

Bill Tracker

Bill	Bill Purpose	GNOHA Position	Status
SB 162 (Appel)	Retains present law on inclusionary zoning and changes certain wording from inclusionary zoning to incentives. <i>Our position: This bill is an attempt to weaken the laws that allow for mandatory inclusionary zoning. We believe mandatory inclusionary zoning is an important tool in dealing with our affordable housing crisis.</i>	Opposed	Defeated
HB 676 (Hodges)	Prevents state agencies from making any “sanctuary policies” in regards to immigration, thus pushing authority to local level. <i>Our position: This bill will strongarm local law enforcement into enforcing federal immigration laws that violate the fourth amendment, making them vulnerable to civil rights lawsuits and creating a wedge between law enforcement and the community.</i>	Opposed	Defeated
SB 16 (Claitor)	Provides possibility for parole of juveniles serving life imprisonment sentences. <i>Our position: We support rehabilitation efforts and decreasing our prison population.</i>	Supported	Sent to Governor
HB 525 (Seabaugh)	Provides a cause of action against local law enforcement agencies that fail to comply with certain federal immigration laws. <i>Our position: This bill is created to strengthen HB 135 and force local law enforcement violate the fourth amendment in carrying out federal immigration detainer requests. Furthermore, it makes the local agency liable for any violent offense committed by a person released in violation of an ICE request, indefinitely.</i>	Opposed	Halted
HB 448 (Abramson)	Provides that vacant property or property not wholly devoted to/exclusively used for the mission of a non-profit be taxed at 50% of market rate (in Orleans parish). <i>Our position: We are concerned that affordable housing non-profits already struggling with decreases in funding will be further encumbered by taxes on vacant properties.</i>	Watched	Halted
HB 449 (Abramson)	Gives parish governing authorities around the state the power to choose to tax non-profit owned/leased vacant property or non-mission devoted property as mentioned above at 50% of market rate value. <i>Our position: We are concerned that affordable housing non-profits already struggling with decreases in funding will be further encumbered by taxes on vacant properties.</i>	Watched	Halted
HB 262 (Harris)	Authorizes the Industrial Development Board of the City of New Orleans to enter into contracts. <i>Our position: We support increased economic development and PILOT incentives issued through the IDB.</i>	Supported	Halted

PUT HOUSING FIRST

GOOD HOUSING FOR ALL

HB 613 (Pylant & Ivey)	Repeals the dedication of hotel sales tax to state treasury funds. <i>Our position: We prefer these state taxes go towards housing across the state and New Orleans.</i>	Supported	Halted
SB 153 (Carter)	Raises the minimum wage to \$8/hr in 2018 and \$8.50/hr in 2019. <i>Our position: Increasing the economic strength of our citizens benefits our community as a whole.</i>	Supported	Halted
HB 622 (Hilferty)	Removes the authority of Morial-New Orleans Exhibition Hall to impose additional hotel occupancy and food/beverage tax and to issue bonds for Phase IV projects. <i>Our position: There is no need for increased taxes that only benefit tourists. Any new revenue should instead go towards dealing with our current housing crisis.</i>	Supported	Halted
SB 236 (LaFleur)	Raises the cost of recordation fees to be paid to the Clerk of Court. <i>Our position: Raising the fees could inadvertently make it more difficult for low-income individuals to purchase a home.</i>	Watched	Sent to Governor
HB 623 (Hilferty)	Creates a New Orleans Street Maintenance District which can levy and collect a 1% hotel occupancy tax. <i>Our position: Increased funding should go towards water management/dealing with subsidence rather than just fixing streets. We support long-term solutions.</i>	Watched	Halted
HB 220 (Magee)	Repeals 3% of the state's combined 5% sales and use taxes and provides for the base of the remaining 2% tax. <i>Our position: This will only add to the burden of people already struggling with earning low wages that don't support our high cost of living.</i>	Watched	Halted
HB 224 (Moreno)	Seeks to ensure that a larger share taxes generated by short-term rentals on platforms such as Airbnb would go to New Orleans rather than entities like the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center or Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The measure does not change the amount of sales tax that would be imposed on short-term rentals and does not alter the amount that various other agencies collect when those taxes are imposed on traditional hotels. <i>Our position: These taxes should go specifically to support the creation of affordable housing.</i>	Opposed	Sent to Governor
SB 120 (Ward)	Provides additional protection to renters. <i>Our position: We support the adoption of increased safety standards and housing stability for renters.</i>	Strongly Supported	Voluntarily withdrawn

Frequently Asked Questions

What does it mean to Put Housing First?

Put Housing First is a campaign to secure the support of 80,000 people who stand behind the advocacy efforts of the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) and demand that our leaders prioritize safe, affordable, healthy housing for all in New Orleans.

How will I know which candidates support Put Housing First?

We will host various events for candidates to come and share their position on housing that is safe, affordable and healthy for all of us. We will also provide updates through email, social media and our website. A scorecard that will ask politicians which housing policies and programs they support will be made publicly available.

What will happen if a candidate doesn't support Put Housing First?

While we cannot force our views on a candidate, we can influence them to take our views and needs into account. We do this by having concerned people like you, who want better housing for their families and community, to help us become one strong voice. Together we can hold candidates accountable both during and after the elections.

How can I get involved? Will you inform me about events to participate in?

We encourage you to go to our page at www.gnoha.com or if you are on social media, check us out on Facebook or Twitter @GNOHA. We constantly update our progress and share other important information on housing related platforms. The pledge card also has the option to opt into receiving Put Housing First emails. These correspondences will keep you informed on events and campaigns happening around housing and community development. The opportunities to help may include letter writing, canvassing, and chances to attend candidate forums and public political events.

Will there be activities that keep Put Housing First on officials' minds after they are elected?

Yes! The Put Housing First campaign does not end on Election Day. This is an ongoing campaign to both elect officials who pledge to Put Housing First, and to hold them accountable to that promise. There will be continuing calls to action and events.

What is GNOHA?

The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance is a collaborative of non-profit housing builders and community development corporations working to rebuild the housing stock available in the city of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city's infrastructure. Since its creation in 2007, GNOHA has sought to create change in the Greater New Orleans community through public policy advocacy and public education. The collaborative advocates for the preservation and production of affordable housing for people within the Greater New Orleans metropolitan region and places a special emphasis on the needs of the most vulnerable in society - seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, low-wage workers and low-income families.

What is HousingNOLA?

HousingNOLA is a 10-year partnership between the community leaders, and dozens of public, private, and nonprofit organizations working to solve New Orleans' affordable housing crisis. In 2015, HousingNOLA produced a 10-year Housing Plan laying out a road map for eradicating cost burden and providing safe, affordable housing for all New Orleanians. Each year, HousingNOLA charts the City's progress towards this goal and produces an update in report card form.

How can I learn more about what it means to Put Housing First?

You can contact GNOHA at info@gnoha.org or call us at (504) 224-8300.