



**THE
LEGAL AID
SOCIETY**

Justice in Every Borough.

May 23, 2022

Contacts:

Asya Pikovsky, Housing Justice for All, asya.pikovsky@gmail.com

Sumathy Kumar, Housing Justice for All, sumathy.kumar95@gmail.com

Alejandra Lopez, The Legal Aid Society, ailopez@legal-aid.org

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

New Poll Shows Overwhelming Support for “Good Cause” Eviction Protection in Every Region of New York State

Video from Legal Aid Calls on Albany to Pass the Legislation Before End of Session

(NEW YORK, NY) - A new [Data for Progress poll](#) shows robust support for the Good Cause eviction bill (S2892/A5030) in every corner of the state, including in moderate and conservative-leaning regions of the state. The legislation, a top issue in negotiation in the post-budget legislative session, would protect tenants in unregulated housing from unjust evictions and unreasonable rent increases.

Overall, the poll shows **more than two in three likely voters in New York support Good Cause**. The poll is also the first Good Cause survey to include region-specific data. The findings show that 75 percent of likely voters support the legislation in the Capital Region (where a local Good Cause law was [passed](#) in Albany last August), and more than 60 percent support the law in Long Island, Mid-Hudson, and Western and Central NY.

The poll also shows that New Yorkers are worried about rising rent prices. Overall, **three in four respondents said they were very concerned or somewhat concerned about the cost of rent**, with similar numbers in every region of New York State. Concerns are particularly acute among Black and Latino tenants, with 82% of Black voters and 76% of Latino/a voters expressing

concern about rising costs, compared with 69% of white voters. Rents in New York City have [increased](#) a stunning 33 percent since 2021, and steep increases have been reported across the state.

	Overall	NYC	Capital Region	Long Island	Central NY	Finger Lakes	Mid-Hudson	Western NY
Supports legislation	67	72	75	61	64	70	65	62
Concerned about cost of renting a home/apartment	75	82	71	67	66	77	80	63

The poll also shows that voters of all political leanings support Good Cause, with 79% of Democratic likely voters, 63% of independents, and even 50% of Republicans responding in favor of the policy. Finally, more than half of voters surveyed - 54% - said they would be more likely to support a lawmaker who backs Good Cause - among Democrats, a whopping 68%.

In addition to the poll, **The Legal Aid Society** released a [new video](#) featuring U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, New York State Senator Brian Kavanaugh, and others, demanding the passage of Good Cause. In the video, Senator Kavanaugh breaks down the legislation: “Good Cause stands for a simple proposition, you cannot be pushed out of your home by your landlord for no reason.”

The poll and video come as the debate over Good Cause heats up. City & State recently reported that Good Cause was one of the [top issues](#) facing Albany as the legislative session wraps up. Last week, more than a thousand tenants from across New York State [held a rally](#) in Albany urging state lawmakers to support Good Cause legislation, and more than 50 protestors were arrested after blocking the Senate and Assembly chambers.

“Good Cause eviction is so popular because it's common sense. New Yorkers step up for each other in times of need, and as New Yorkers face extreme rent hikes and a tsunami of evictions, we are in great need. For the duration of the pandemic, I was proud to author critical legislation to keep my neighbors and renters across New York housed. Good cause is no different — it is needed now,” said **Assemblymember Jeff Dinowitz**.

“Our clients and all tenants in unregulated housing need protection from excessive rent increases and evictions for no reason this minute,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-in-Charge of the**

Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society. "Albany has until the end of session next week to enact this critical, common sense and budget-neutral legislation, which the majority of New Yorkers support and want to see become law."

"Good Cause Eviction protects families and creates stable housing for our communities across the State of New York. This legislation is essential to creating an equitable and inclusive economic recovery for all of our families. We fought hard to make investments in our economy and work for policies that help our families in this year's budget. There is still more to do to ensure stable housing and neighborhoods. An apartment is a person's home and our state policies must recognize that. Housing is a human right and Good Cause Eviction underscores that."

Assemblymember Harry Bronson, Rochester

"This polling confirms what many already knew – housing stability is essential and policies that keep people in their homes are popular with constituents," said **Assemblymember Pamela Hunter of Syracuse, lead sponsor of the Good Cause Evictions bill.**

"As the president of the McCarthy Manor Tenants Union, I started bringing up issues to management that my neighbors were bringing to me. But instead of addressing the issues, management gave me an eviction notice. We need Good Cause Eviction because we need help fighting for decent living conditions," said Anthony Bibbs, Tenant Union President at McCarthy Manor and member of Syracuse Tenants Organizing for Power in Syracuse, NY

"This polling confirms what many already knew – housing stability is essential and policies that keep people in their homes are popular with constituents," said **Assemblymember Pamela Hunter of Syracuse, co-sponsor of the Good Cause Evictions bill.** "As the legislative session comes to a close, we must not leave our work incomplete as New Yorkers struggle with rapid rent increases."

"When upstate tenants have issues like a lack of heat or sewage leakage and seek help, the first question is always, "Have you called code enforcement?" Far too often the answer is no, because tenants fear they will be evicted for calling codes," said **Senator Rachel May of Syracuse.** "Good Cause eviction is the answer to an untenable situation like this, which leads to the degradation of housing quality in our communities. This bill has broad support upstate because tenants know they deserve to live in safe, quality housing without fear of eviction.

"I'm happy that the bill has all this support and I hope that Albany leadership recognizes this -- because for me, Good Cause eviction is life or death. Last year, my landlord raised my rent over 100%. If we don't win this bill, I don't know where I will go. I'm a mother and a grandmother - I need this apartment to care for my family. We needed good cause yesterday," said **Dorca Reynoso, Tenant living in Inwood, Upper Manhattan.**

To view the video, [click here](#).

To view the poll, [click here](#).

Join the conversation on social by using #GoodCauseNow.

###

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