

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



**Housing and Elections:
Why This Work Matters**

Agenda

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- **Welcome and Overview of Our Homes, Our Votes Campaign Achievements**

- Diane Yentel, NLIHC

- **Election Efforts in Georgia**

- Dr. Bambi Hayes-Brown, Georgia Advancing Communities Together (Georgia ACT)

- **Our Homes, Our Votes: 2022 Communications Strategy**

- Jen Butler, NLIHC

- **Impact of Evictions on Voter Turnout**

- Gillian Slee, Eviction Lab

- **Special Message on Our Homes, Our Votes Act (H.R. 2215)**

- Rep. Jesus “Chuy” Garcia (D-IL)

- **Preview of Our Homes, Our Votes Resources and Upcoming Webinars**

- Courtney Cooperman, NLIHC

Welcome and Overview of Our Homes, Our Votes Campaign Achievements

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Diane Yentel

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National Low Income Housing Coalition

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OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES

2020

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OURHOMES-OURVOTES.ORG



Our Homes, Our Votes Op-eds



CITYLAB
The Question the Presidential Candidates Don't Get Asked

Des Moines Register
Voters care about affordable housing but 2020 debates have ignored the issue

ERIC BURMEISTER, LAUREN JOHNSON AND DIANE YENTEL | GUEST COLUMNISTS
3:55 p.m. EDT Aug. 12, 2019

CITYLAB
The Affordable Home Crisis Continues, But Bold New Plans May Help

BuzzFeed News

Trump's Ukraine Call Ayanna Pressley Bre

Opinion

Opinion: The Crushing Cost Of Rent Should Be 2020's Big Issue

Since 1960, renters' incomes have increased by only 5% while rents have risen 61%. Whoever wants to be president should say how they'll solve this crisis.

By Mike Koprowski
Posted on March 28, 2019, at 10:59 a.m. ET

The Columbus Dispatch

Column: Soaring rent, tuition are putting people on the street

Bill Faith

Posted Oct 14, 2019 at 4:15 AM

The presidential candidates coming to Otterbein University on Tuesday have talked a lot about college debt and health care. As well they

NH BUSINESS REVIEW

It's time to ask the affordable housing question

New Hampshire voters should get presidential candidates to address crisis that's hit the state, nation
September 9, 2019

New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary has always provided intimate voter-candidate connection, but this season takes the cake. The crowded field in the 2020 presidential election has created a flurry of opportunities to engage with the candidates like never before.

THREE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES RESPONDED TO THE OP-ED BY NLIHC'S CEO AND PRESIDENT, DIANE YENTEL



Elizabeth Warren @ewarren · Aug 24
Every American deserves a safe, decent, and affordable place to live—in Iowa and across the country. It's going to take big, structural change to tackle this crisis, and I've got a plan for that: [ewarren/Housing](https://www.ewarren.gov/Housing)



Diane Yentel @dianeyentel
My op-ed with @pchtf in today's Des Moines Register



Cory Booker @CoryBooker · 19h
Americans are already struggling to make ends meet with the rising cost of living. Meeting the basic human need of housing shouldn't destroy them financially. Here's my plan to provide safe, affordable housing for all Americans: [corybooker.com/issues/housing/#OurHomesOurVotes2020](https://www.corybooker.com/issues/housing/#OurHomesOurVotes2020)



Diane Yentel @dianeyentel
My op-ed with @pchtf in today's Des Moines Register



Julián Castro @JulianCastro · Aug 24
Housing is a human right.

Everyone needs a safe, decent, affordable place to call home.

Here's my housing plan: bit.ly/housingCastro2020

#OurHomesOurVotes2020



Diane Yentel @dianeyentel
My op-ed with @pchtf in today's Des Moines Register, urging all presidential candidates to address the affordable housing crisis and its solutions: [desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/) ...

Show this thread



Diane Yentel
@dianeyentel

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My op-ed with @pchtf in today's Des Moines Register, urging all presidential candidates to address the affordable housing crisis and its solutions: [desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/) ... #OurHomesOurVotes2020

Opinion, Page A15

Candidates, make affordable housing a priority

Your Turn
By Diane Yentel, NLIHC CEO and President
Diane Yentel

... housing, your voters' votes on the issue of housing affordability? All across the state, our families and neighbors struggle to find safe, stable and affordable homes. The steady erosion of housing stock over their lifetimes and the spending most of their income on rent, leaving little for other necessities like groceries, medicals, and child care. Policy-makers must act to address this crisis. (Source: our elected officials to make bold investments in affordable housing.)

