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Contacts:

Cea Weaver, Housing Justice For All, cea.weaver@gmail.com
Alejandra Lopez, The Legal Aid Society, AILopez@legal-aid.org

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Mayoral Candidates, 52 City Council Candidates Call on Albany To Pass “Good Cause Eviction” and Take “Right to Remain” Pledge to Prevent Evictions Across the State

New Poll Shows 70% of New Yorkers also Support Key Protections Afforded by “Right to Remain” Legislation

(NEW YORK, NY) - Housing Justice for All, a statewide coalition of over 80 grassroots tenant organizations, The Legal Aid Society and others announced today [that multiple mayoral candidates and 52 New York City Council candidates](#) have endorsed “Right to Remain” ([S3082/A5573](#)) legislation, formerly known as Good Cause Eviction, by taking a local [pledge](#) of support.

This comes after a [recent poll](#) conducted by Data for Progress shows that roughly 70% of New Yorkers support tenants having a right to lease renewals and limits in rent increases, protections afforded by the “Right to Remain” legislation.

The “Right to Remain” bill gives tenants the right to a renewal lease, forbids landlords from “unconscionable” rent increases, and prevents arbitrary evictions. It gives tenants the right to organize for safe living conditions, dignity, and stability in their homes.

By taking the “Right to Remain” pledge of support, candidates affirm their support that all tenants, no matter what size building they live in or what the rent may be, deserve protections from evictions. Specifically, candidates pledged that, if elected, they will:

- Make the “Right to Remain” bill (S3082/A5573) a top priority in Albany and work with tenants, homeless New Yorkers, and advocates to ensure speedy passage of this legislation.
- Invest resources in educating tenants and landlords about their rights surrounding evictions, with an emphasis on neighborhoods with low-density (1-4 units) housing stock.

California, Oregon, Washington, New Jersey, and other major cities and states have already given tenants and communities the right to remain.

“While jurisdictions around the country work to implement key protections for tenants in unregulated apartments, New York continues to drag its feet,” said **Cea Weaver, Campaign Coordinator with Housing Justice For All**. “If anything, this pandemic has revealed how important it is to ensure that people remain safely in their homes, and Right to Remain legislation would help provide exactly that. We call on Governor Cuomo, Senator Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie to enact this legislation into law without further delay.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the depth of the housing crisis across New York and the rest of the country,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “This is the time for action and for Albany to enact legislation that finally affords tenants in unregulated units basic rights against arbitrary evictions and unjust rent increases which will allow them to remain in their homes. We must protect all tenants, both those in regulated and unregulated units, from unfair evictions and homelessness.”

“Many tenants are living in unsafe conditions due to fear of asking for repairs, because they have no protection to prevent the landlord from kicking them out of their home,” said **Jennifer Hernandez, Lead Organizer, Make the Road NY**. “That fear has been intensified with the loss of income and inability to pay rent during the pandemic. Thousands are waiting to apply for rent relief and the only thing standing in the way of their eviction is the current moratorium. This good cause legislation is a necessary step to make sure tenants throughout the state are able to stay in their homes for the remainder of the pandemic and after.”

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Housing Justice for All is a statewide movement of tenants and homeless New Yorkers united in our fight for housing as a human right. [www.https://housingjusticeforall.org/](https://housingjusticeforall.org/)

The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org

Make the Road New York (MRNY) is the largest progressive grassroots immigrant-led organization in New York state. Since 2007, Make the Road has built the power of immigrant and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice. The organization works on issues of workers' rights; immigrant and civil rights; environmental and housing justice; justice for transgender, gender nonconforming, intersex, and queer (TGNCIQ) people; and educational justice. <https://maketheroadny.org/>

Since 2009, New York Communities for Change have been a part of campaigns that changed the way communities have been starved and exploited for centuries. By fighting, resisting, and building power, New York Communities for Change lead the fight against socio-economic oppression to protect our most vulnerable communities against deportation, police brutality, and evictions. New York Communities for Change's mission is to eliminate the ways exploitative and predatory practices have starved communities. <https://www.nycommunities.org/>

Citizen Action of New York is a grassroots membership organization taking on big issues that are at the center of transforming society by advocating for equal education, a fair and just criminal justice system, quality, affordable housing and healthcare, and dismantling racist systems in all its forms. Through grassroots organizing, leadership development, and political education, Citizen Action of New York work tirelessly to fight for social, racial, economic and environmental justice. <https://citizenactionny.org/>

The Metropolitan Council on Housing is a tenants' rights membership organization made up of New York City tenants who believe in our motto of "housing for people, not profit." It was formed 60 years ago to fight for a city where everyone has access to safe, decent, affordable housing. The Metropolitan Council on Housing organizes tenants to stand up not only for their individual rights, but also for changes to our housing policies.

<https://www.metcouncilonhousing.org/>