

Rent Relief Act

CA Mayors

- *“Home is not just where we keep a roof over our heads — it’s where we raise families, become part of a community, and create a lifetime of memories. It’s also where we want to stay, and Senator Harris’ legislation would help protect millions of families from losing their homes, by expanding benefits and opportunities for people who pay rent every month.” - Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles*
- *“Nearly every Oakland resident who pays rent will save money under this law,” said Mayor Libby Schaaf. “At a time when our city is fighting the displacement of long-time residents, The Rent Relief Act of 2018 will help working class families, artists, senior-aged tenants, and anyone else who struggles to make the rent each month. I’m proud to partner with Sen. Harris to fight California’s cost of living crisis and deliver more affordable housing to all Oaklanders.” - Mayor Libby Schaaf, City of Oakland*
- *“Thank you to Senator Harris for acting with urgency, thoughtfulness and creativity to help address the housing crisis that is impacting cities throughout California. This bill would be an important tool to provide real relief for millions of people struggling through no fault of their own.” - Mayor Darrell Steinberg, City of Sacramento*
- *“Mayors across the country should applaud Senator Harris’ proactive leadership in addressing the housing crisis impacting millions of renters. With the billions in tax subsidies allotted to billionaires through last year’s tax changes, this legislation provides a refreshing contrast for working families who struggle daily.” - Mayor Sam Liccardo, City of San Jose*
- *“In Stockton, one in two residents will pay over 30% of their income to housing. We have seen some of the highest rent increases in the nation, making even finding a place to live a major challenge. It will take solutions from both State and Federal officials, as well as creative improvements locally, to help solve this housing crisis. I am incredibly thankful that Senator Harris is helping to lead the way with the Rent Relief Act.” - Mayor Michael Tubbs, City of Stockton*
- *“The Tax Relief Act is a great way to ease the burden of high housing costs from the backs of lower-income families. Until we can find ways to produce lots more affordable housing, this legislation can help bridge the economic gap caused by overheated housing markets. This is the kind of real tax reform America needs!” - Mayor Chris Coursey, City of Santa Rosa*
- *“The high cost of housing is a major burden on millions of Americans across the nation, especially here in our urban neighborhoods. Everyday hard-working families, young adults, and seniors find themselves just one emergency expense away from being able to pay their rent continually combating homelessness. The Rent Relief Act introduced by Senator Harris will provide a safety net and lifeline to our most vulnerable families who*

face the terrifying reality of being without shelter and safety. The introduction of this bill is one huge step in combating our current housing crisis and assuring every American has a place to call home.” – Mayor Aja Brown, City of Compton

- *“The cost of housing, while expensive for everyone, perversely weighs unevenly heavier on the less rich who have to pay rent because they CANNOT deduct from their taxes the monthly rent payment just like everyone with a mortgage payment. I commend our Senator for introducing this Bill to put an end to this most unfair policy that punishes the poor for simply being poor and having to pay rent. Thank you Senator for your leadership.” – Mayor Albert Robles, City of Carson*
- *“I have had a chance to review the Rent Relief Act of 2018 being proposed by Honorable Senator Kamala Harris, and am pleased to support it. It’s time not just at state level but nationwide, as policymakers to focus our attention on the renters who must spend 30% or more of their hard earned gross income toward their rents. Which way is better and more effective than easing the burden on them by providing them with tax relief? This Rent Relief Act is simply the right thing to do, and on behalf of the City of Rialto, I ask all my fellow policymakers across the state and nation to support it.” - Mayor Deborah Robertson, City of Rialto*
- *“Senator Harris has consistently looked to find solutions to the toughest issues facing Americans. As the demand for rental housing continues to increase nationwide, many hard-working individuals and families are left struggling to balance their family needs with increasingly unaffordable housing markets. As the Tax Code helps make home ownership more affordable, I believe the Rent Relief Act of 2018 builds on viable solutions to ease the burden on hard-working individuals and families,” - Mayor Laurene West, City of Santa Clarita*

