Housing & the Election: 5 Ways You Can Take Action

Wednesday, September 7
Speakers:

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5 Ways You Can Take Action:

1. Increase Affordable Housing Resources
2. Expand and Improve the Housing Tax Credit
3. Include Housing in Criminal Justice Reform
4. Join the Make Room Campaign
5. Make Affordable Housing an Election Issue
Increase Affordable Housing Resources

Background on FY 2017 Spending Bills:

The House FY17 spending bill provides $1.2 billion in additional funding for HUD’s affordable housing and community development programs over FY 2016 enacted levels, while the Senate version of the bill provides $1.5 billion in additional spending.

Both bills propose significant increases for several programs, including the Housing Choice Vouchers, Project-Based Rental Assistance, and Homeless Assistance Grants. In addition, both bills level funds other programs, such as the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program, and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

Please urge your Members of Congress to enact their final Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 spending bills as soon as possible.
Expand and Improve the Housing Tax Credit

S.3237, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2016

Introduced by Cantwell (D-WA), Hatch (R-UT), and Wyden (D-OR)

• Expands the Housing Credit by 50% over 5 years
• Goes beyond S.2962 by including several reforms, including (1) additional incentives for developments that serve homeless or ELI households, (2) incentives for developing in rural and Native American communities, and (3) income averaging.

Please ask your Senators to cosponsor S.3237 and tell them that any expansion of the Housing Credit must be tied to reforms to ensure that this resource better serves our nation’s most vulnerable families.
Include Housing in Criminal Justice Reform

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) is working with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to bring a package of criminal justice reform bills to the House floor for votes in September.

While some of the bills include some language around housing, none include a comprehensive plan to meet the housing needs of—or reduce barriers for—formerly incarcerated people.

Please tell your Representatives to push for a vote on criminal justice reform legislation and support future legislation that includes a comprehensive plan to address the housing needs of justice-involved individuals.
1 million messages to Congress that America’s housing affordability crisis must end.

100 days.

2,000 organizations.

Join us Sept. 1 – Nov. 8 at www.MakeRoomUSA.org.

#makeroom
Join the Make Room Campaign

(1) Sign onto the national letter;

(2) Use the advocacy toolkit—including sample e-newsletters, op-eds, LTE, social media, and more—to raise awareness of the campaign; and

(3) Create a online profile on the Make Room digital advocacy platform and invite your networks to do the same.
Make Affordable Housing an Election Issue

Things you can do during this important election

• Conduct voter registration within the communities you serve and organize
• Attend candidate forums and town hall meetings
• Produce candidate questionnaires about affordable housing and distribute to your networks
• Invite candidates to speak at your events and community meetings
• Get Out the Vote!
  • Community phone trees
  • Coordinating Rides to the polls
The Voterization Plan is a step-by-step model for launching a campaign to register, educate, and mobilize voters.

The Voterization Narrative is a companion piece to explain steps in the Voterization process.
For More Information:

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A copy of this presentation and advocacy materials will be provided after the webinar.