

What insights do we have following this week's elections?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 11.10.23

Renters Rights Initiative

- Presumed to be passing after most recent vote drop, depending on late ballot trends continuing.
- Bellingham had a similar measure (passing, established renter relocation fund) without the same level of involvement from lobbying against the policy. Was also simpler, and less threatening.
- Discussed perverse effect of out of state money on this initiative.

Concerns on Initiative One:

- The messaging was not clear.
- Frames Tacoma as being unfriendly to landlords and developers.
- Won't landlords just quit renting, especially small ones?
- Will landlords just raise rents quickly to build up reserves?
- Landlords conducting risk assessment and determining that need to raise rents, increase credit rating for qualifying, due to potential impact of prop 1 and other local or state being introduced that might be viewed as being a risk for landlords and developers.
- Concerned about the number of rental units that could be lost as a result of this, and how rents are impacted.
- Will Tacoma bear the brunt of legal challenges in trying to be compliant?
- The city council won't be able to revoke this for 2 years if it does pass. Some folks might just exit the rental market in the mean time.
- For folks who can't work, there are no real options, and current policy isn't addressing them.

Support for Initiative One:

- Keeping people housed is way better than making them homeless and people voted that way.
- Shows how well people understand that renters are getting screwed that such a flawed initiative is able to pass.

Other Broad Observations

- Efforts to oust liberal Tacoma Council members with "get even tougher on homelessness" candidates failed.
- Tacoma Business council overreach and miscalculation that there's an endless appetite for beating up on homeless.
- Washington State should address rent control that works better for local jurisdictions.
- How does this coalition get past band-aid solutions to effectively advocate both for individuals and broad policy change?

- HUD-funded orgs have political foundation to push back on criminalization of homelessness.
- Both County and City have a reputation for making politically vindictive funding decisions, which encourages silence.
- Low-income housing should be less cumbersome.
- Discussed low turnout in the election in Pierce County (about 20%).

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Miracle Messages assists individuals locate family and friends with whom they have lost contact and are longing to reconnect throughout the US and abroad. Feel free to reach out to me at mark@miraclemessages.org or call 650-421-5804 or (800) Miss-You www.miraclemessages.org

When you come across families that are literally street homeless with small children, please connect with Dionne at SVdP - 253-355-5868

For more information about programs serving homeless youth at the Reach Center and the drop-in center at 1314 S L St, Tacoma, WA 98405 <https://www.reachtacoma.org>

Heather Varnes and her mom have a goal of feeding 500 homeless for Christmas.

Looking for someone with a 501c3 who is willing to let me channel funds through, I can apply on fred meyers web site for gift cards. If anyone wants to help or has questions plz call Heather at 2537336513

New Book. When We Walk By: Forgiven Humanity, Broken Systems, and the role each of us play in ending homelessness in America
<https://www.whenwewalkby.com/>

Video, Nov. 8, Pierce County Select Cmte on Homelessness

https://online.co.pierce.wa.us/cfapps/council/iview/committeeMeeting.cfm?committee_cd=HC&meeting_dt=Nov%20%208%202023%20%201:30PM

99 Stocking info https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SSfVWP7BA_0Kijza_95IL-UrSeJ4xq466dPiNdHne20/edit?usp=sharing

Join WLIHI's Resident Action Program (RAP) to help build power for housing justice!

Saturday, Nov. 18. We're changing policy and when we come together, we can win! RAP helped win the right for low-income tenants to have a free lawyer in eviction court and helped changed the law so landlords must have a good cause to make someone move – no more 20 day notices to move without even giving a reason!

When: Saturday November 18, 2023 Time: 12:15-3:45 pm Location: Kent Senior Center, 600 E Smith St, Kent, WA 98030 Register for this free event by November 15. If you need accommodations register by November 8, 2023 Register here:

<https://forms.gle/rfzLj2XJtj2zcse89>

Nourish Pierce County's 50th anniversary celebration and fundraiser Saturday, Nov 11.
<https://nourishpc.org/events/>

Community Spotlight Opportunity: Tell the coalition about your organization's good work. Contact tpdrutis@nctacoma.org to schedule a brief presentation. 🙄

Recent Press

Bill Evans passed on Sunday. Obituary and funeral services at St. Leo's
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/tribnet/name/william-evans-obituary?id=53552164>

Ongoing Resources and Needs

SVdP is willing to store any items for sharing- including massive amounts of socks. We have systems in place so outreach workers can pick up supplies every day between 10am-5pm. Just text Dionne. 253-355-5868

Link for the Coalition's cold weather resources page: www.craft.me/s/f0GVFmAubX8YUg

Outreach and Supply Need/Share Form:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Kh2OBOLT-SXN8cq7L7Z1Bb04iXxCf6Nfv_RBP-F0SZk/edit#gid=1277137782

Free Food & Resources Market, Saturdays, 10-12 AM, 4819 S 12th Tacoma WA. everyone welcome. You can pick up food for others.

Free wound care clinic every Friday afternoon, TNE clinic at the STD room at T-PCHD on S 37th & Pacific. Spread the word.

Safe Sites

<https://ss4a.pchomeless.org>

Outreach Supply Need and Share form: <https://forms.gle/2zfK8Y5JvC1K5eXLA>

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness can be found here:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>