

Over 92% of tenants facing eviction are unrepresented

We need to change this!

Evictions are going up

Over the past 10 years, on average nearly 40,000 eviction cases have been filed a year in Massachusetts. At stake in each of these cases is someone's housing.

Trauma of eviction

The trauma of eviction is devastating. Losing a home sends families into shelters and onto the streets. It invites depression and illness, spirals into job loss, is uprooting neighborhoods.

Most tenants are unrepresented

Over 92% of tenants last year were forced to fight their eviction case in Housing Court without an attorney, while most landlords have an attorney.

Representation matters

Having an attorney and access to right resources, education, and support can change the outcome for the better for a tenant and preserve a tenancy. The Massachusetts Right to Counsel Coalition is working to ensure that low income people have access to resources and assistance that can prevent their eviction.

To join the Growing List of Supporters for Right to Counsel go to www.MassRTC.org

Join the Growing List of Right to Counsel Supporters

Allston/Brighton Community Develop Corp
Boston Tenant Coalition
Chelsea Collaborative
Chinese Progressive Association
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
City Life/Vida Urbana
City of Boston
Community Action Agency of Somerville
Fenway Community Development Corporation
Greater Boston Legal Services
Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
Heisler, Feldman & McCormick
Holland & Knight, LLP
HomeStart
Homes for Families
Housing Families
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts
League of Women Voters - Salem
Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School
Lynn United for Change
Mass Associat of Community Develop Corp
Mass Senior Action Council
Mass Coalition for the Homeless
Mass Law Reform Institute
Mass Public Health Association
Mass Smart Growth Alliance
Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
MetroWest Legal Services
NuLawLabs at Northeastern LawSchool
Project Hope
Right to the City Boston
Rosie's Place
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Boston
The Neighborhood Developers
Tenant Advocacy Project at Harvard Law School
United Way of Massa Bay and Merrimack Valley
Western Mass Network to End Homelessness

Who Is Co-sponsoring Right to Counsel bills?

Lead Sponsors

Senator Sal N. DiDomenico - S. 913

Rep Chynah Tyler – H. 3456

Rep David M. Rogers and Rep Michael S. Day - H. 1537

Boston Mayor Walsh is a co-sponsor of H. 3456

Co-Sponsors

The following Senators and Representatives signed-on to co-sponsor at least one of the three Right to Counsel bills, some co-sponsored all three bills. The bills have been reported to the Judiciary Committee.

Senators

Joseph A. Boncore
William N. Brownsberger
Harriette L. Chandler
Nick Collins
Joanne M. Comerford
Brendan P. Crighton
Diana DiZoglio
James B. Eldridge
Cindy F. Friedman
Patricia D. Jehlen
Rebecca L. Rausch

Representatives

Brian M. Ashe
Ruth B. Balser
Natalie M. Blais
Christine P. Barber
Jennifer E. Benson
Antonio F. D. Cabral
Peter Capano
Michelle L. Ciccolo
Mike Connolly
Daniel R. Cullinane
Marjorie C. Decker
Marcos A. Devers
Mindy Domb
Michelle M. DuBois
Nika C. Elugardo
Tricia Farley-Bouvier
Sean Garballey
Denise C. Garlick
Carlos Gonzalez
James K. Hawkins
Stephan Hay
Jonathan Hecht
Natalie M. Higgins
Kate Hogan
Russell E. Holmes

Kevin G. Honan
Daniel J. Hunt
Mary S. Keefe
James M. Kelcourse
Kay Khan
David Henry Argosky
LeBoeuf
Jack Patrick Lewis
Adrian C. Madaro
Elizabeth A. Malia
Paul W. Mark
Joseph McGonagle, Jr.
Paul McMurtry
Joan Meschino
Liz Miranda
Michael J. Moran
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.
Tram T. Nguyen
Denise Provost
Maria Duaine
Robinson
Daniel J. Ryan
Lindsay N. Sabadosa
Jon Santiago
José F. Tosado
Andres X. Vargas
Aaron Vega
Tommy Vitolo
Bud L. Williams

"It is David versus Goliath," says Sal DiDomenico, a state senator from Everett. "People who are low income don't have the resources to compete."

Hard Times, High Rents
Globe Magazine
Feb. 19, 2019

"...right to counsel could save the state and localities millions annually in terms of sheltering or subsidizing those who are displaced."

**Massachusetts right to
counsel legislation gains
urgency amid rising number
of evictions**

Curbed Boston
Feb 20, 2019

There's still time to co-sponsor the Senate Bill, S. 913

If your Senator or Representative has not yet signed on use the fact sheet and ask them to support Right to Counsel for eviction cases. Both Senators and Representatives can sign-on to S. 913 until it is reported out of Committee.

