

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



**Tenant Associations and Election
Engagement**

Agenda

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- **Tenant Organizing and Election Efforts**
 - Abby Ng, policy and communications coordinator, Tenants & Neighbors
 - Genesis Aquino, executive director, Tenants & Neighbors
- **Civic Engagement Proposal in House Appropriations Bill**
 - Sarah Saadian, senior vice president for public policy and field organizing, NLIHC
- **Sign Up for Tenant Talk Publication!**
 - Sidney Betancourt, housing advocacy organizer, NLIHC
- ***Our Homes, Our Votes* Announcements & Opportunities**
 - Courtney Cooperman, housing advocacy organizer, NLIHC

Welcome

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Tenant Organizing and Election Efforts

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Tenant Organizing and Election Efforts

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Civic Engagement Proposal in House Appropriations Bill

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NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Increasing Voter Engagement Among HUD Tenants

Sarah Saadian

Senior Vice President of Public Policy
National Low Income Housing Coalition

Biden Executive Order Promoting Access to Voting



Issued March 2021

Directs all federal agencies to evaluate ways, under current law, to promote voter registration and participation, including: sharing relevant information with voters, distributing voter registration/ballot applications, helping voters complete registration, etc.

Within 120 days, each agency shall submit a strategic plan outlining ways to carry out the EO.

Key Advocacy



NLIHC, Demos, ACLU, and NHLP urged Treasury, USDA, and HUD to take every possible action to help overcome barriers that prevent equitable access to the ballot. We urged these agencies to integrate voter registration into existing programs and issue guidance to grantees....BUT!

Read our letters:

[September 2021](#)

[December 2021](#)

Shifting Gears



We learned that HUD is limited legally by what it can do to promote voting activity. We turned our attention to the seeking funding in the FY23 Appropriations bills and direct authority to HUD to engage in this work.

House FY23 Report Language



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Public Housing - \$21 million for resident participation activities, including civic engagement.

Project-Based Rental Assistance - \$10 million is for tenant education and outreach, including civic engagement.

House FY23 Report Language



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Directs HUD to report on:

- The extent to which HUD-assisted households are civically engaged.
- What civic engagement activities are currently allowed in HUD programs.
- How HUD housing providers can publicize best practices
- What additional authority that may be needed to increase civic engagement.

Senate? Final Bill?



- Uphill battle to stay in the final bill.



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

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Our Homes, Our Votes Announcements & Opportunities

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Civic Holidays

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**National Voter
Registration Day
(September 20)**

**National Voter
Education Week
(October 3-7)**

**Vote Early Day
(October 28)**

**Election Hero Day
(November 7)**



Follow the Campaign!

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Twitter: @OurHomesVotes

Facebook @OHOV2022

Email: ourhomes@nlihc.org

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