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BROAD COALITION OF HOMELESSNESS, TENANTS RIGHTS, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATES LAUNCH BALLOT INITIATIVE TO HOUSE LA

More than two dozen organizations submit initiative to the City of Los Angeles for support to people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness with rental assistance and affordable and supportive housing. The measure includes the strongest citizen's oversight and accountability protections in City's history.

Los Angeles, Calif. – December 16, 2021 – Today, more than two dozen leading homelessness, workers' rights, tenants' rights groups, labor unions and affordable housing nonprofit organizations on the front lines of housing affordability and homelessness submitted an initiative to the City of Los Angeles for the November 2022 General Election.

This measure [[download a summary here](#)], written by homelessness and housing experts—not politicians—will invest in the most comprehensive set of solutions in our City's history:

- Provides support to people experiencing homelessness, and those at risk of homelessness, with rental assistance, income assistance for low income seniors, and access to permanent housing.
- Includes the strongest citizens' oversight and accountability protections in the history of the City of Los Angeles, including a dedicated Inspector General with independent funding.



- Creates more than **26,000** homes for people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness, helping about **69,000** people over the next decade.
- Helps more than **475,000** at-risk renters maintain their stability and keep their home each year.
- Asks millionaires and billionaires to contribute their fair share to invest in innovative solutions to create affordable housing and keep people housed. Only 3% of transactions between March 2019 - March 2020 would have been subject to the fee, generating roughly \$800 million in revenue.

“We have a crisis-level shortage of affordable and supportive housing in Los Angeles. Without addressing the root causes of homelessness, we are doomed to remain frozen in the current status quo,” said Alexandra Suh, Executive Director of the Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance. “The increase in housing prices continues to outpace workers’ wages and inflation, and residents everywhere are struggling to balance housing costs with other financial necessities.”

Twenty-two percent of LA families make less than \$25,000/year and 42% make less than \$50,000/year. Wages have fallen far behind the cost of living in LA and the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated housing instability among LA’s lowest wage earners and makes them more susceptible to falling into homelessness. The Economic Roundtable released a report predicting L.A. County is projected to see an 86% increase in chronic homelessness over the next four years due to economic issues caused by the pandemic. Despite a sustained increase in effectively housing people who are unhoused in the City of Los Angeles, we face a humanitarian crisis, largely caused by government inaction, that can be solved by building more affordable housing and helping at-risk renters so they do not lose their home.

“Homelessness and the housing crisis are at the top of mind for Angelinos, but we haven’t seen our local government take the immediate and bold action that is needed,” said Laura Raymond of the Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles. “LA’s not-for-profit neighborhood organizations and community members have come together, with the assistance of local policy experts – not politicians – to create a ballot initiative that will address homelessness by keeping people in their homes and dramatically increasing the supply of housing that is affordable for Angelinos.”

Eli Lipmen of Move LA added, “This measure includes the strongest citizens’ oversight and accountability protections in the history of the City of Los Angeles, including a dedicated inspector general to ensure that affordable homes are actually built and urgently needed tenant protection programs are enacted.”

The workforce to build the housing will draw on Los Angeles residents from diverse backgrounds and communities. “Through this initiative, we will bring local residents into the



Building Trades unions and generate life-long, middle-class careers and address wage inequities that are at the root of the housing crisis,” said Chris Hannan, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. “This will further strengthen our neighborhoods and prevent homelessness.”

The United to House LA Coalition was formed to bring together over thirty six local organizations that represent residents, tenants, labor unions, and affordable housers to draft the “Los Angeles Program to Fund Affordable Housing and Prevent Homelessness (House LA),” to be placed before voters on the November 8, 2022 General Election Ballot. As a voter initiative, the Coalition will collect the necessary signatures to place the measure on the ballot.

The coalition is driven by the belief that when we have enough affordable housing for every child, family, and resident of Los Angeles to live safely in their communities, we’ll all benefit: Workers will be able to find housing closer to their jobs, decreasing commute times and surrounding traffic. Our neighbors will be able to live closer to their families, to their doctors, and to other people and services to take care of themselves and overall increase the health of our communities. Our future generations will be able to continue living in the same neighborhoods their families have been in. And we can prevent even more people from entering homelessness.

“The average waiting time for a family to find and be granted affordable housing can stretch out over five years. This is not only completely unacceptable, but completely solvable,” said Maritza Cruz, Housing Organizer for Los Angeles Community Action Network. “We must invest in housing programs that will make our city better.”

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About the United to House LA Coalition

Not-for-profit neighborhood organizations, labor unions, and community members who live in Los Angeles have come together, with the assistance of local policy experts—not politicians—to support a ballot initiative that will ask millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share to dramatically increase housing that is affordable for Angelinos and prevent homelessness with tenant protections, assistance for people facing evictions, emergency income assistance to seniors, and housing for veterans and families in need.

Our growing coalition includes:

- Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
- Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles
- Baldwin/Leimert/Crenshaw Local, LA Tenants Union



- Black & Asian Coalition
- Coalition for Economic Survival (CES)
- Concerned Community Members Of Chesapeake Apartments, A Tenant Association
- Community Power Collective
- East LA Community Corporation
- Esperanza Community Housing Corporation
- IBEW Local 11
- Inner City Law Center
- Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA)
- LA Forward
- La Defensa
- LA Más
- Little Tokyo Service Center
- Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)
- Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN)
- Los Angeles Black Worker Center
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Los Angeles Room & Board
- Los Angeles Walks
- Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council
- Move LA
- Our Future LA
- People for Mobility Justice
- Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)
- Southeast Asian Community Alliance
- Southern California Association of Non Profit Housing (SCANPH)
- T.R.U.S.T. South LA
- Tenemos Que Reclamar y Unidos Salvar la Tierra - South LA (T.R.U.S.T. South LA)
- The Beverly-Vermont Community Land Trust
- UNITE HERE Local 11
- Venice Community Housing Corporation
- Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge & Services (WORKS)