

# SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (D-VT) HOUSING PLAN

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019



**OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES: 2020** is a non-partisan campaign designed to raise the profile of affordable housing with 2020 presidential candidates and with voters.

**SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (D-VT)**, a 2020 presidential candidate, has released a proposal that addresses the affordable housing crisis.

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## SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN:

- Invests \$1.48 trillion over 10 years in the national Housing Trust Fund to build 7.4 million units, and puts more resources into maintain and expanding public housing stock.
- Invests an additional \$400 billion to build 2 million mixed-income social housing units through the national Housing Trust fund.
- Expands USDA's Section 515 program by \$500 million to build new affordable housing developments in rural areas.
- Increases funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant Program to \$3 billion to build, preserve, and rehabilitate affordable housing in Indian country.
- Invest \$70 billion to repair and modernize public housing including making all public housing accessible and provide access to high-speed broadband for all public housing residents.
- Fully fund tenant-based Section 8 rental assistance at \$410 billion over the next 10 years and make it a mandatory funding program for all eligible households.
- Strengthen the Fair Housing Act and implement a Section 8 non-discrimination law, so that landlords can no longer discriminate against low-income families based on their source of income, and expand and strengthen enforcement of the Small Area Fair Market Rent rule to make sure that landlords are fairly compensated when they participate in Section 8, but do not make a windfall from the program.
- Enact a national cap on annual rent increases at no more than 3 percent or 1.5 times the Consumer Price Index (whichever is higher) to help prevent the exploitation of tenants at the hands of private landlords.
- Aggressively defends the protections of fair housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender or disability, and ends modern-day redlining.
- Supports communities' ability to use different tools, including rent control policies, to ensure affordable housing is included in all developments.

- Create an office within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate and work with states and municipalities to strengthen rent control and tenant protections, implement fair and inclusive zoning ordinances, streamline review processes and direct funding where these changes are made.
- End exclusionary and restrictive zoning ordinances and replace them with zoning that encourages racial, economic, and disability integration that makes housing more affordable.
- Prioritize 25,000 National Affordable Housing Trust Fund units in the first year to house the homeless.
- Double McKinney-Vento homelessness assistance grants to more than \$26 billion over the next five years to build permanent supportive housing.
- Provide \$500 million in funding to states and localities to provide outreach to the homeless to help connect them to case management and social services to ensure nobody is left behind.
- Create an independent National Fair Housing Agency similar to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau dedicated to protecting renters from housing discrimination, investigating landlords who misuse Section 8 vouchers, and enforce housing standards for renters. The Fair Housing Agency will also conduct audits to hold landlords and sellers engaged in housing discrimination accountable.
- Fully fund the Fair Housing Assistance and Fair Housing Initiatives Programs at \$1 billion over the next 10 years.
- Pass the Equality Act to include LGBTQ+ Americans in the Fair Housing Act.
- Implement the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule blocked by President Trump's administration to ensure that federal funds will promote fair housing.
- Enforce the Olmstead decision, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure access to accessible, integrated housing.
- Make sure that people who have served their time are not excluded from public housing.
- Ensure that no survivor of domestic violence can be evicted on the basis of their assault.

*\*The National Low Income Housing Coalition's (NLIHC's) Our Homes, Our Votes 2020 project is a nonpartisan voter and candidate engagement effort. NLIHC does not endorse any candidate for public office or their plans and proposals.*

**For more information, contact NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel at: [dyentel@nlihc.org](mailto:dyentel@nlihc.org)**