



ON OCTOBER 22ND VOTE FOR BETTER HOUSING IN TORONTO

Is affordable, safe, and decent housing out of reach for you?

You are not alone.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

EXPENSIVE RENT

There is not enough decent, safe, and affordable housing in our city. The high cost of buying a home in Toronto puts home ownership out of reach for many residents. Nearly half of Toronto households are renters. Individuals and families living outside of downtown Toronto are more likely to lack affordable housing.

47%
OF RENTERS

SPEND **>30%**
OF THEIR INCOME
ON SHELTER



The average cost for a one-bedroom apartment in Toronto is now \$1,202, and a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,426.

A HOUSEHOLD
NEEDS TO EARN
MORE THAN



TO AFFORD
A 2-BDRM
APARTMENT

BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In 2009, the City of Toronto adopted a housing plan to build 10,000 affordable housing units by 2019. But less than half of those units will be built by the end of 2019, and most won't be truly affordable for residents with low incomes.

Those in need of affordable housing have a long wait.

>103,831

HOUSEHOLDS* ARE ON
THE WAITING LIST FOR
RENT-GEARED-TO-INCOME
HOUSING * As of 2017



\$1.73 billion is also needed to make much-needed repairs and keep Toronto Community Housing units in a state of good repair. If buildings are not repaired, our city could lose thousands of affordable housing units in the next 10 years.

Women escaping gender-based violence say that the lack of safe, affordable housing is the main reason why they cannot leave abusive situations.

People facing mental health challenges, Black single-parent families, LGBTQ+ people, Indigenous people, and those receiving social assistance face discrimination when applying for rental housing.



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HOW CAN CITY COUNCIL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The City of Toronto can improve affordable housing in Toronto by committing to:

- Build 7,200 new **supportive housing units**, at least 4,000 new **deeply affordable rental housing units**, and 1,000 new **shelter spaces**.
- Change the definition of “affordable” from average market rent to households spending **less than 30% of their income on housing costs**.
- Increase the city budget for **social housing repairs and maintenance**.
- Adopt **inclusionary zoning**, which will require housing developers to build a percentage of affordable units as part of new residential developments.
- Partner with our provincial and federal governments to invest **more money in affordable housing** and to advance the **National Housing Strategy**.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CANDIDATES:

- How will you assist low- to middle-income families to secure and maintain decent and affordable housing in Toronto?
- Do you support changing the definition of “affordable” housing to reflect a household’s income rather than average market rent?
- Will you work to implement an inclusionary zoning policy to ensure that new residential developments include affordable housing?
- What are your plans for improving the quality of affordable housing in our city?

For more information, visit
www.socialplanningtoronto.org

