

Yes, my organization wants to be a part of the campaign for healthier communities!

Name

Organization

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email

We can help in the following ways:

Help plan and mobilize an action in my area. I have these ideas for actions highlighting local housing needs or successes.

 Attend and speak at press events or rallies.

Help recruit other organizations.

Come to a visit with my LA City Council Member. I have relationships with the following LA Council Members.

Send your completed endorsement form to:

Housing LA, 3345 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1005, Los Angeles, CA 90010 or fax to (213) 480-1788

To learn more and join Housing LA, contact:

Francesca de la Rosa at (213) 480-1249, ext 252 or email fdelarosa@scanph.org.