Other Elected Officials

- *“With rents rising, making housing increasingly unaffordable, I am proud to support Senator Kamala Harris’ ‘Rent Relief Act’ to make rental housing more affordable for working families. As a former Secretary of Labor, I have seen struggling families around the country forced to choose between clothes for their children, necessary medical treatment, and paying the rent. By allowing qualified taxpayers to claim a refundable tax credit for their rent, Congress can make a difference by relieving some of the financial pressure that so many low-income families are facing. I commend Senator Harris for introducing this important legislation.” - Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis*
- *“Los Angeles County was happy to see the introduction of the Rent Relief Act of 2018. This Act represents just the sort of innovative policy we desperately need from the federal government in order to keep hard working Americans from falling into homelessness as a result of incomes remaining stagnant while rents are dramatically rising. I applaud Senator Harris for recognizing that we cannot allow the status quo to continue.” – Los Angeles County Supervisor Shiela Kuehl*

- *“We applaud Senator Harris’ leadership in introducing the Rent Relief Act which will assist struggling renters in our nation, and help create a more equitable society where homeowners and renters alike can thrive and prosper.” - Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas*
- *“We have a moral obligation to make housing affordable. The Rent Relief Act is a tangible way to do this and will give more financial freedom to families living in cities across the country.” - Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson*
- *“This bill is vital not only to help millions of struggling families across our nation but it will directly impact the thousands of Sonoma County families that have been affected by the 2017 Sonoma wildfires. Now more than ever, as rents outpace income, we have to provide a way for struggling families to find stability. It’s absolutely crucial that we enact smart federal policy that provides rent relief for our teachers, our service workers, and the workforce that is the backbone of our country. I applaud Senator Harris for leading this effort.” – Supervisor James Gore, Chair, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, 4th District Representative*
- *"Now more than ever our families need support from every level of government; not simply to thrive but merely to survive. They’re stretching their paychecks, taking on extra jobs, skipping meals and bills and are an emergency away from falling into homelessness. We need leaders like Sen. Harris to ease the burden that is weighing down millions of households across the nation. The Rent Relief Act is a step in the right direction for struggling families who are in need of a lifeline." - Los Angeles City Councilman Curren D. Price, Jr., District 9*
- *“Rents have increased a minimum of 8% in San Diego and the overall cost of housing is being felt by families throughout the State of California. The Rental Relief Act helps make paying rent more affordable and provides more options for San Diego families to afford and maintain housing.” – San Diego City Councilmember Chris Ward, District 3*
- *“I fully support the proposed Rent Relief Act of 2018. For years, we have been undergoing a serious housing crisis throughout the State of California; San Diego County is no exception and in addition to the shortage of moderate to affordable housing for buyers, we have a larger population that is detrimentally impacted by the rise of housing costs - renters. The middle class is being squeezed and low-wage earners are being strangled by high rents coupled with decreasing wages. It is indisputable that wages have not kept on par with the rapid increase in rents. This continues to devastate families and has even forced many out of California. According to a 2016 study by the California Housing Partnership Corporation and estimates by the San Diego Housing Federation, more than half of the renters in San Diego County pay more than a third of their income in rent. Providing these qualified taxpaying families a refundable tax credit is certainly a step in the right direction. I applaud the efforts of Senator Kamala Harris and her colleagues for introducing and advocating such important legislation and for*

taking the bold steps necessary to protect our working families.” – **Lemon Grove City Councilman David Arambula**