Our Homes, Our Votes. Our Iowa, a partnership between the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, is working to make the profile of affordable housing in Iowa, and in the 2020 presidential election. We see housing a crisis of non-partisan candidates, low-bid and non-partisan. Throughout Iowa on affordable housing, and the needs of our lowest income residents. The national affordable housing coalition continues to work, making it impossible for seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and low-wage workers to pay rent and make ends meet. Every state and community in the country — urban, rural, and suburban — faces an affordable housing shortage, and it is a crisis here in Iowa.

The average renter wage in Iowa is \$22.93 per hour, but to afford a modest, two-bedroom house of just modest rent, a person must earn \$31.44 an hour. The average affordable wage range in our state would have to work 85 hours a week (2,145 time paid in effort) to afford a modest, two-bedroom house. How can such a person afford a house and spend time with and support his/her family? How can we not show in their communities. According to a national poll commissioned by NLIHC, 85% of people in America believe creating everyone has a safe, secure and affordable home should be a top national priority, and 8 in 10 want major action from Congress and the White House. Seventy-six percent are more likely to vote for a candidate with a detailed plan on making housing more affordable.

Despite being on the outside of voters across the country and asked by those as a top issue on the campaign trail, the first nationally televised Democratic debates neglected to address the issue of affordable housing. This must change the issue in our final votes vote deeply about one that could swing the 2020 election.

Our Homes, Our Votes. Our Iowa calls on candidates to address how they would prevent and build more deeply affordable housing, increase rental assistance, prevent foreclosures, evictions and homelessness, and protect renters from discrimination and abuse.

My op-ed invites to ask the 2020 candidates: What would you do to make homes affordable for our nation's lowest income people? And we urge all houses to vote — because affordable homes are built with ballots.

Diane Yentel is the executive director of the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, the comprehensive planning, affordability and housing construction for affordable housing in Polk County, Iowa. Yentel is the director of communications and community outreach of the Polk County Housing Trust Fund and the state director of the Our Homes, Our Votes, Our Iowa project.

Diane Yentel is the president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and an advocate dedicated to understanding and influencing public policy that improves people with the lowest income in the United States have affordable and decent homes.



7:15 AM - 14 Aug 2019

Our Homes, Our Votes Candidate Housing Plans



SOLUTIONS TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

JUNE 14, 2019

THE NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS CONTINUES TO WORSEN, making it impossible for the lowest-income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and low-wage workers to pay rent and make ends meet. Nationally, there is a shortage of 7 million homes affordable and available to the lowest-income people; for every 10 of the lowest-income people, there are fewer than 4 homes affordable and available to them. Every state and community – whether urban, rural, or suburban – is directly impacted.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ACTION. According to a recent national poll, 85% of people in America believe ensuring everyone has a safe, accessible and affordable home should be a top national priority, and 8 in 10 want major action from Congress and the White House. Seventy-six percent are more likely to vote for a candidate with a detailed plan on making housing more affordable. Across the political spectrum, candidates with a detailed plan to make housing more affordable are more likely to garner support at the ballot box from Democrats (91%), independents (70%) and Republicans (63%).

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

1. Preserve and build deeply affordable homes.

Ending the affordable housing crisis requires a major investment in developing homes affordable to the lowest-income people. The underlying cause of the affordable housing crisis is the severe lack of affordable rental homes for America's lowest-income households – the only segment of the population for which there is an absolute shortage of affordable and available homes. Because the private sector cannot on its own build or maintain homes at a price these families can afford, the federal government must play a leading role.

The national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) was designed precisely to address this need. It is exclusively targeted to help build, preserve, rehabilitate, and operate housing affordable to people with the lowest incomes. The HTF is administered by HUD as a block grant, giving each state the flexibility to decide how to best use HTF resources to address its most pressing housing needs. **The HTF should be expanded significantly to at least \$40 billion annually.**

Restrictive local zoning is a significant barrier to addressing the nation's affordable housing needs. **The federal government should incentivize or require local governments to eliminate restrictive zoning policies** by tying changes to local zoning to federal transportation, infrastructure or housing dollars.

