

Take Action: Cancel Rent in WA State

Background: In late March 2020, Seattle City Council [unanimously passed](#) a resolution that calls on Governor Inslee to enact a rent & mortgage moratorium in response to COVID-19 --- this is huge! The only way we make this a reality, is if we build on this momentum and continue to take action -- let's put pressure Inslee till we make this a reality.

Action Reminders

- **Message:** This is likely going to be a message machine -- that's okay, leave a message.
 - **Your Story:** Add your story -- for most of us, this is deeply personal.
 - **Email & Tweet:** Definitely call, but also email & tweet
 - **Activate Friends:** Tell a few friends to take this action & post about it on social media
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Call & Email Script

"My name is _____ and I am a volunteer with Got Green. As you have likely heard, Seattle City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on you to use emergency powers to enact a moratorium on rent & mortgage payments. As the statewide ban on evictions is in the right direction, we need even more to protect residents for the long-haul and prevent suffering in the future. With the first of the month coming soon, we need bold action from the Governor. Please enact a robust moratorium on rent & mortgage payments without any debt. Thank you!"

Contacting Governor Inslee

- Governor Inslee -- Phone: 360-902-4111
 - **Press 2**, to leave a voicemail --- Once you've left a VM, feel free to mark it "**High Importance**"
 - **Press 3** to speak to an agent --- Current hold times are about 15 minutes. We'd advise leaving a voicemail, then calling again and getting on hold to talk to an agent.
 - Email: [Link to e-message template](#)
 - Twitter: @GovInslee @JayInslee
 - Keith Phillips, Policy Director, 360-902-0645 --- voicemail may be full
 - Regional Rep to Governor (Seattle / King County) --- Simon Vila - 360-480-2877 --- voicemail may be full
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Contact WA State electeds - ask them to publicly support this

District 11 Legislatures

- Bob Hasegawa - (360) 786 - 7616
- Zack Hudgins- (360) 786 - 7956
- Steve Bergquist- (360) 786 - 7862

District 37 Legislatures

- Rebecca Saldana - (360) 786 - 7688
- Sharon Tomiko Santos - (206) 587 - 5549

District 34 Legislatures

- Joe Nguyen- (360) 786 - 7667
- Eileen Cody- 564-888-2493
- Joe Fitzgibbon- (360) 786 - 7952

Further Information



got green

Got Green 101

Got Green builds power in working-class communities of color in South Seattle and we fight for jobs, housing, food, transit, and healthy air, water, and land. From climate change to a health pandemic, these crises can utterly destroy our communities if we are not guaranteed stable, safe, and sustainable housing. Housing, climate, and health justice are linked. Communities of color disproportionately experience housing discrimination, evictions, foreclosures, and homelessness — housing justice is racial justice. Housing is health, housing is climate resilience.

[Got Green is lifting up a visionary and comprehensive platform in response to COVID-19.](#) This includes health justice, decarceration (ie: freeing incarcerated people), a just green new deal post-pandemic, and more. The call to suspend housing payments is only one component. Got Green is one of many organizations fighting for housing justice in the midst of the pandemic -- we will try our best to lift up & credit the efforts of our friends.

Rent Moratoriums

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the “shelter in place” orders, the Economy Policy Institute projects that 14 millions jobs will be lost by summer in the United States -- this doesn’t include furloughs, lost gigs/contracts, and cut hours. As there are local and national attempts to expand unemployment and provide cash assistance, this neither as robust and as fast happening. For most people, our rent is due on April 1st. With the recent national bailout, real estate developers receive billions, banks receive trillions, and the people are left to figure out how to pay their bills -- while fees, debt, and penalties accumulate.

Got Green has been deeply inspired by the national calls for [Rent Zero](#) (via People’s Action) and [Cancel Rent](#) (via Right to the City) --- more broadly the need to have a moratorium on all housing payments in response to the pandemic -- no rent payments, no mortgage payments, no utility payments, and no paying/accumulating fees & debts. We ultimately need this nationally, let’s start in WA State. Lastly, due to an entrenchment of anti-renter policy in WA State, it is very very difficult for city governments to enact these types of bold actions -- for example, the Seattle City Council has been ineffective in by-passing the statewide ban on rent control.

Local Housing Policy in Response to COVID-19

As a result of COVID-19, masses of people are without the income they need to survive and will not be able to make their housing payments. In response to this crisis, the people of WA State organized and won the following concessions...

- In Seattle, a citywide moratorium on residential and commercial evictions.
- In WA State, a statewide moratorium on residential evictions ([further info from Poverty Action](#))
- Seattle City Council unanimously passes resolution to call on Governor Inslee to enact a statewide rent/mortgage moratorium as well as a statewide suspension of foreclosures.
- In WA State, an extension of the eviction moratorium and adding not late fees and a freeze on increasing the rent (ie: temporary rent control) till June 4th -- this falls short of rent cancelation, but is huge!
- U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar writes a transformative bill for rent cancelation and tenant protections -- shaped directly by the movement -- with lots of support (including from our rep. Pramila Jayapal).

*this is a very incomplete list, but gives you an idea of what has transpired for the purposes of this action. For a more robust list on [Emergency Housing Protections](#) (statewide, by county, and by city/town), we encourage you to check out this resource from our friends at WA Community Action Network.