



Massachusetts' Housing Emergency

There's universal agreement that Massachusetts is facing a housing crisis and growing recognition that it has grown to a state of housing emergency. But it's a crisis with many dimensions and no silver-bullet solutions.

Housing is vital to the economic well-being of the State. Affordable housing is an absolutely critical issue for Massachusetts and one that's central to our goal of building a more equitable and progressive Commonwealth.

Housing impacts every area of a person's life and far too many people are being badly hurt by our State's years of inadequate action. It is a human right and yet roughly one out of every two renters and nearly one out of every three homeowners with a mortgage in Massachusetts are housing cost-burdened, meaning they do not have enough money left after paying housing costs to afford other necessities of life, like food, medication, transportation, clothing, etc.

For decades housing production has failed to keep up with housing demand and Massachusetts now has an estimated deficit of 200,000 housing units throughout the Commonwealth.

Urgent call to action: Contact your legislators today and demand meaningful action on housing in *this* session! We cannot afford to wait any longer. The housing crisis is only getting worse, and our legislators need to hear from us that we demand they prioritize this issue in the current session. Housing is a human right!

PDM is hosting a series of virtual public policy discussions (on Zoom) to help all of us better understand the housing crisis and envision how we can advance meaningful strategies to address it.

The first Forum, held this past June 9, introduced the dimensions of this crisis and some key policies to explore.

The second Forum, held September 15, focused on how to keep people in their homes amid the challenges of excessively high rents, unceasing evictions, and the threat of foreclosure.

Future Forums will address:

- Making Way for More Housing Supply, by overcoming local regulations and addressing restrictive zoning and institutional bias;
- Making More Supply Financially Feasible;
- Important Intersectional Issues, including environmental, transportation, muni-finance, schools, etc.; and finally,
- A Specific Action Agenda

For years, our legislature has made minor changes to housing policy instead of taking sweeping action to address our housing crisis. Many housing bills have been filed in the State Legislature. PDM is reviewing these bills and will provide more information on specific bills soon.

Please share this information with your network and invite your state legislators to watch the Forums. We need to work together to find comprehensive legislative solutions to end this crisis. Forums are recorded and available on the PDM website: <https://www.progressivedemsofmass.org/forums/> Recordings of our recent and future Forums are also available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@PDMforums>

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Contact Us Reach out by email to: info@ProgressiveDemsofMass.org or by USPS to: PDM, 44 Webster Road, Lexington MA 02421



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Since 2003, we've been focused on local and statewide issues, candidates, and training to promote social justice, political reform, and progressive values throughout the Commonwealth

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