- 1 -

06/14/2019

ist also do more to preserve our nation's existing affordable housing infrastructure. public housing is home to more than 2.6 million low-income people, Congress has put homes at risk of decay and disrepair through chronic underfunding. Between 2000 and 2016, funding for public housing repairs was cut in half. As a result, many public housing agencies are unable to make needed repairs to preserve these homes, and our country loses 7 to 15,000 public housing apartments annually. **The funding needed to address needed repairs in public housing is estimated to exceed \$50 billion.**

Provide rental assistance.

Since 1990, renters' incomes have increased by 5%, while their housing costs have increased by 25%. Despite the growing gap between wages and housing costs, only one in four renters gets the housing assistance it needs because of chronic underfunding. **Candidates should call for a major expansion of Housing Choice Vouchers and/or the creation of a new renters' tax credit** to help families keep more of their incomes for other essentials such as food, medicine, education, and transportation.

Protect renters from facing evictions and homelessness.

Our country needs a National Housing Stabilization Fund, a new national program to help prevent evictions and, in worst cases, homelessness. The program could provide temporary financial assistance to help cover rent for households experiencing unexpected economic hardship (e.g., loss of work hours, unreimbursed medical bills, a broken-down car). Coupled with tenant stability services, such as counselors and legal aid, this program would extend an economic cushion to low-income people in crisis, helping them avert the downward spiral of housing instability and homelessness.

Protect renters from discrimination and abuse.

All 2020 presidential candidates should support a broad array of renter protections. States should endorse federal legislation to ban housing discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, income, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and pledge to increase enforcement of existing fair housing laws, including state and local obligations to actively further fair housing. Candidates should also consider proposals to support a federal right to counsel for renters facing eviction.

For more information, contact NLUHC President and CEO Diane Ventel at: dventel@nluhc.org

1000 Vermont Avenue, NW | Suite 900 | Washington, DC 20005 | 202-462-1530 | www.nluhc.org

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06/14/2019

Candidates with Housing Plans

- Bennet
- Biden
- Bloomberg
- Booker
- Buttigieg
- Castro
- Delaney
- Gillibrand
- Harris
- Inslee
- Klobuchar
- O'Rourke
- Sanders
- Steyer
- Warren

Our Homes, Our Votes Debate Sign-On Letter

“We can’t nibble around the edges of big problems...we win when we call out what’s broken and we show how to fix it. We will win when we fight for the things that touch people’s lives - things like housing costs.”



New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker

“It was over 20 years ago that I was a law student and moved to inner city Newark, New Jersey, to serve as a tenants rights lawyer to try to address the challenges in my community. And I was sobered by them – the gun violence, the substandard housing.”

Former Vice President Joe Biden



“When you finish your term in prison, you should be able not only to vote but have access to Pell grants, have access to be able to get housing have access to be able to move along the way.”

“Tonight, as we speak, right now, 500,000 Americans are sleeping out on the street...”

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October 9, 2019

To CNN, The New York Times, and moderators of the next presidential candidate debate:

The undersigned 852 organizations urge you to ask each presidential candidate how they would address the nation’s housing and homelessness crisis.


Our country is in the grips of a severe and pervasive housing affordability crisis. Nationally, there is a shortage of 7 million homes affordable and available to the lowest-income renters. Rents have risen faster than renters’ incomes over the last two decades, and while more people are renting than ever before, the supply of housing has lagged. Fewer than 4 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 10 of the lowest-income renter households nationwide. As a result, record-breaking numbers of people cannot afford decent homes. Every state and community – urban, rural, and suburban – is impacted.

So far, 11 presidential candidates have released major housing plans or other to address the housing crisis. They are talking about these plans on the camp halls, forums, and meetings in New Hampshire, Iowa, and beyond. But during rounds of presidential debates, debate moderators have neglected to direct how they would address our nation’s housing affordability crisis. People in America hear all presidential candidates share what they will do to make homes affordable for millions who are struggling to keep roofs over their heads or who have no

This is an issue of paramount importance to voters. According to a recent national opinion poll, 60% of people say housing affordability is a serious problem which points from 2016. Over 61% of people report having to make at least one sacrifice in the last three years because they were struggling with housing costs, such as cutting activities for their child, nutritious food, or healthcare.