- *“San Diegans who rent their homes are experiencing some of the highest rental housing prices nationally. Most people’s earnings have not kept pace with the cost of living, making out-of-control rent increases unsustainable. These conditions are contributing to some San Diegans becoming homeless. Allowing renters to claim a tax credit through this Rent Relief act would provide much needed assistance at a time when many people are struggling to make ends meet.”* - **San Diego City Councilmember David Alvarez, District 8**
- *“The Rent Relief Act is desperately needed in places like Los Angeles. In my District alone, over 63% of residents experience a housing cost burden. The federal government has the opportunity to dramatically impact the everyday lives of everyday people. Like the Earned Income Tax Credit, we know policies like these work when they are designed to support families.”* – **Los Angeles City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, District 8**
- *“As you know, in Monterey county and other parts of the Central Coast, the demand for rental housing continues to outpace supply. It has become increasingly difficult for businesses in Monterey County to maintain a stable workforce when workers are forced to make impossible choices between paying for rent and covering other basic needs like food and healthcare. We greatly appreciate your attention to the housing affordability crisis in our country and for your leadership in introducing the Rent Relief Act of 2018. Monterey County is pleased to support your efforts.”* – **Luis Alejo, Chair of Monterey County Board of Supervisors**
- *“I am proud to lend my support to the Rent Relief Act of 2018 introduced by U.S. Senator Kamala Harris. When people have to spend so much of their income on housing, they have less to spend on childcare, groceries and transportation to and from work. The lack of affordable housing is a significant problem across the nation and has been at crisis levels in California, particularly in the Bay Area. The Rent Relief Act of 2018 is a great step toward helping those who are struggling make ends meet and put more money back in their pocket for themselves and their families.”* - **Speaker pro Tempore Kevin Mullin (D-San Francisco)**
- *“With high rent and low pay this is a way to level the playing field. Everyone deserves a tax break not just homeowners.”* – **City of Carson Mayor pro Tempore Jawane Hilton**
- *“I commend Senator Harris for this proposal to help Working families and addressing housing affordability. This federal tax credit proposal could be a major difference between families staying housed or being displaced.”* - **Sacramento City Councilman Eric Guerra**
- *“For too long, renters have been denied the substantial federal tax benefits given to homeowners. For the 17 million people in California who rent the place they call home,*

The Rent Relief Act would provide greater equity and justice and I'm proud to support this important legislation by Senator Kamala Harris.” – **California State Assemblymember Rob Bonta (D-San Francisco)**

- *“California has an affordable housing crisis. For sale home prices have soared and the rental market is beyond tight, squeezing working families to their limits. Senator Harris’ Rent Relief Act will help families stay in their homes, keep our communities strong and ease the cost of living for millions across America.”* – **California State Senator Mike McGuire (D- Healdsburg)**
- *“If the Trump Administration can give the uber-wealthy a trillion dollar tax cut, we should be able to put a little bit of money back in the pockets of renters who are struggling to stay in their homes,” said Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco), Chair of the California Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee. “I applaud Senator Harris for this bold proposal that will provide working families some much-needed relief in an increasingly expensive housing market.”* – **California State Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco)**
- *“Cost of living, especially housing, continues to be a struggle for my constituents and I thank U.S. Senator Kamala Harris for her legislation and effort. There is not just one single solution that would magically fix this issue and my colleagues and I have worked tirelessly to address the housing crisis that we have in the state. Any effort that would help the people in my district live a better and more comfortable life is something I appreciate and support.”* - **California State Assemblymember Kansen Chu (D-San Francisco), Assembly District 25**
- *“The high cost of housing has made it difficult for families to attain housing in our state. This legislation is another tool that will help make housing more affordable for Californians. I commend Senator Harris for her leadership in addressing this critical issue.”* – **California State Assemblymember Tony Thurmond (D-Richmond), Assembly District 15**
- *“There are 17 million tenants in California, most of whom pay over 30% of their income in rent, so today thousands of families are living just one eviction notice away from homelessness. The Rent Relief Act would target these households with a much-needed tax credit to stop displacement and keep people in their homes.”* – **California State Assemblymember Mark Stone (D-Monterey Bay), Assembly District 29**
- *“For years, homeowners have been able to take thousands of dollars in tax breaks while renters have been largely left out of any relief, as they pay a higher percentage of their income on housing. The Rent Relief Act of 2018 is the lifeline struggling families need to keep a roof over their heads and meet basic needs.”* – **California State Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), Assembly District 28**
- *“As a lifetime Silicon Valley resident, I’ve had to come to terms with the fact that I’ll never be able to afford to buy a house in the district I grew up in and now represent. This*

problem is universal to those who live in my district and are often forced out due to housing costs. This tax credit will allow everyday people across the country to continue living in the communities they love, while not having to worry about how they'll pay for their next meal or if they'll be able to stay in their homes" ... "As housing costs across the Bay Area and throughout the state skyrocket, more and more people are being forced to pay well over 30% of their income on rent. I support Senator Harris' Rent Relief Act of 2018 and the meaningful difference it will make in the lives of those who will be able to stay in the communities that they love." - **California State Assemblymember Evan Low, Assembly District 28**

