

To: To Members of the Cincinnati City Council

Re: Urgent Demand for the "Housing for All of Us" Platform



Dear Council Members,

We, the undersigned organizations and citizens, are writing to you to formally call for immediate, decisive action to address the housing crisis currently destabilizing the City of Cincinnati.

The current state of housing in our city is unsustainable. With the average rent reaching \$1,467 and Cincinnati experiencing the highest year-to-year rent increase in the United States in 2025, our neighbors are being priced out of their homes. Homeownership has become virtually unattainable for many, with median home prices rising to \$276,000. We are currently facing a deficit of nearly 55,000 affordable units, and 76 percent of our low-income residents are forced to pay more than 50 percent of their income toward rent.

This shortage is not merely an economic statistic; it is a severe social crisis that drives evictions, contributes to homelessness, negatively impacts public health, and prevents families from building generational wealth.

To ensure that Cincinnati remains a city for all residents, we call upon the City Council to adopt the following five-point **"Housing for All of Us" Platform**:

1. **Sustainable Investment in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF):** We demand consistent funding for the AHTF, paired with the establishment of an oversight board composed of community members including low-income renters and homeowners to ensure transparency and equitable fund allocation.
2. **Right of First Refusal / Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA):** We call for legislation empowering tenant associations to purchase buildings when they go up for sale, providing a clear pathway to homeownership and long-term stabilization.
3. **Anti-Displacement Ordinance:** We require robust, legally binding protections to prevent residents from being forced out of their communities due to gentrification, redevelopment, or unreasonable lease terms.
4. **Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance:** Any developer receiving tax benefits from the City of Cincinnati must be required to include a fixed percentage of low-income housing units in their developments. If this is not feasible, the developer must contribute a significant percentage of their revenue to the AHTF.

5. **Access to Counsel & Mortgage Assistance:** We call for sustainable funding dedicated to rent assistance programs and mortgage support to prevent evictions and assist low-income homeowners in maintaining their stability.

We are not asking for a conversation; we are asking for your commitment to sponsor and pass these ordinances. We invite you to join us in making Cincinnati a city where everyone has a stable, dignified place to call home.

We look forward to your response regarding your plan to advance these critical initiatives.

Sincerely, the following organizations and community groups that support this letter and its initiatives,

Cincinnati Action For Housing Now (CAHN)
Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition
Communities United for Action (CUFA)