Strong majorities of the public expect solutions – 83% say elected officials are not paying enough attention to the cost of housing and the need for more affordable housing. 10 million people in America say the president should “take major action” to make housing affordable for low-income families. And 91% of Democratic voters say they will vote for candidates who have detailed plans for making housing more affordable.

Former HUD Sec. Julián Castro



“Our schools are segregated because our neighborhoods are segregated. We have to connect the dots. To uplift the quality of life - to invest in housing opportunity, to invest in job opportunity.”

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Today! Join Pre-Debate Tweetstorm for Affordable Housing at 3:00 p.m. ET

OVER 1,000 ORGANIZATIONS signed a national letter calling for a question on affordable housing during the next debate.

ourhomes-ourvotes.org

NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Twelve candidates will take the debate next week. Most of the released plans or proposals to address the affordability crisis. Will the moderators bring up their affordable housing solutions to the housing crisis? **Votes: 2020** partners this after

A Sea Change



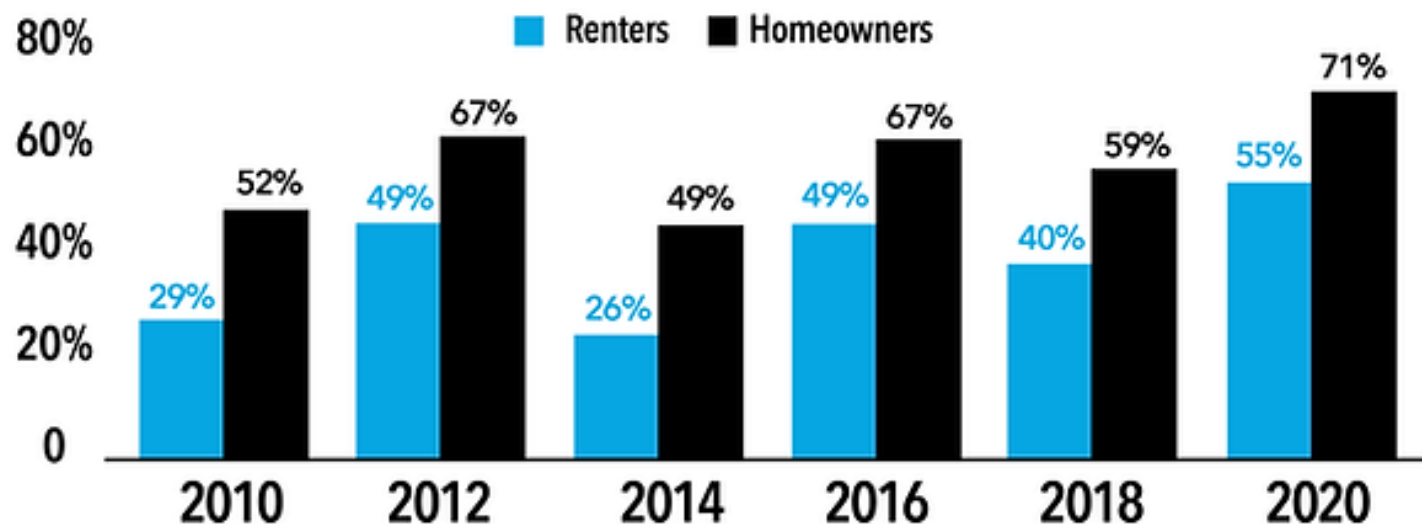
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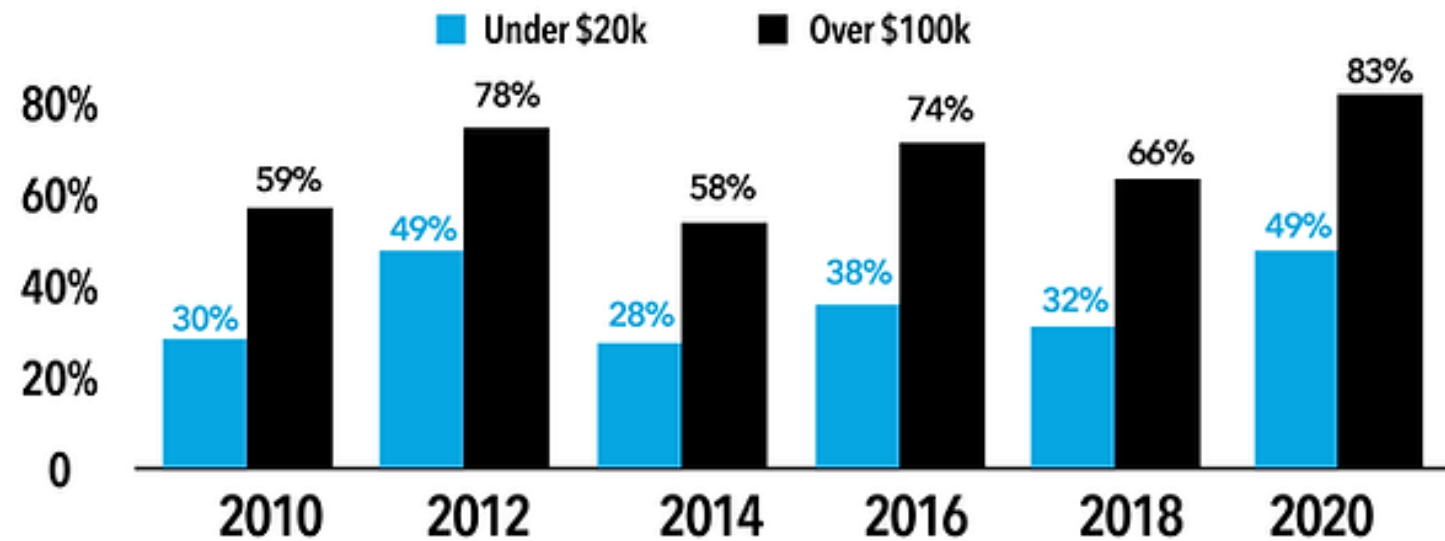
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U.S. Citizens Who Reported Voting in National Elections by Housing Tenure (2010-2020)



