

Susan McLain

From the Desk of
Rep. Susan McLain



Yes on SB 611B

Provides reasonable and necessary rent stabilizations for tenants suffering from rent spikes while protecting landlords and developers' ability to maintain a reasonable profit

Senate Bill 611B:

- Keeps Oregon's current rent stabilization law intact, with the simple addition of a 10% cap. The rent stabilization formula will be: 7% plus inflation, with a cap of 10%.
- 10% cap is in keeping with the intent of SB 608 when passed in 2019, when the upper increase contemplated was 10%.

SB 611B does not change: the ability to set rents to market rates at the beginning of a tenancy and in between tenancies; the exemption for new construction for 15 years after the certificate of occupancy; the base rent of 7%, or the relocation assistance laws.

Lawmakers did the right thing passing SB 608 in 2019. But we are now facing extreme inflation and the 2023 rate increase is an unreasonable 14.6%. Thousands of renters are at risk of displacement due to rent increases.

Get the facts:

- Rent spikes lead to higher rates of homelessness and eviction. For every \$100 increase in average rents in a community, there is a 9% increase in community homelessness.¹
- **Research shows rent stabilization is the most cost-effective way to keep people housed.**² Our state does not have the resources to solve our housing affordability crisis through rental assistance alone.
- Studies in Maine, New Jersey, California and Washington, DC show rent stabilization does not have an impact on new construction.^{3 4 5 6}

Rent stabilization is an important tool to redress the impacts of systemic racism in our housing market. While rent stabilization protects all tenants, it disproportionately benefits low-income tenants, seniors, people of color, women-headed households, persons living with disability and chronic illness, families with children, and others who have the least choice in the rental market and are most susceptible to rent gouging.

Oregonians need help right now. Rent stabilization can take effect right away, operate at scale, and prevent eviction and homelessness for those who are currently at risk.

If we don't act now, we will continue to see the revolving door of homelessness.