- *"As now the world's fifth largest economy, California is nothing short of a personification of economic success, but high housing costs across the state continue to push many out of their homes. We're in need of an immediate, viable solution. The Rent Relief Act exemplifies the potential of government when it works to build equity through effective policymaking – to serve those most in need. This bill would ease the financial woes of low-income residents who are burdened with nearly the highest and fastest growing rent prices in the nation. I proudly support U.S. Senator Kamala Harris's Rent Relief Act."* - **California State Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Assembly District 54**
- *"I applaud Senator Harris on the introduction of the Rent Relief Act of 2018 and believe that all options should be on the table to address this issue. Californians are faced with some of the highest housing costs in the nation, which disproportionately impact people of color, of whom more than two-thirds are burdened by high rent. People often must choose between eating or paying their rent on time. As the world's fifth largest economy, it is shameful that our citizens would have to choose between a meal or a roof."* - **California State Assemblymember Autumn Burke, Assembly District 62**
- *"A large percentage of California's low-income families see the majority of their paychecks go toward escalating rents, which has added to the staggering number of homeless families living in my district on Skid Row. There's little question that rising rents are linked to more Californians living in cars, shelters, and on the streets—especially in the greater L.A. area."* - **CA State Senator Holly Mitchell, 30th State Senate District**
- *"Thank you Senator Harris. Finally a bill that helps the 'Barely Making It' instead of 'Billionaires.' This is masterful legislation desperately needed to solve the Affordable Housing crisis in America."* - **California State Assemblyman Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.**

Organizations

- *"The California Coalition for Rural supports the effort of Senator Harris to provide relief and parity to renters who, unlike homeowners, receive no tax benefits. There is no reason why we shouldn't have a tax system that rewards renting, especially when renters as a group have lower incomes and higher housing cost burdens than owners. The rental*

housing situation in California, including in the rural communities where our members build new apartments, has reached crisis proportions as evidenced by huge increases in rural homelessness. The Rent Relief Act will reduce the after-tax cost of renting and help lower-income renters remain in place. We commend Senator Harris for her bold initiative.” - Rob Wiener, Executive Director at California Coalition for Rural Housing

- *“The California Housing Partnership applauds Senator Harris’ introduction of the federal Rent Relief Act,” said Matt Schwartz, President of the California Housing Partnership. At a time when nearly half of California’s very low-income renters are paying more than 50% of their incomes in rent, a federal initiative to help ease the burdens of lower income renters is critical, especially when we acknowledge that federal housing assistance currently reaches fewer than one out of six eligible California renters. We look forward to working with Senator Harris to further develop this innovative legislative that will help low-income renters in California pay their rent and avoid becoming homeless.” - Matt Schwartz, President of California Housing Partnership*
- *“Last year Congress and the president gave massive tax relief to America's wealthiest corporations, even as renters in California and many other places struggle to keep a roof over their heads. This bill represents a major step toward fairness. Millions of Americans struggle to pay soaring rents every month, and communities of color are often the most at risk. This bill provides long-overdue relief to families that need it the most.”
- Orson Aguilar, President of Greenlining Institute*
- *“I am pleased that the proposed Rent Relief Act includes residents living in public housing communities, many of whom are employed yet struggle to provide the most basic needs for their families,” said La Shelle Dozier, Executive Director of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency which administers the public housing program for the City and County of Sacramento. “As taxpayers in the low income bracket, these working families deserve the opportunity to benefit from this bill which would help close the affordability gap and provide breathing room to meet day to day obligations.”
- La Shelle Dozier, Executive Director at Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency*
- *“I applaud Senator Harris for her leadership in introducing this innovative, bold proposal, which would help struggling families who today face impossible choices between paying rent and meeting their other basic needs, including putting groceries on the table and taking care of their health. A new tax credit for renters - like the one proposed by Senator Harris - could transform lives, providing millions of the lowest income people with the breadth of opportunities that start with an affordable home - opportunities to climb the economic ladder, improve their health, and allow children to do better in school.” - Diane Yentel, President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.*
- *“This is long overdue. When you know 30% of families’ earnings are spent on rent, the Brotherhood Crusade applauds the Rent Relief Act of 2018 to support struggling families*

across America. The Brotherhood Crusade knows this will be a game changer to help move the shrinking middle class and low income families with monetary support to allow them to put much needed resources back into their households.” – **Charisse Bremond Weaver, President and CEO of Brotherhood Crusade**

