



# TO ADDRESS TORONTO'S HOUSING CRISIS

VOTE ON  
June 26

## Affordable housing in Toronto is at a breaking point.

Finding safe, decent, affordable, and accessible housing is a challenge for Torontonians who rent their homes and is often compounded by ableism, [racism](#), [sexism](#), [colonialism](#), [xenophobia](#), and other forms of discrimination. The critical shortage of affordable and supportive housing has pushed some residents into shelters or onto the street. **The upcoming mayoral by-election is an opportunity for you to vote to tackle the housing and homelessness crisis once and for all.**

### What's the Problem?

#### Rents Are Expensive and the Supply of Affordable Housing Is Severely Lacking

In Toronto, **40%** of tenant households live in unaffordable housing spending 30% or more of their income on shelter. More than **80,000 households** wait for subsidized housing from the City. Yet the City has failed to respond with urgency. The City's cornerstone affordable rental housing initiative, [Housing Now](#), has been slow-moving: as of spring of this year — five years into the initiative, [construction has not started](#) on any of the 11 sites in phase one.

#### Accessible Design Isn't Prioritized



Persons with disabilities are more likely to [live in poverty](#) and be in [core housing need](#) than persons without disabilities — indicating a strong need for housing assistance. Although the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act](#) outlines

standards for accessibility, including guidelines for barrier-free built spaces, there are [no requirements](#) for houses and apartments to be accessible. As a result, there is a real shortage of accessible housing.

#### Too Many Homes Need Repairs

About **8%** of Toronto's tenant households live in housing that needs major repairs, and about one in five in housing requiring minor repairs. In 2022, [RentSafeTO](#), the City's apartment building standards program, received just over **11,000 complaints** about maintenance issues ranging from:



PLUMBING PROBLEMS



LEAKY CEILINGS



PESTS



LOW OR NO HEAT



PROBLEMS WITH COMMON AREAS

#### The Housing Crisis Affects Some Communities More

Colonization, poverty, and systemic discrimination mean that specific groups face heightened barriers in Toronto's housing market. More than **1 in 3** Indigenous adults in Toronto are precariously housed or experience homelessness.

**45%**

of newcomers

**40%**

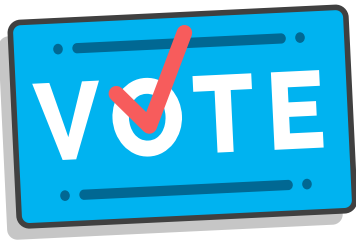
of long-term immigrants

**38%**

of non-immigrants

**in tenant households live in unaffordable housing**

People who are Indigenous, racialized — particularly those who identify as Black — and 2SLGBTQ+ have [disproportionate](#) rates of homelessness.



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## Housing Is Treated As a Way to Make Money Rather Than a Human Right

In Toronto, housing is commonly prioritized as a means to generate wealth. Limited tenant protections and inadequate rent control policy have ensured soaring rental prices and profits for investors.

The financialization of housing has largely contributed to the [growing trend of renovictions](#), a practice whereby landlords evict a current tenant covered by rent control, supposedly for renovations, then increase the rent for a new occupant.



## Toronto's Shelter System Is Failing to Meet Needs, yet Homelessness Is Criminalized

In March 2023, an average of nearly [9,000 people](#) a night used the City's shelter system and overnight services. Still, almost [120 people](#) on average who called the City's central intake were turned away with no place to stay. The pandemic brought to light further inadequacies with Toronto's shelter system including safety concerns, overcrowding, and lack of accessibility.

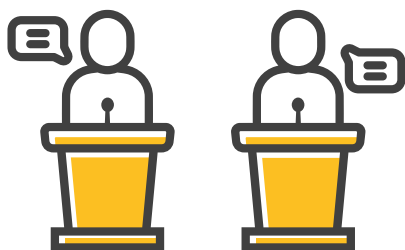


The City [spent nearly \\$2 million](#) forcibly clearing homeless encampments in parks in summer 2021. In his [investigation into the encampment clearings](#), Toronto's Ombudsman remarked, "The City showed a lack of commitment to honouring its pledge to a human rights approach and to serving this vulnerable population with the dignity and respect they deserve."

# Take Action!

## 1. Ask the Mayoral Candidates If They Will Commit to The Following Actions:

- Stop encampment evictions, recognize the right to housing and shelter, and implement Toronto Ombudsman's recommendations without delay.
- Work towards building a shelter system that respects the dignity, security, and wellbeing of those experiencing homelessness.
- Increase funding for drop-ins, shelters, and transitional housing, and for homelessness prevention programs.
- Prioritize and fulfill the commitments made in the City's [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) to increase access to affordable housing for Indigenous communities.
- Strengthen the RentSafeTO program by increasing the number of bylaw enforcement officers.
- Adopt policy and programs to prioritize housing that meets universal accessibility standards.
- Develop stronger policies to protect tenants against renovictions including their right to return to their homes at the same rent after renovations are completed.
- Adopt a strong city-wide framework to regulate multi-tenant houses (rooming houses) that includes enforcement and compliance mechanisms and initiatives to support tenants and maintain affordability.



## 2. Learn More About the Candidates

Check out [our election resources](#) and attend an event, such as a Mayoral Debate, to learn more about the election issues and where candidates stand.



## 3. Pledge to Vote

Election day is on June 26.  
[Advance polls](#) are from June 8-13.  
[Apply to vote](#) by mail from May 1-26.