



Funders Together

TO END HOMELESSNESS



Policy Alert

What's Happening: Election Outcomes for Housing Justice

Last week, voters in at least 35 jurisdictions across the country weighed in on ballot measures that move us toward housing justice by prioritizing affordable housing. Housing was on the ballot in 80 jurisdictions, but not all housing opportunities on the ballot were created equal.

Many communities voted on broad investments for housing development without targeting affordable housing, which, without intentional policy action, will ultimately exacerbate gentrification for communities of color in addition to pressure on low-income renters.

Several communities took bold action to move toward housing justice with measures across the country aimed to direct public funding for housing to affordable housing through bond measures, taxing short-term rentals, and other innovative and creative strategies that begin to pave the way from [reform to the transformative edge](#) in pockets across the country.

The list below reflects countless hours of community organizing, advocacy, and voter education in each region. In each of these jurisdictions, including where housing justice initiatives fell short of the votes needed, Funders Together applauds the progress and commitment community organizers brought to fruition through this election cycle.

- [Bay Area](#): (*multiple*) competing measures propose to streamline the creation of new affordable and workforce housing (*15 passed, 2 failed, 3 leaning to pass, 1 too close to call*)
- [Denver](#): (*rejected*) free and fair right to counsel for those facing eviction
- [Colorado](#): (*passed*) statewide \$300M set-aside for affordable housing
- [Flagstaff](#): (*passed*) redevelopment, affordable housing developer incentives, homebuyer assistance funds
- [Honolulu](#): (*rejected*) increasing real estate tax spending for affordable housing
- [Los Angeles](#): (*passed*) taxing high value real estate transactions for affordable housing
- [Pasadena](#): (*likely to pass*) rent control and renter protections
- [Pflugerville](#): (*passed*) affordable housing for teachers and homebuying assistance programs
- [Steamboat Springs](#): (*passed*) 9% tax on short-term rentals to fund affordable housing

Six major bond measures passed or are poised to pass in [Charlotte, North Carolina](#) (\$50M for affordable housing), [Columbus, Ohio](#) (\$200M for affordable housing), [Palm Beach, Florida](#) (\$200M for moderate-priced housing), [Kansas City, Missouri](#) (\$50M for affordable housing), [Austin, Texas](#) (\$350M for affordable housing), and [Oakland, California](#) (\$350M for affordable housing).

How Philanthropy Can Take Action

Build community with local partners and organizers in the wake of Election Day, create opportunities to process and capture the progress, hope, and visions for liberation that might be possible from here. The pause after Election Day offers a chance to reflect, be present to the wake between this season and the next, and in those moments we can deepen our relationships and sense of community among ourselves, our colleagues, and our partners.

The complex packages of policy initiatives, bond measures, and taxes that communities crafted and advocated for were borne from a strong coalition of community members who recognized and honored that they needed to work differently with the public to change their current housing trajectory, to imagine different futures. Philanthropy often has the unique position, relationships, and resources to facilitate or host the formal and informal conversations where these ideas and networks begin.

Before closing the door on the election season and moving into the next, consider how you and your colleagues can reach out to your community and process the moment together, share your hope and fear, and create space to imagine new details of the vision of liberation you're working toward. Consider how else changes in season can create authentic opportunities to deepen your relationships and change the way you make and consider progress.

Focusing on the Long-Term Vision: Supporting Recovery and Rest as Resistance

As we process election outcomes, white supremacy culture directs us right into more labor and what comes next. While Funders Together encourages those in the movement to be looking towards what will lead us to justice and liberation, any future opportunity should be balanced by a clear and intentional posture of support for partners more broadly: one that invests intentionally and reliably in organizers' and advocates' rest. Philanthropy needs to recognize recovery and healing as critical elements in both resistance and in your commitment to honoring the individuals who are building these futures with every campaign and action.

As the Nap Ministry, under the leadership of [Tricia Hersey](#), reflects in its mission statement, "It seeks to honor, reimagine and recapture the dream space that was stolen for centuries," which is "the inspiration for a movement that examines sleep deprivation for all people. Naps are a holy place, spiritual practice and a form of resistance."

Not only can philanthropy provide flexible resources for recovery and healing for partners, but funders should also support the co-creation of convenings and spaces that allow

partners on the ground to be in community with each other in ways that focus on love and joy.

[Tell us](#): What have you heard from your partners about what kind of support would be helpful to allow for more rest across levels of staff and volunteers? How can you leverage partnerships and networks to help your community prioritize rest? How do you need to practice [rest as resistance](#) yourself?

Policy Resource Round-Up

- **Funders Together to End Homelessness:** [Joint Statement in Response to Governor Newsom's Rejection of Local Homeless Plans](#)
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:** [Addressing the Affordable Housing Crisis Requires Expanding Rental Assistance and Adding Housing Units](#)
- **Governing:** [How Election Day Shows the Fluid Politics of Housing](#)
- **KQED:** [Here's How Every Bay Area Housing Ballot Measure Fared This Election](#)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:** [How Housing First Ends Veteran Homelessness](#)
- **NPR:** [Voters approved more money for affordable housing around the country](#)
- **The Nap Ministry:** [The Nap Ministry' Founder Tricia Hersey On Rest As Protest Against White Supremacy And Capitalism](#)

As always, we are here to answer your questions or provide insights on public policy developments and opportunities. Please reach out to me or [Amanda](#) at any time.

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