- *“Many community college students struggle to find safe and affordable housing. Stable rent prices will expand Compton College students’ access to viable housing and increase their chance for success in higher education. With one less thing to worry about, our students can focus on their studies and fulfill their goals of attaining a college degree or certificate.”* – **Keith Curry, President and CEO of Compton College**
- *“New Directions for Veterans supports the proposed legislation to improve affordability of rental housing. One of the biggest challenges for homeless veterans is affording a place to live, particularly in high rent areas. The proposed tax credit will lower the cost of housing and provide a path towards getting more veterans housed. New Directions for Veterans is a 25 year old non-profit assisting hundreds of veterans in the Los Angeles area annually.”* – **David Baylor, Chair, Board of Directors for New Directions for Veterans**
- *“The Rent Relief Act authored by Senator Harris will help low-income residents including many students in the Los Angeles Community College District pursuing their higher education goals and aspirations receive financial relief from the high cost of rent many of them face on a monthly basis. Thank you to Senator Harris for your leadership in providing opportunities for students to access higher education opportunities at our community colleges in Los Angeles and throughout the state and nation.”* – **Mike Fong, District President of Los Angeles Community College**
- *“Housing is typically the largest financial expenditure for college students and these costs have been rising at a rate faster than inflation, which has contributed to the decline in college affordability. The Rent Relief Act of 2018 will give a direct life line to millions of student who are working hard toward the promise of a college education.”* - **Uduak-Joe Ntuk, Trustee at Long Beach State Professor and Long Beach City College**
- *“As a community based organization in City Heights, where 77% of the residents are renters, we fully support Senator Harris’ bill to provide needed rent relief for working class tax payers. The Rent Relief Act of 2018 will improve the economic well-being of families by easing their rent burden during this California housing crisis.”* - **Laura Ann Fernea, Executive Director at City Heights Community Development Corporation**
- *“Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) is the regional transit agency for Imperial County. Our daily transit ridership is over 3,000 persons for all of our Imperial Valley Transit (IVT) services. The majority of our transit ridership is considered transit dependent because most cannot afford to own a vehicle and the related costs of ownership. We anticipate that many of our low income population and transit riders of Imperial County would benefit from the Rent Relief Act of 2018.”* - **Mark Baza, Executive Director at Imperial County Transportation Commission**

- *“In California more than 3 million households pay more than 30 percent of their income toward rent and more than 1.5 million households are severely rent burdened – meaning they pay more than 50 percent of their income in rent. These families are living paycheck-to-paycheck and barely afford essential items like groceries, health care and school supplies, much less save money for higher education or homeownership. I commend Senator Harris for introducing this legislation to help these families build a better future.”* – **Ricardo Flores, Executive Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, LISC San Diego**

Other endorsements include:

- Mayor London Breed, San Francisco
- Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach
- Mayor Jim Avalos, Selma
- Mayor Andy Medellin, Madera
- Mayor Grace Vallejo, Delano
- Mayor Pro Tem Alex Garcia, Wasco
- Mayor Victor Lopez, Orange Cove
- Mayor Rey Leon, Huron
- Mayor Jose Gurrola, Arvin
- Mayor Alma Beltran, Parlier
- Assemblymember Evan Low, Silicon Valley
- Councilmember Melissa Hurtado, Sanger
- Councilmember William Oliver, Madera
- Councilmember Willie Rivera, Bakersfield
- Councilmember Louis Franco, Selma
- Councilmember Yvette Montijo, Selma
- Council President, Esmeralda Soria, City of Fresno
- Councilmember Luis Chavez, City of Fresno
- Richard Valle, Chairman, Kings County Board of Supervisors
- Miguel Arias, State Center Community College District Trustee
- Centro La Familia, Family Support Center
- Supervisor Leticia Perez, Kern County
- Eric Payne, Founder, The Central Valley Urban Institute State Center Community College District Board Trustee, Area #2
- Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
- Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)
- Pastor J. Edgar Boyd
- City of Santa Monica
- City of Long Beach
- Housing California