



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2024

Media Contact:
Krista C. Gulbransen
(510) 304-3575

Rental Housing Providers Announce Ballot Measure to Create Permanent Rent Relief Fund

The Renters Relief & Homeowners Protection Act would secure permanent rent relief and protect small property owners

BERKELEY, Calif., March 6, 2024—The Berkeley Rental Housing Coalition, an association of rental housing providers, announced today it has filed with the City of Berkeley to begin gathering signatures to qualify for the November ballot.

Under the citizens initiative, a portion of the city’s annual business license tax on big landlords would create a permanent fund for renter’s relief. Estimated to provide almost \$1.2m¹ annually, the fund will assist tenants in need of temporary rental assistance.

“The pandemic revealed that more than 900 tenants were just one paycheck away from losing their place to live. A permanent rent relief fund could keep renters from becoming homeless if they are having trouble paying rent” said Krista Gulbransen, executive director of the Berkeley Rental Housing Coalition. “We also recognize that the quickest way to add new housing to the market is to encourage property owners with vacant units to rent them out.” Gulbransen added, “Our ballot measure creates incentives for small owners to take that big leap into becoming a rental housing provider.”

This ballot measure proposal seeks to update the city’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance which was first codified in 1980. Additional modifications include protections from over-regulation for single family homeowners and duplexes where at least one owner resides on the property with their tenant. A Tenants Right to Organize provision was included to allow tenants of a building to organize and request to confer in good faith with the property owner for purposes of housing services and accommodations.

The Berkeley Rental Housing Coalition (BRHC) is the political and legal arm of the long-standing Berkeley Property Owners Association. It is dedicated to promoting safe, affordable, and well-maintained residential rental housing in the city of Berkeley. By representing the voice of rental housing providers through its political action committee and legal defense fund, BRHC works to restore fairness, efficiency, and objectivity to Berkeley’s rental housing policies. www.bpoa.org/brhc-about

¹ City of Berkeley, FY 2024 Mid-Biennial Adopted Budget Update