



# OUR HOMES

# OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



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**Voter Engagement Partners in Action:  
Replicating What Works for Renters  
February 9, 2026**

# Agenda

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- Welcome and Webinar Kick-off
  - Chantelle Wilkinson, VP of Strategic Partnerships and Campaigns
  - Tia Turner, Project Manager of Our Homes, Our Votes
- Turning Renters into Voters: Lessons in Engaging Low-Income Communities
  - Jen Thomas, Community Engagement Manager, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
  - Sarah Prout Rennie, Senior Director of Advocacy and Engagement, MI Coalition Against Homelessness
- Q&A
- Our Homes, Our Votes opportunities and new resources



# Housekeeping Items



- This webinar is being recorded.
- Recording and slides will be distributed in our Friday email newsletter, “The Connection,” and recording will be posted on NLIHC YouTube channel
- Closed captioning is enabled
- Use the Q&A feature to ask questions throughout the webinar
- Ensure respectful dialogue in the chat
- *Our Homes, Our Votes* is 100% nonpartisan

**Jen Thomas**

*Community Engagement  
Manager*

**Housing Alliance of  
PA**





Housing Alliance  
of Pennsylvania

The Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition working to provide **LEADERSHIP** and a **COMMON VOICE** for policies, practices and resources to ensure that all Pennsylvanians, especially those with low incomes, have access to safe, decent and affordable homes.

We promote common-sense solutions to balance Pennsylvania's housing market and **INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF SAFE, DECENT HOMES** for low-income people.



#### CORE ISSUES

- \* Eviction Prevention
- \* Affordable Rental
- \* Homelessness
- \* Healthy Housing
- \* Blight / Land Banks
- \* Homeownership

# Voter Engagement is Advocacy



Housing Alliance  
of Pennsylvania

- Policy change starts with who is at the table
- It builds long-term power, not just short-term wins
- Nonpartisan voter engagement is 100% legal for nonprofits
- Centers the voices of those most impacted by policy decisions
- Policymakers respond to engaged communities
- Reinforces your mission



Housing Alliance  
of Pennsylvania

# When We Engage People, They Vote

- Through our housing & community partners, **83% of the individuals we talked with about voting showed up at the polls in 2024.**
- **Why it matters:**
  - Shows the effectiveness of trusted service providers
  - Demonstrates that civic engagement supports advocacy
  - Confirms that people with lived experience *want* to participate when barriers are removed



Housing Alliance  
of Pennsylvania

# How we did the work?

- Voter registration, education & turnout reminders
- Sharing nonpartisan resources
- Integrating voting into existing programs & events
- Empowering community members to use their voices
- Amplifying stories about why voting matters





Do you want to learn more about how to prioritize voter engagement and education at your organization?

- Contact Jen Thomas at [jennifer@housingalliancepa.org](mailto:jennifer@housingalliancepa.org)



**Sarah Rennie JD,**

Senior Director of Advocacy  
and Engagement

**Michigan Coalition Against  
Homelessness**



## MCAH MISSION

MCAH serves as an inclusive voice to improve systems and support communities in a way that leaves no one behind.

#ThePowerofOne

“Advocacy is empathy,  
compassion and **community** at  
work.”

– *Janna Cachola; New Zealand Advocate*



# MCAH'S STRATEGY

- MCAH expanded its partnerships with housing providers, tenant and resident leaders, and shelter providers to host nonpartisan voter registration and education events, and surveyed Michigan state candidates on their positions regarding housing policy.
- MCAH conducted housing position surveys with Michigan state candidates.
- MCAH began a new relationship with Street Democracy to engage persons with lived experience and develop train-the-trainer events

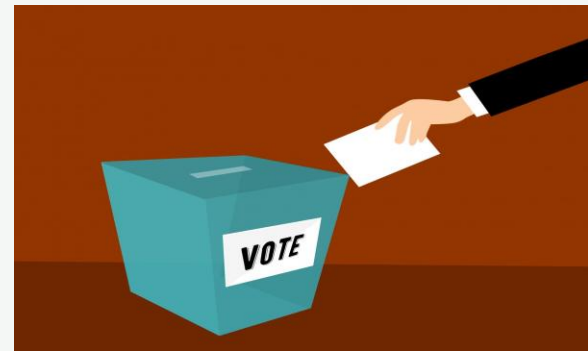
# MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

- In-person outreach was the centerpiece of MCAH's voter engagement strategy. MCAH staff tabled with voter registration materials and educational resources at 20 community events.
- Hosted two events on National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan day of action dedicated to promoting voter registration opportunities and ensuring that every eligible American is prepared to cast their ballot.
- Events took place at Greenwood Villa, a senior housing community in Westland, and the Delonis Center, a shelter and homeless services community center in Ann Arbor.