U.S. Citizens Who Reported Voting in National Elections by Family Income (2010-2020)



Election Efforts in Georgia

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Dr. Bambi Hayes-Brown

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Our Homes, Our Votes: 2022 Communications Strategy

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*Affordable Homes
Are Built With
Ballots.*



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

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<http://ourhomes-ourvotes.org>



| September 20, 2019

Millions of Americans are finding that housing has become unaffordable. . . . Why are you the best person to fix this problem?



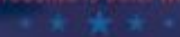
MSNBC

6.5 Million Viewers

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Los Angeles Times

88.75

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019

latimes.com

NATIONAL AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A coalition of national and political organizations on Tuesday urged the Justice Department to drop its lawsuit against the National Labor Relations Board, arguing that the suit is an attempt to undermine the board's independence and authority.

The coalition, which includes the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Federation of Laborers and Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the National Labor Relations Board itself, said the lawsuit is a "clear attempt to interfere with the board's ability to carry out its duties."

The suit, filed in federal court in Washington, D.C., seeks to force the board to allow the Justice Department to review its decisions on whether employers are violating labor laws. The board has long maintained that such a review would be an unconstitutional violation of its independence.

The Justice Department's lawsuit is part of a broader effort to weaken the board's authority and to give the Justice Department more control over labor law enforcement. The board has been a key player in labor law enforcement for decades, and its independence is a cornerstone of the labor law system.

The coalition's letter to the Justice Department says that the lawsuit is a "clear attempt to interfere with the board's ability to carry out its duties." It says that the board has a long history of independence and that the lawsuit is a "clear attempt to undermine the board's independence and authority."

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| December 17, 2019
1.2 Million Daily Print Readers

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Social Media



Diane Yentel

@dianeyentel

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My op-ed with @pchtf in today's Des Moines Register, urging all presidential candidates to address the affordable housing crisis and its solutions:

[desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/ ...](https://desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/)
[#OurHomesOurVotes2020](#)



@OurHomesVotes



@OHOV2020

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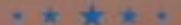


Newsletters

160K+
Recipients

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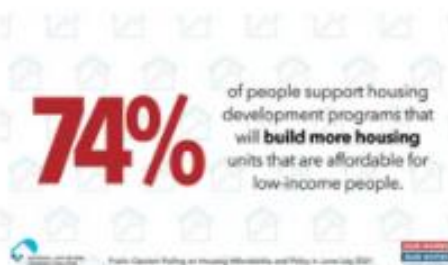
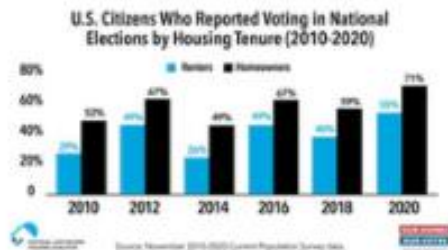


