

# Support the Seattle Housing Levy



*Let's keep a good thing going!*

**Vote YES.** (\$86 million levy over 7 years)

Serving the entire continuum of housing from permanent transitional housing to rental housing to low-income first-time homebuyer programs — **OVER HALF** provides housing for people whose annual incomes are below \$16,000.

**How many people need affordable housing in Seattle?**

**53,000 households in Seattle** pay more than 30% of their incomes for housing. Over 20,000 pay more than half their incomes for housing. On any given night in Seattle, over 5,000 people do not have permanent housing and are considered homeless.

Since 1995, rents have increased nearly 37% and home prices have jumped more than 67%. Yet incomes for Seattle's poorest have not kept pace.

**What kind of proven track record does the levy have?**

Seattle is one of the only cities in the country to overwhelmingly support affordable housing by voting **YES FOR HOUSING** for over two decades. The Housing Levy has consistently surpassed goals and produced tangible results in neighborhoods throughout the city!

- The **1981 Senior Housing Bond** exceeded its goal by 20%— producing a grand total of 1,198 apartments for senior citizens.
- The **1986 Housing Levy** exceeded its goal by 82%— producing a grand total of 1,818 apartments for families and persons with disabilities.
- The **1995 Housing Levy** has already exceeded its goal— and is expected to produce a grand total of 2,073 apartments and homes and home-repair assistance for low-income homeowners.

**How much will it cost?**

**\$49/year in property taxes** (based on an average Seattle home valued at \$320,000) This amounts to a \$15 increase, due to inflation, over what property owners currently pay.

**PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION: A full or partial property tax exemption is available for qualified seniors and disabled persons whose annual income is below \$30,000.**

**Who creates this low-income housing?**

Nonprofit developers and community development corporations are responsible for creating and preserving most of Seattle's low-income affordable housing. Most belong to the Housing Development Consortium, an association that helps nonprofits coordinate and work efficiently to create housing.

From renovating historic buildings into low-income apartments for seniors and artists to building attractive townhomes for low-income families, Seattle's extraordinary nonprofits have gained a national reputation as leaders in building affordable housing. They've been recognized for their ability to develop innovative solutions through smart, effective leveraging of levy funds. Every levy dollar is leveraged to attract at least 3.5 additional dollars.

**It's a good investment in Seattle's future!**

**Who will it serve?**

## Over **HALF** provides housing for extremely low-income households.

**91%**  
helps renters!

- Low-wage working families and individuals
- Senior citizens on fixed incomes
- Disabled persons and persons with special needs
- Victims of domestic violence including mothers and children who, for personal safety, may have few resources and need affordable housing
- Low-income first-time homebuyers in economically distressed areas and neighborhoods with low homeownership

**What will it accomplish?**

**2,044**

**New AFFORDABLE housing units will be created and preserved.**



**Rental Apartment Production – meets Seattle’s greatest need**

Goal: **1,522 apartments.** \$56 million

Creates and preserves affordable low-income apartments throughout Seattle. At least 59% of these apartments will house persons below 30% of median income—earning less than \$16,000 a year. This housing can range from studios and single-room-occupancy units to multi-bedroom apartments for families with children.

**Operating and Maintenance Fund – helps those less fortunate**

Goal: Assist **179 to 225 households.** \$7.8 million

Subsidizes apartments for extremely low-income households, primarily persons on fixed incomes who are disabled, have special needs, or are formerly homeless. It helps fill the operating gaps resulting from rising utility and insurance costs and the growing need for supportive services.

**Neighborhood Opportunity Fund – builds communities**

Goal: **196 apartments.** \$7 million

Provides mixed-income rental housing that encourages diversity and achieves neighborhood community development goals in economically distressed and transitional neighborhoods.

**Emergency Rental Assistance – prevents homelessness**

Goal: Assist **533 households.** \$2.8 million

Provides emergency, short-term financial assistance for renters facing temporary economic crises to help them avoid homelessness.

**Low-Income Homebuyer Assistance – stabilizes neighborhoods**

Goal: **326 households.** \$7.8 million

Provides financial downpayment assistance to low-income working families to help them purchase their first home. It is focused on current Seattle residents and economically distressed neighborhoods to help transitional areas achieve stability.

*Help Solve the Affordable Housing Shortage*



**A single vote can ensure that 5,500 people have a safe, affordable place to live.**