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- How to find polling places
- Voting without an address
- Voting without an ID
- Information Literacy-How to Know what sources to trust



# RIPPLE EFFECTS-TRAIN THE TRAINER

- Resident services coordinators
- Shelter staff, and
- Tenant organizers
- PWLE Peer Mentors.





# RIPPLE EFFECTS-TRAIN THE TRAINER

- Follow up and support
  - MCAH posters with state-specific election information,
  - Printed one-pagers about voting without an ID,
  - *Our Homes, Our Votes* stickers, buttons, and magnets.
  - Technical support
  - Mini grants- offer rides to the polls on Election Day. concert collective to encourage last-minute voters.



# Questions?

Sarah Rennie  
[srenne@mihomeless.org](mailto:srenne@mihomeless.org)  
(810) 990-9882



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# Questions?



# Affiliates Network



- Open to all nonpartisan organizations that share campaign's goals
- Regular office hours, email listserv, and post-election virtual gathering
- Enhanced access to *Our Homes, Our Votes* tools and resources
- Sign up: [www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/affiliates](http://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/affiliates)



# Housing Providers Council

OUR HOMES

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- Nonpartisan group of housing developers, property managers, and resident services staff committed to boosting voter turnout among their residents
- Regular virtual meetings (quarterly in 2026) to exchange ideas and receive trainings on best practices in nonpartisan voter engagement
- More info and application link:  
<https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/housing-providers-council>



# OurHomes.TurboVote.Org

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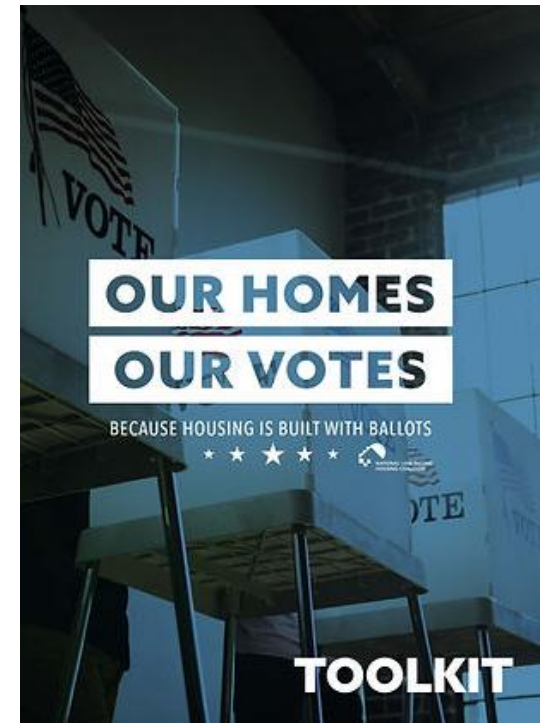
Register to vote and update  
your voter registration,  
check your voter  
registration status, find  
election information for  
your community, and sign  
up for election reminders!



# *Our Homes, Our Votes* Educational Resources

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- Comprehensive online resource library
  - Visit: <https://www.ourhomes-ourvotes.org/resources>
  - Turning Renters into Voters: Lessons in Engaging Low-Income Communities - <https://nlihc.org/resource/now-available-our-homes-our-votes-2025-best-practices-report>



# Voter Pledge Card!

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

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## I Vote for Affordable Homes— and I Pledge to Vote

Tuesday, November 3, is Election Day

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

2026

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to vote in the 2026 election!

Help us keep you informed on polling locations, early voting and vote-by-mail options, and rides to the polls.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

☐ I need to find my polling location   ☐ I need a ride to the polls   ☐ I need voter ID assistance

### Your Pledge to Vote

☐ I am registered to vote

☐ I will vote by mail

• Mail-in ballots must be requested by \_\_\_\_\_ and received by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will vote early between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will vote in-person on November 3



Visit [OurHomes.TurboVote.org](https://OurHomes.TurboVote.org) to update your voter registration, learn more about upcoming elections, and sign up for election reminders!