SAMPLE TWEETS

#DYK that only 55% of renters voted in the 2020 elections, compared to 71% of homeowners? #OurHomesOurVotes22 is building a movement to close this gap in 2022! Join us: <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org>

#DYK that 74% of people in the U.S. support building more affordable homes for low-income renters? #OurHomesOurVotes22 is holding candidates accountable to listen to their voters and prioritize housing! Join us: <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org>

Housing is built with ballots. Don't let candidates ignore your vote. Join #OurHomesOurVotes22 & spread the word about the resources candidates & voters need to advocate for #affordablehomes <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/>



I VOTE FOR MORE AFFORDABLE

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Community

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**For Questions:
Jen Butler
jbutler@nlihc.org**

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Impact of Evictions on Voter Turnout

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Gillian Slee

Graduate Research Assistant

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Eviction and Voter Turnout: The Political Consequences of Housing Instability

Gillian Slee, Princeton University

gllee@princeton.edu



Questions

- Does eviction affect voter turnout?
- How do the political effects of eviction vary across different community contexts?

Approach

- We merged two very large data sets:
 - Millions of court-ordered evictions, 2013-2015
 - Millions of registered Americans' turnout, 2016 election
- Neighborhood-level (Census tract) analysis of eviction and voting rates
 - Main analyses: 7,166 neighborhoods in 19 states

Findings

- Eviction plays a powerful role in depressing community voter turnout

A 1 percentage point increase in the residential eviction rate predicts a 0.46 percentage point drop in the voter turnout rate.

Findings

Regional and Electoral Context

- Urban neighborhoods
- Rural neighborhoods
- New voting requirements
- Uncompetitive states
- Low- and high- eviction neighborhoods

