

# 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## HOUSING JUSTICE

The COVID-19 crisis has exposed the inequity & precariousness of housing policies in New York State. Due to the lack of access to safe & affordable housing before the pandemic, tenants who owe billions of dollars in back rent are facing displacement & homelessness.

We need solutions to this crisis which provide relief to those who really need it. During the 2021 legislative session we must pass legislation to begin to address the structural issues which cause Black, Brown, & low-income New Yorkers to experience widespread housing insecurity.



## WE SUPPORT

### Passing "Good Cause" Eviction Legislation

We support budget legislation to end no fault evictions [A5573/S3082]. This legislation would ensure:

- that tenants are not evicted in retaliation for opposing unsafe & inhumane living conditions
- that tenants are not evicted in order to displace tenants to gentrify neighborhoods
- that unreasonable rate hikes are legislatively prohibited in recognition for what they actually are: a mechanism to displace low and moderate income tenants.

### Addressing the Lead Crisis Upstate

Outside of NYC there are no uniform statewide mechanisms governing inspections of properties by municipalities & no requirements to ensure compliance with violations. Legislation we support will ensure:

- that all properties be inspected for lead at all points of exposure
- that the results of these inspections be made available in a public database

The bill will also create a source of funding that can be used to address the lead crisis, & would create mandatory penalty systems to ensure compliance & enhance tenant protections.

**Funding would be used for staffing municipal codes departments to ensure regular & timely inspections, & to provide assistance to small property owners experiencing financial hardship due to the cost of remediation.**

Finally, the legislation would create mandatory penalty systems to ensure compliance for violations, as well as to enhance tenant protections within municipalities that accept state funding.

### Eliminate 421-a & 485-a Tax Subsidies

We support budget legislation to eliminate the 421-a & 485-a programs, which provide a decade of tax free assessments for properties under development by the wealthiest corporate developers - without any requirement that affordable housing be constructed.

**The funds raised by repealing these provisions should be used to fund public housing & other affordable housing programs.**

# WHY WE SUPPORT

## "Good Cause" Eviction Legislation

As of January 2019 an estimated **92,091 NYers** experience homelessness on any given day.

Source: Continuum of Care, HUD

As of January 2021

**800,000 - 1,230,000**

New York renter households are unable to pay rent & at risk of eviction

## Addressing the Lead Crisis Upstate

In 2017 **11,227 CHILDREN**

tested positive for lead poisoning with just over 1/3 of children taking the mandatory tests

The problem falls disproportionately on poorer children of color

"You could fill up a whole elementary school building with **all the kids poisoned by lead** in Syracuse."

-Darlene Medley, Families for Lead Freedom Now

In Buffalo, children in predominantly Black & Latinx neighborhoods are **12x** more likely to get lead poisoning than children in white neighborhoods

## Tax the Rich & Invest in Housing

While everyday New Yorkers struggle, rents continue to rise & the rich get even richer. People who can't afford to pay rent are pushed out of their homes & often out of the communities they love. This breaks apart neighborhoods, hurts local economies, & worsens the homelessness crisis. Solving New York State's housing crisis is possible if we tax the rich.

The Invest in Our New York Act is a package of six state bills that raises \$50 billion to ensure that we rebuild our economy by taxing the wealthiest New Yorkers. The full bill package & more information can be found at [www.investinourny.org](http://www.investinourny.org).

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