

Remain and Thrive Platform

“Santa Ana is Not For Sale”

In 2017, there was more than 500 evictions in the City of Santa Ana and the numbers are still increasing. We live with housing insecurity and our living conditions have worsened, affecting our health and squeezing our pockets to the point of suffocation. We are tired of living in homes that depend on the discretion of property owners that do not invest in the well being of our children and increase the rent to their benefit. We are tired of not being heard and now more than ever, we will not give up the fight to defend our human right to just and dignified housing.

Therefore, we the residents of Santa Ana, demand that the Council of Santa Ana approve the reforms in this platform in order to increase the protections of tenants, especially those of the migrant community. Just as the City took a stance on not collaborating with ICE in resident deportations, we want them to do the same to prevent evictions, displacement, and the sale of community lands.

The City should approve the following proposals immediately to ensure a Santa Ana where we can remain and thrive:

Just Cause Ordinance

- *For the City to approve a just cause ordinance that will prevent inhumane evictions. Such ordinance will prohibit landlords from abusing their power when evicting tenants and create a more equitable relationship between them.*

Rent Stabilization

- *Pass rent control citywide. This would stabilize rents to allow for incremental rent increases that are more just and fair to residents, while still ensuring landlords a fair rate of return on their investments. Current rent increases are sporadic and don't take into account the issues and struggles faced by tenants in Santa Ana.*

Rental Assistance Program

- *Establish a “rental assistance” program funded by the City to help alleviate the high costs of rents on Santa Ana’s low-income residents.*

Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act

- *Approve a measure that would allow tenants to buy the property where they live and rent.*

Community Lands in Community Hands

- *The City owns more than 90 parcels of public land that must be used for public benefit, especially for the benefit of low-income, working class residents. Instead of selling these lands, the City should involve its residents in a transparent and democratic development process. Further, we demand that portions of these lands are allocated to a community land trust, to be developed from a community-led perspective.*

Lead Soil Contamination

- *That the City take action to resolve the contamination of lead in the earth. This means ensuring that no area in Santa Ana has a level of contamination in excess of 80 ppm (mg / kg) of lead in the soil according to the levels identified as acceptable by the California Office of Environmental Health Risk Assessment.*

Businesses Free of Contamination

- *City to create policies that prohibits businesses from dumping harmful life-threatening chemicals in the soil and the air.*

Increase Affordable Housing

- *To reform the Housing Opportunity Ordinance and require developers to guarantee 75% of any housing project be affordable and be made specifically for families who are extremely low-income (30% of AMI).*

These demands represent the immediate relief we as people of color and residents of Santa Ana, need right now. Although The City has told us in the past that they support us, this time we want results and adopting the demands in this platform will serve to increase the welfare of the community and of the residents that are the heart of the City.

That's why we give the City, a month and a half, what is the time left to this council before the new one entered in December, so that they can approve our demands before they leave. This time we are not asking, we are demanding!