



# HOUSING COURTS MUST CHANGE!

## Who we are

The Housing Courts Must Change! campaign, or HCMC, is a statewide campaign launched by the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition in 2020 to transform the courts from an “eviction machine” to a place that holds landlords accountable, upholds tenants’ rights, and enables tenants to remain in their homes. HCMC unites tenants, organizers, advocates, legal services organizations and more.

## Our campaign goals

- **No evictions for anyone across NY State.**
- **Slow down eviction cases & transform housing courts:**
  - Ensure that everyone facing eviction has and knows about the Right to Counsel (RTC).
  - Slow down eviction cases to ensure that tenants are protected.
  - Hold landlords accountable.
  - Prioritize health, safety, and accessibility in courts.

## Our city-level demands

- **#DefendRTC campaign:** The Office of Court Administration must **slow down cases to ensure every eligible NYC tenant has legal representation through Right to Counsel.** Cases without RTC should be adjourned. It is unacceptable that the Courts are currently denying many NYC tenants their Right to Counsel because evictions are moving so fast.
- **Fully Fund RTC!** We are demanding at least \$300 million to ensure there are enough attorneys to represent everyone entitled to RTC.

## Our state-level demands

**Pass tenant-powered legislation** (see platform on flip side) to expand Right to Counsel and stop all evictions.



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## *Our state legislative platform*

### **Statewide Right to Counsel (Joyner-A1493/May-S2721)**

Statewide Right to Counsel will guarantee ALL New Yorkers the right to a free attorney in housing court when facing eviction and displacement. Our corresponding budget proposal lays out the need for \$172 million in the fiscal year 2024 budget, to fund the first year of Right to Counsel's five year implementation.

### **Winter Eviction Moratorium (Kelles-A4093/Myrie-S1403)**

Winter Eviction Moratorium legislation will ensure that tenants across New York State are not forcibly evicted from their homes and into the brutal cold during the winter months. Under this bill, judges will not be permitted to issue warrants that have execution dates between October 1st and May 31st of any calendar year.

### **Defend Right to Counsel (Hoylman-Sigal-S3254/Rosenthal-A4993)**

Defend Right to Counsel legislation will mandate that the state court system uphold local Right to Counsel laws in New York City and Westchester County.

## *Help us stop evictions and build tenant power!*

- ➡ **Are you part of a community-based organization, union, religious institution, or other organization that might be interested in supporting our legislation?** Get in touch with us to set up a meeting: [katy@righttocounselnyc.org](mailto:katy@righttocounselnyc.org).
- ➡ **Join our movement to educate, agitate and organize tenants in court around tenants' rights!** To participate in our Court Watch program & solidarity actions, contact [brianna@righttocounselnyc.org](mailto:brianna@righttocounselnyc.org)



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