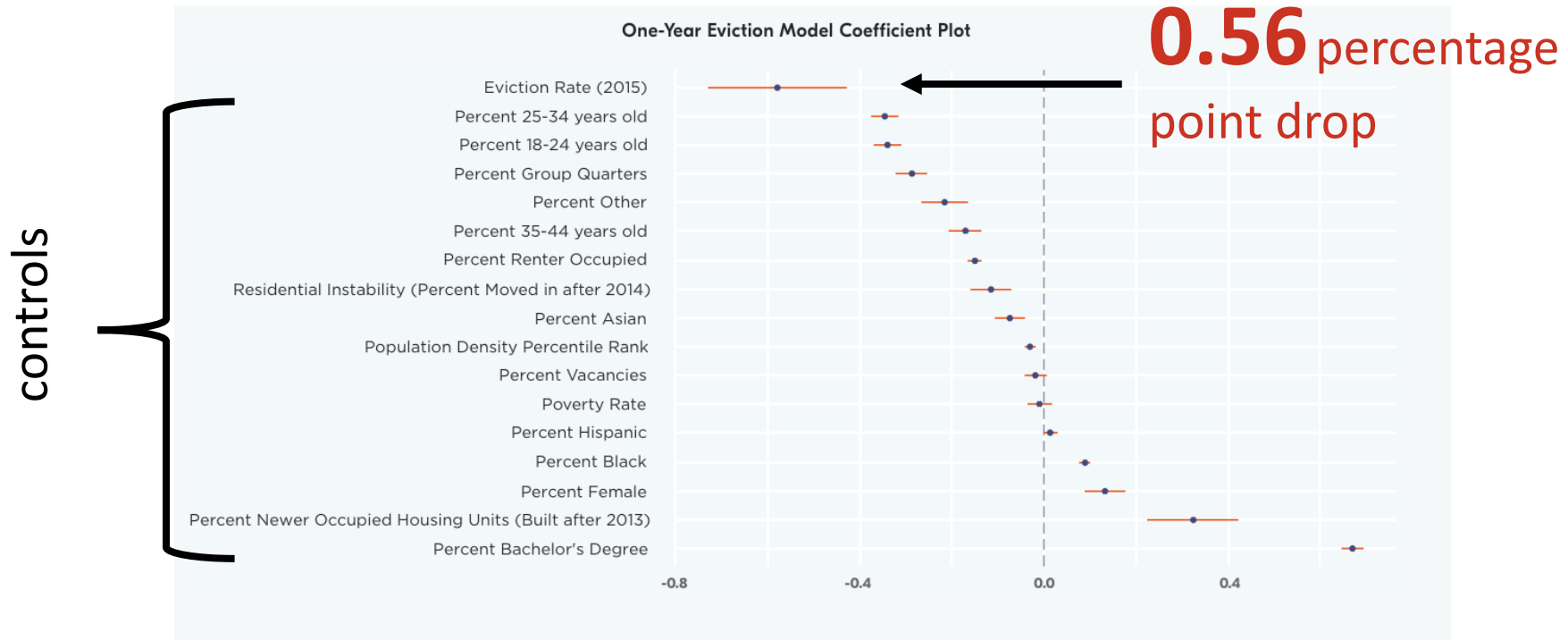
Findings

Regional and Electoral Context

- ! Same-Day or Election Day registration
- ! Battleground states

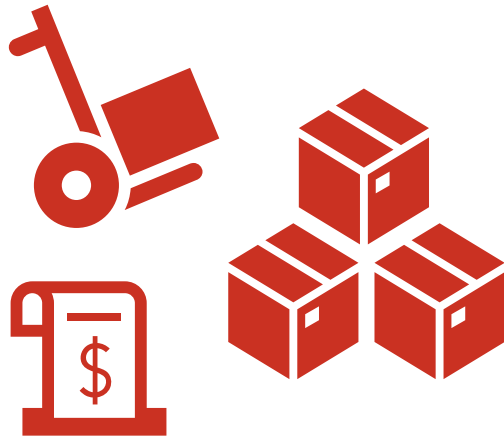
Findings

Temporal Variation

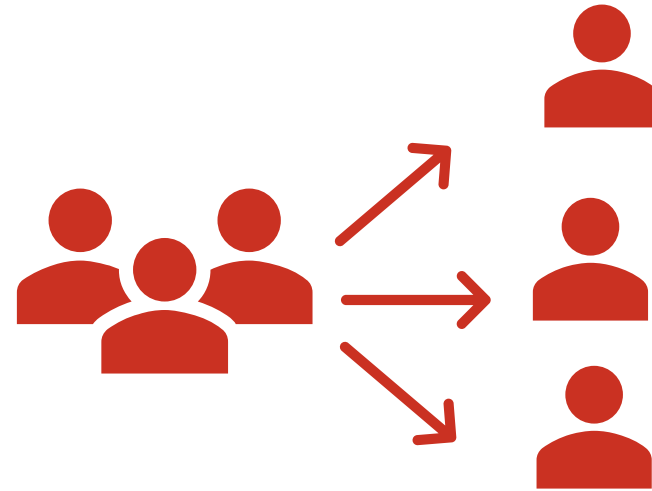


Eviction and the ballot

Eviction increases...



Material hardship
isolation



Social

Conclusions

Eviction harms voter turnout

Same-day and Election Day registration may mitigate eviction's impact

New voter restrictions and absent same-day registration can hurt

Recommendations

Invest in interventions aimed at reducing eviction

Remove barriers to the ballot box

Focus voter mobilization and grassroots efforts in neighborhoods affected by eviction

Article:

Article

Eviction and Voter Turnout: The Political Consequences of Housing Instability

Gillian Slee and Matthew Desmond
Princeton University

Politics & Society
1–27
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Blog Post:

EVICTIION LAB UPDATES

November 8, 2021

Eviction Depressed Voter Turnout in the 2016 Presidential Election



Gillian Slee
The Eviction Lab



Thank you!

