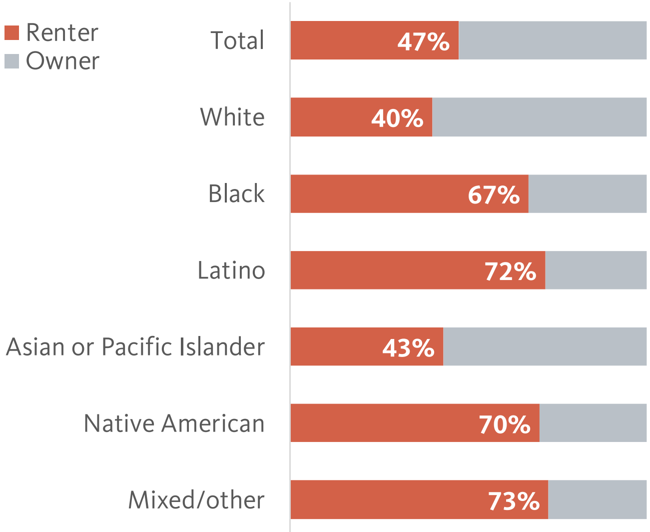
When Renters Rise, Cities Thrive

Santa Rosa #RenterWeekofAction

The United States is increasingly a renter nation. After the foreclosure crisis, with 107 million people living in renter households nationwide, 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 are critical to Santa Rosa's present and future...



- The vast majority of Santa Rosa's mixed/other and Latino households are renters.
- 36% of renter households are low income.

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

- **57% of all renters** pay too much for housing, up from 45% in 2000.
- **90% of low-income renters** pay too much for housing.

If renters across the country paid only what they could afford on housing, they would have an extra $124 billion to spend in their communities each year, or

$6,200 per household

- That's enough to cover 90% of an entire food budget, 63% of the cost of child care, or nearly all transportation costs.*

Santa Rosa 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.

Notes: Race dependent on the race of the household head. Only data for Whites are non-Latino. Low-income households defined as those with an income up to $34,999. We use the common standard of spending no more than 30 percent of household income on housing costs (rent and utilities) to measure affordability. *Potential increase in disposable income (income minus housing costs) among rent-burdened households in the United States. All dollar values are in 2015 dollars. Data on living expenses are based on: the USDA "low-cost" food plan for a household of one female and two children, the Care.com Cost of Care survey, and the 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Expenditure Survey for transportation costs.

Data analysis from the National Equity Atlas, a partnership between PolicyLink and the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE). **Sources:** 2015 5-Year American Community Survey summary data and microdata from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) and the 2000 Decennial Census summary data.

For more information:
www.homesforall.org/renterweekofaction

PolicyLink CarsonWatch RISE UP FOR RENTER POWER #RENTERWEEKofACTION