



Home & Shelter Creation

Just Land Use

Tenant Protections

"We recognize the way in which land and housing have been used as tools of segregation, wealth extraction, and wealth hoarding throughout Maine's history, and that those practices have deep roots in our culture and economy.

Therefore, we require deep and comprehensive policy changes to create a truly just housing system for all."

Sen. Carney's Act to Establish an Eviction Mediation Program

Each year over 5,000 Maine Households face eviction and homelessness. This bill **would help people who are facing eviction find and access resources like legal aid or rental assistance, to stay housed, and the opportunity to request mediation.** These changes to the legal process will give tenants more opportunities in the legal process to work out a solution with their landlord or lender.

Rep. Morales' Act to Create a Rental Voucher Assistance and Guarantee Program

The most immediate and effective way to provide stable housing to everyone in Maine is **to ensure that everyone who applies and qualifies for rental assistance actually receives it.** This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program. The program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental **voucher guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program.** The bill also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out the program.

Rep. Hasenfus' Act to Enact Maine Data Collection Protection

When eviction court records are made available online, it can make it nearly impossible for those who have experienced past evictions to find new housing. **This bill would require background check companies and landlords to use eviction records with care and not wrongfully deny a tenant housing based on an eviction filing that was dismissed, or involved illegal conduct on the part of the landlord.**

Rep. Collings' Act to Prohibit 'Source of Income' Discrimination in Housing

Mainers wait years to receive rental assistance in the form of a long term housing voucher and then cannot find housing that will accept their voucher. This act **would prevent landlords from refusing to accept tenants based solely on their use of rental assistance vouchers.**

Housing Justice Maine is a coalition that includes the Maine Immigrant Housing Coalition, Maine People's Housing Coalition, Maine People's Alliance, Presente! Maine, Raise-Op Housing Cooperative, Southern Maine Workers' Center, and Maine Equal Justice.



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Rep. Cloutier's Bond to Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters

Thousands of people lose their homes each year, and there are very few options available to unhoused people for safe emergency shelter. We need reliable and well resourced shelters available in every region throughout Maine, so that people may stay connected to their communities even when emergency strikes and they are left without a home. **This bill authorizes a state Bond for \$50 million to create and enhance regional homeless shelters.**

Rep. Brennan's Bond to Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless

The private housing market discriminates against unhoused people and does not provide the support required to retain permanent housing. **Housing that is designed and programmed with supportive services for people who are transitioning from homelessness** is essential to creating stability in their lives. The \$15 million provided by this bond issue will be used for capital construction costs for housing persons who are homeless.

Rep. Morales' Act to Reform General Assistance to Improve Housing Security

This act addresses both the right to shelter and right to housing components of the Vision for an Equitable Maine. It would modify the general assistance program (GA) to ensure that it provides adequate support for emergency shelter and would make rental assistance under GA operate more like a voucher program. Since GA by law must meet the need in the community as it presents, **this will better align the right to GA with the right to shelter and housing.**

Rep. Millett's General Fund Bond for Energy-efficient Affordable Housing

This act addresses three of the major threats facing our state. It would develop the housing to address Maine's shortage of over 22,000 affordable homes, raise wages and labor standards to make Maine a destination for working families and rapidly implement carbon reduction measures in the residential sector, which is currently responsible for 19% of our carbon emissions. This \$100 million bond **will fund the construction of permanently affordable housing for Maine's lowest income households, grow our green building workforce through good paying union jobs and meet high green building standards we need to build our climate resilience.**

Rep. Ross' Community Choice Housing Act

The right to fair and affordable housing includes the right to live in a community of one's choosing. Every community in Maine has a responsibility to ensure that fair and affordable housing is available in their community. This bill **establishes a minimum fair housing goal for each community consistent with local needs,** and lowers regulatory barriers to creating new affordable housing where those minimums are unmet.

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