



TENANTS UNION

of Washington State

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF FUELING GRASSROOTS,
COMMUNITY-BASED POWER TO DEMAND HOUSING FOR ALL.

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Founded in 1977, the TU carries on a proud legacy of work to create concrete improvements in tenants' living conditions, challenge and transform unjust housing policies and practices.

The TU is made up of low income tenant member leaders across the state of Washington working to build a movement for housing justice. Complex problems like gentrification and displacement, lack of affordable housing, and unsafe or unhealthy housing conditions need creative, multi-layered solutions that are grounded in the communities most impacted by them.

We bring low income renters to the forefront of these struggles by developing our leadership, celebrating the strength of our diversity, and amplifying our voices.

Over the last 45 years, the TU has provided empowerment-based tenant education to thousands of Washington renters, raised up hundreds of powerful tenant leaders and tenant councils, and increased tenant protections on the state, county, and city levels. Our staff and board represent the communities we serve and are part of our tenant leadership.



IN 2022, THE TENANTS UNION OF WASHINGTON STATE:



- Introduced new legislation to fight for rent stabilization in Washington State, building bipartisan interest in moving these bills for the 2023 legislative session.
- Provided multilingual education to over 1272 tenants through 25 know-your-rights workshops and technical assistance calls with renters.
- Responded to over 1200 tenant hotline calls.
- Developed the leadership of BIPOC tenant leaders statewide, including an active membership base of over 250 individuals.
- Reached 429,459 individuals through our tenant rights website.



TENANTS UNION HIGHLIGHTS



- In 2022, we marked our 45th Anniversary with celebrations in Spokane, Burien, and Tacoma, honoring the work of tenant leaders.
- For the first time, in 2022, the TU was able to provide living wages for staff, a goal we have been internally working towards for years.
- The TU strengthened our community partnerships across the state, and expanded our commitment to language justice in Spanish.
- Our Executive Director, Violet Lavatai, was recognized in January 2023 at the MLK Prayer Breakfast with the Mountaintop Award for her dedication and community service.



GET INVOLVED

THE TENANTS UNION HAS BEEN THE 911 FOR RENTERS.

We have 10 staff serving hundreds of thousands of renters in Washington State and we continue to build the movement for housing justice by increasing capacity in our membership, staff, and tenant leaders. Your participation is everything!

Join the mailing list and get action alerts on rent stabilization and updates on our Fall 2023 renters assembly.

Become a Tenants Union member. We honor and uplift housing as a basic human right. We envision a world where everyone has a home that is a place of sanctuary and joy.

Membership is FREE and members are defined as people who:

- Share the Tenants Union's values and vision for housing justice according to our Principles of Unity;
- Plan to contribute time, money and/or expertise to the work of the Tenants Union; and
- Would like to identify as a member.

THE TENANTS UNION AT WORK

When a tenant came to us facing a 35K damage deposit fee upon move out, for normal wear and tear, **we supported the resolution between the tenant and the landlord, finding evidence of other renters having much lower deposits.** Building off of this work, we developed a campaign for damage deposit reform bill (HB 1074), that will protect renters from large and unjust fees like this one.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

ACRS - Asian Counseling & Referral Services
API Chaya
APICAT - Asian Pacific Islander Coalition
Advocating Together for Health
Better Health Together
CARW - Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites
City of Renton
City of Seattle
City of Spokane
City of Tacoma
El Centro de la Raza
Emergent Fund
Got Green
Greater Spokane Progress
Grey Sunz Tattoo
Inatai Foundation
Joanne Alcantara LLC

Kaiser Permanente
King County
Legal Foundation of Washington
LELO - Legacy of Equality Leadership & Organizing
Molly Moons
Office of Seattle Councilmember Kshama Sawant
People for Rebecca Saldana
Puget Sound Sage
Right to the City
Seattle Foundation
Social Justice Fund
Universalist Unitarian Church (UU)
UTOPIA

And 403 Donors, who gave a total of \$57,382



**Housing is a
human right.
We are building
power for all tenants
in Washington State.**

Website: tenantsunion.org

Social Media:

facebook.com/tenantsunion

facebook.com/TUspokane

instagram.com/tenantsunionwa