

# America's Tomorrow: Equity Is the Superior Growth Model

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By Angel Ross

This week, as part of the [#RenterWeekofAction](#), September 18 to 23, renters in over 45 cities will take to the streets to demand better protections from displacement and more community control over land and housing.

Recognizing the severity of the housing affordability crisis facing renters from Oakland to Miami and the need for policy solutions, the [National Equity Atlas](#), a partnership between PolicyLink and the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, analyzed the growth of renters in the nation and [in 37 cities](#), their contributions to the economy, and what renters and the United States stand to gain if housing were affordable.

We found that renters now represent the [majority in the 100 largest cities](#) in the U.S. and are growing as a share of the population nationwide, comprising 35 percent of the population — a 27 percent increase since 2000. Renters also make tremendous contributions to economic, social, and political life. They bring vitality, culture, and connection to their neighborhoods and cities; they vote and volunteer in local schools; they bring dollars into their communities. Nationally, they spend \$1.5 trillion per year after paying for rent and utilities, contributing billions to local economies across the country.

Read more in [Next City](#).