

# FIGHTING TO KEEP FAMILIES HOUSED IN LOS ANGELES

Families in Los Angeles work hard to give their children all they need to grow and succeed. But corporate landlords have been snatching up residential properties, hiking up rents and home prices, and forcing families out of Los Angeles. As families leave LA, our student enrollment drops.

66% of rental units in LA are owned by large corporations and trusts.



1 out of 3 LA renters pay more than half their income on rent.



Student enrollment has declined 15% in LAUSD over the last seven years.



## Educators Are on the Frontlines

Corporations are making our neighborhoods their business strategy, forcing families to make impossible choices between basic needs like rent, utilities, food, and healthcare. The stress from threats of eviction, constant moving, and needing to work evenings or even overnight, makes it impossible for many students to stay focused on schoolwork. There is no escaping the trauma many of our students face outside of school – it comes into the classroom with them.

### A recent survey of UTLA Chapter Leaders found:

- Educators find out mostly from students themselves that they are unhoused, in danger of losing their housing, living with multiple families under one roof, or living in other potentially hazardous conditions.
- Educators report they have students who are living in cars, hotel rooms, and shelters.
- Students are missing school simply because they don't have clean clothes or a place to shower.
- In addition to food, quiet study space, a washer and dryer, and showers, educators report that their students need access to more housing and immigration support services.
- Nearly every respondent said they need more information about available resources and services, information about accessing affordable housing, support talking with parents about their housing situation, support identifying students who are unhoused, clarity on their rights as educators, and/or more training to be able to support students and their families.



## Making Strides With Our Union Power

As part of our 2022–25 contract victories, we pushed the district to commit to using their institutional position to address LA’s housing crisis for the first time. We won an agreement requiring the district to work jointly with UTLA to expand school-site supports and services for unhoused students and their families; create a UTLA-LAUSD task force to explore affordable housing development for low-income students and families on vacant, unused LAUSD property; and advocate for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, tenant protections, and affordable housing.

**UTLA sits on the steering committee of United to House LA** — the coalition of community groups, labor unions, affordable housing developers, tenant rights organizations, and homeless service providers that came together to create Measure ULA and continues to fight for its full implementation. Passed by LA City voters in 2022, Measure ULA generates revenue through a tax on the sale of real estate over \$5 million to fund emergency rental assistance, tenant protections, and the development of affordable housing.

In just its first year, Measure ULA generated \$215 million. With this funding:

- An estimated 11,000 LA City residents have been approved for emergency rental assistance to avoid eviction.
- Over \$5 million ULA dollars have gone to households with children, over \$2 million to tenants with disabilities, and over \$1 million to seniors to be able to stay in their homes.
- Construction is being expedited to build 795 new affordable housing units in the city of LA.

Now, UTLA is joining community organizations and other labor unions to get the new LA Housing Solutions Measure on the November 2024 ballot, which will generate funding for all of LA County.

## Key Facts: New LA Housing Solutions Ballot Measure

- Labor unions, homeless service providers, and community organizations are joining together behind the LA Housing Solutions ballot measure to create a robust funding source for emergency shelters, crisis services, eviction prevention, and affordable housing across LA County.
- This LA County measure will replace the current 0.25% Measure H sales tax (passed in 2017) with a 0.50% sales tax to generate billions in long-term funding. For example, under this measure:
  - A \$5 purchase will have a 2.5¢ tax, versus the current 1.25¢ tax.
  - A \$50 purchase will have a 25¢ tax, versus the current 12.5¢ tax.
  - A \$500 purchase will have a \$2.50 tax, versus the current \$1.25 tax.
- The tax will **NOT** apply to groceries, EBT purchases, gas, medicine, rent, or mortgage.
- The revenue will be used to build new affordable housing with union construction jobs, preserve existing affordable housing, and fund homeless services, emergency rental assistance, and legal counsel for tenants across LA County.
- The LA Housing Solutions ballot measure creates the first permanent revenue source in LA County for guaranteed long-term funding for solutions to LA’s housing crisis.

To get this measure on the November 2024 LA County ballot, UTLA is joining other labor unions and community organizations to gather enough signatures by the deadline.