## Register for our Next Webinar: Building Voting Power Locally: How Local Elections Set the Stage for 2026 (Monday, 3/9)



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# Full Webinar Series

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All webinars will be held **3:00–4:00 pm ET** on the **second Monday** of each month:

- **February 9** – Voter Engagement Partners in Action: Replicating What Works for Renters
- **March 9** – Building Voting Power Locally: How Local Elections Set the Stage for 2026
- **April 13** – Protecting Voting Rights: Strengthening Democracy Through Local Housing Advocacy
- **May 11** – Understanding *Louisiana v. Callais*: What the Supreme Court Decision Means for Housing & Democracy
- **June 8** – Mobilizing Voters After *Louisiana v. Callais*: Nonpartisan Action Steps for 2026
- **July 13** – What's Next for Housing Advocates After *Louisiana v. Callais*?
- **August 10** – Voter Registration 2026: Tools, Rules & Strategies for Low-Income Renters
- **September 14** – Combating Misinformation: Equipping Housing Advocates as Trusted Messengers
- **October 12** – GOTV for Housing Advocates: Mobilizing Voters Before Election Day
- **November 2** – Election Protection: Ensuring Voter Access & Overcoming Suppression

# NLIHC Membership



NLIHC's power to influence policy is rooted in the strength and active engagement of our members

- Broad-based, national coalition with 1,000+ members in every state, DC, and Puerto Rico
- Open to individuals, organizations, corporations, and government agencies

# NLIHC Member Benefits



- NLIHC's weekly e-newsletter and timely calls to action
- 1:1 support from NLIHC staff for federal advocacy
- Premier access and discounted tickets to NLIHC's annual Housing Policy Forum
- Invitations to members-only meetings and trainings
- Access to free trainings on community organizing
- Opportunities to provide feedback on NLIHC's policy and advocacy strategies
- Connection to a wide network of housing advocates across the country
- Recognition for successful advocacy and organizing work
- Discounts on NLIHC publications
- New members can receive one free hard copy of the Advocates' Guide
- More benefits coming in 2026!

# Join the movement for housing justice!



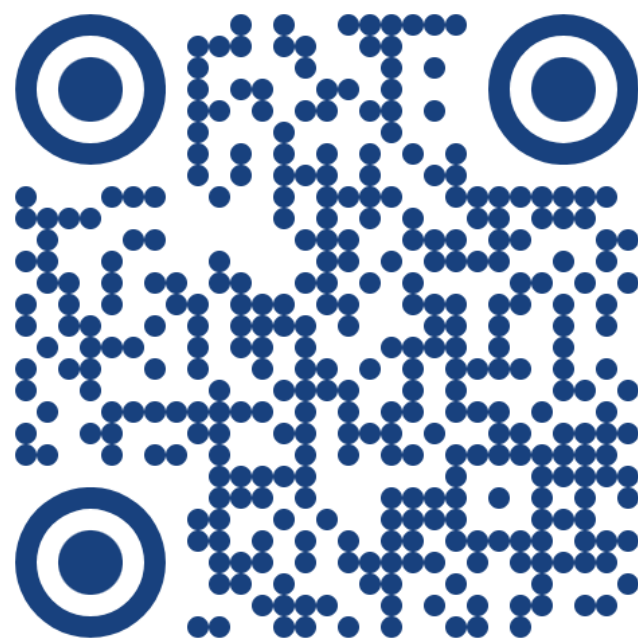
Annual dues ensure all members have a stake in the coalition's collective success. Dues are **suggested** amounts, so you can pay **any amount that is affordable** to you or your organization.

## Suggested dues rates

Individuals = \$5-\$110

Organizations = \$15-\$3,000

Reach out to [membership@nlihc.org](mailto:membership@nlihc.org) to learn more or call 202-662-1530 x 206



[www.nlihc.org/membership](http://www.nlihc.org/membership)

[www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)



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# Want to Connect?



Email: [tturner@nlihc.org](mailto:tturner@nlihc.org)