Please feel free to reach out to:

glilee@princeton.edu



The Eviction Lab is funded by the JPB and Gates Foundations, C3.ai, and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Special Message on Our Homes, Our Votes Act (H.R. 2215)

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Representative Jesús “Chuy” Garcia

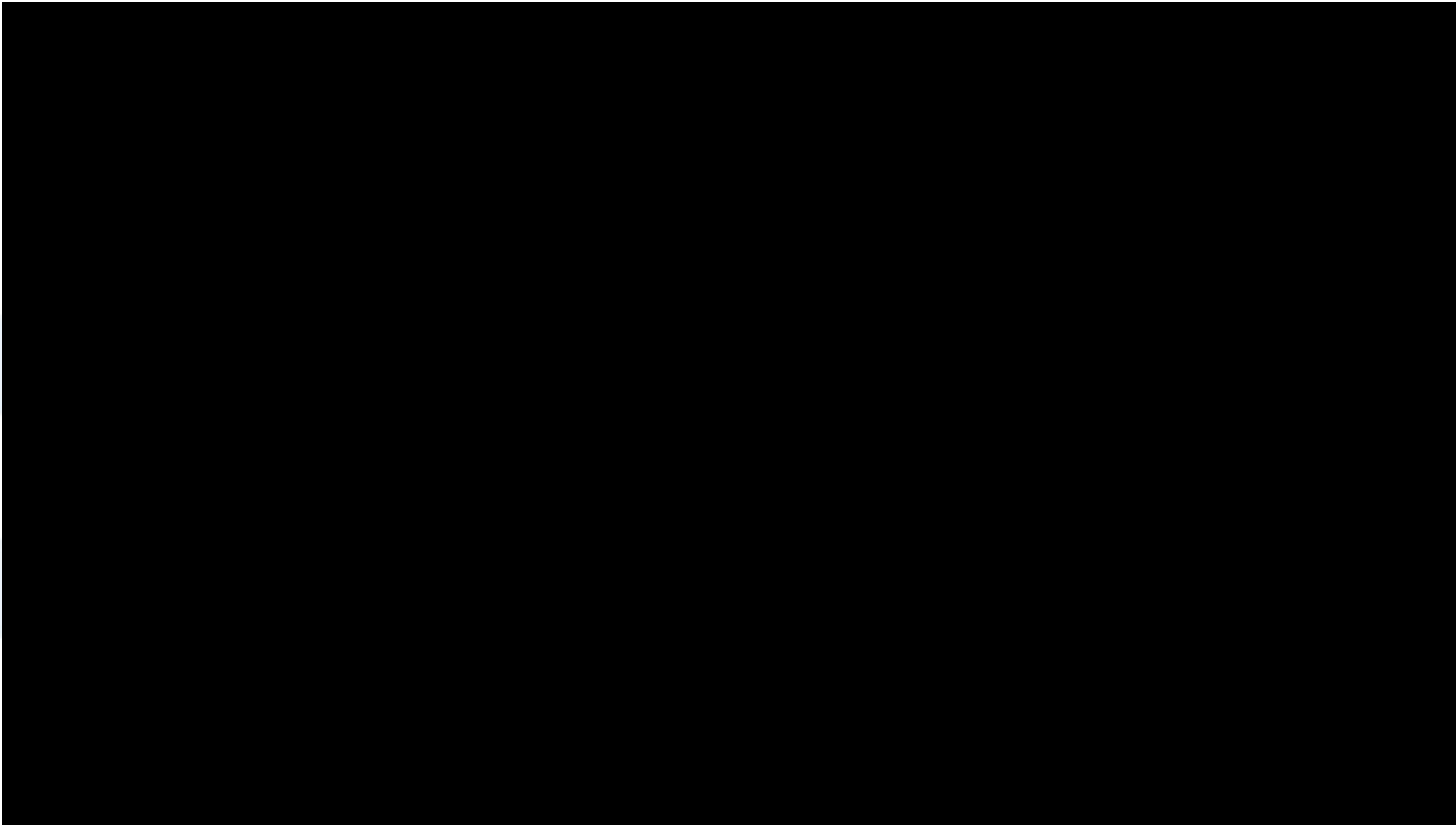
Illinois 4th District

United States Representative

Special Message on Our Homes, Our Votes Act (H.R. 2215)

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Preview of Our Homes, Our Votes Resources and Upcoming Webinars

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Courtney Cooperman

Housing Advocacy Organizer

National Low Income Housing Coalition

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Upcoming Webinar

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Monday, April 18

Getting Started on Election Work

With elections just months away, housing organizations are launching their election initiatives. This webinar will walk through every aspect of a strong voter and candidate engagement campaign—encompassing voter registration, voter education, Get Out the Vote (GOTV), candidate engagement, and ballot measure advocacy. Presenters will provide tips for organizations to assess their capacity, build partnerships, set goals, and secure funding that will enable them to carry out their plans effectively.

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