



May 2, 2022

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Legal Aid Condemns Rent Guidelines Board’s Preliminary Vote to Increase Rents on Vulnerable New Yorkers

Attorneys Maintain that Board Must Freeze Rents for Low-Income Tenants

(NEW YORK, NY) — **Adriene Holder, chief attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society,** released the following statement after the New York City Rent Guidelines Board’s (RGB) Preliminary Vote to increase rents for residents of stabilized apartments:

“We strongly condemn the Rent Guidelines Board for voting, once again, for rent increases that go against the interests of low-income New Yorkers living in rent-stabilized apartments. Any increase in rents right now will have crushing consequences for tenants already battling a historic [affordability crisis](#), post-pandemic [inflation](#), and a [looming recession](#) expected to hit later this year.

“Despite the disappointing outcome of tonight’s vote, the Board still has the opportunity to do right by tenants come the final vote in June. Since 1989, there have been seven instances of the Board departing from the range established in its preliminary vote — this year should be the eighth, with the Board voting for an outright freeze on all rents for tenants in stabilized apartments.

“The Board is not currently acting in accordance with its mandate to preserve affordability, fight against unconscionable rent hikes, and prevent the uprooting of long-standing communities. Before the final vote, we implore the Board to reconsider its priorities and not allow increases that will negatively impact some of New York City’s most vulnerable tenants.”

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