

RIGHT TO COUNSEL COALITION

We're building a movement to stop evictions across New York State!



Who We Are

Right to Counsel NYS is a statewide coalition of tenants, organizers, advocates, and legal services organizations fighting for an eviction-free New York. After winning the nation's first Right to Counsel law for tenants facing eviction in NYC in 2017, we launched the Housing Courts Must Change! campaign to dismantle the eviction machine, hold landlords accountable, and transform housing courts into places where tenants' rights are upheld and people can stay in their homes.

The Problem

New Yorkers have endured an eviction crisis for decades – and without state action, it will only worsen. With more than **175,000 active eviction cases statewide**, nearly **160,000 people experiencing homelessness**, and hundreds of thousands more at risk, evictions continue to displace families and destabilize communities every day. Evictions are not a product of individual failure – they are the result of policy choices that prioritize landlord profit over people's right to a home. They are enforced through a court system that primarily functions as a debt collection agency for landlords and that prioritizes removing tenants rather than protecting them.

This crisis disproportionately impacts **Black renters, women, and households with children**, who make up nearly **40% of those facing eviction**. New York must act now to stop displacement and transform the courts into a system that holds landlords accountable and keeps people housed.

Our Solutions



Clean Hands Act (S4098 / A1621)

Introduced by Senator Parker and Assemblymember Rosenthal, our Clean Hands Act would stop landlords from suing tenants for eviction when housing violations exist in the tenant's apartment or building. It makes clear that landlords cannot ignore unsafe conditions and still use the courts to collect rent and displace tenants.



Statewide Right to Counsel (S6772 / A4669)

Introduced by Senator Jackson and Assemblymember Solages, our statewide Right to Counsel legislation would guarantee every tenant in New York State a free lawyer when facing eviction. It would also require courts to enforce local Right to Counsel laws – addressing the widespread denial of tenants' right to an attorney in NYC's state-run housing courts.



Winter Eviction Moratorium (S9090 / A10121)

Introduced by Senator Brisport and Assemblymember Kelles, our Winter Eviction Moratorium legislation would pause the execution of evictions from November 1 through April 15. It protects public health and safety by keeping families housed during the coldest months, while providing tenants and landlords time to pursue rental assistance, repayment plans, or mediation.

Data sources:

- Data analysis on the number of statewide eviction filings was developed by JustFix and BetaNYC using numbers from the New York State Office of Court Administration and PLUTO via NYCDB.
- Data on the number of New Yorkers experiencing homelessness is from the New York State Comptroller's 2025 Economic and Policy Insights report, *New Yorkers in Need: Homelessness in New York State*.
- Data on the disproportionate impact of evictions on Black renters, women, and households with children is from the Eviction Lab's research on *Who Is Evicted in America*.