When Renters Rise, Cities Thrive

Washington, DC #RenterWeekofAction

The United States is increasingly a renter nation, especially since the foreclosure crisis. Today, 107 million people live in renter households, and renters are contributing ever more to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of neighborhoods and cities. They could be contributing even more if it were not for skyrocketing rents and stagnant wages. When the rent is too high, little is left over for basics like food, transportation, health care, and education. Millions of families are increasingly at risk of eviction and homelessness.

Renters represent a majority of residents in DC...

- Renter: 62%
- Owner: 38%

DC’s renter population is 344,600 strong, an increase of 15% since 2000.

...but they are burdened by rising rents and low wages.

48% pay too much for housing *

- Renters already contribute $8.4 billion each year to the DC economy.**
- If rents were more affordable, renters and the city would be much better off.

If all DC renters paid only what they could afford on housing...

...they would have an extra $627 million to spend in the community each year, or

$8,600 per household***

This would cover the basics for a two-person household, like:
- almost twice an entire food budget,
- 62% of the cost of child care,
- all transportation costs, or
- full tuition at a D.C. public university.

Everyone would be better off, and racial inequities would shrink.

Increase in yearly disposable income by race:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed/other</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women of color continue to face the steepest burdens.

Share of renters paying more than 30% of income on housing by race and gender

- Women of color: 41% in 2000, 55% in 2015
- White women: 36% in 2000, 43% in 2015
- Men of color: 35% in 2000, 49% in 2015
- White men: 29% in 2000, 34% in 2015

Washington, DC thrives when its renters thrive. #RenterWeekofAction calls for:

1) **Renter rights** including just cause eviction, stronger code enforcement, rent control, and anti-displacement protections—with real enforcement infrastructure.
2) **Tenants’ right to organize** and bargain collectively.
3) **Community control over land and housing** through land trusts, cooperatives, and non-market solutions for affordable homes.
4) **An end to Wall Street giveaways** because home is a human right, not a commodity for the wealthy.
5) **Full funding for HUD** so that every income-eligible family in the nation has a home.

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For more information: [www.homesforall.org/renterweekofaction](http://www.homesforall.org/renterweekofaction)

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