



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

**COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT**

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**Why Seattle's Pandemic Eviction Moratorium Must be Extended  
Through the End of the Public Health Emergency  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do we still need the COVID eviction moratorium?**

We cannot be fooled by exaggerated claims by the political establishment about declining COVID cases. The fatality rate from COVID is still frighteningly high, both in the United States and globally. In fact, the daily fatality rate is still nearly as high as during the peaks of earlier waves of the pandemic. Ending the eviction moratorium now would lead to a deadly wave of evictions, and increased homelessness, in the midst of this ongoing crisis. We know from before the pandemic that [nearly nine out of ten evictions result in homelessness](#).

Recent [census survey data](#) show that **a staggering 132,000 households in the Seattle-metro area are multiple months behind on rent and are not confident they will be able to pay rent next month**. The number of households behind on rent is as high now as it was at various points in 2021. To add to that, Seattle rents have seen [double-digit increases just during 2021](#), on top of the cumulative rent spikes over the past decade.

The eviction moratorium should be extended through the end of the public health emergency. That will need to be followed up with a mass movement to win a strong, citywide rent control policy, and an increase in the Amazon Tax to fund a massive expansion of high-quality, affordable, social housing.

**What does the eviction moratorium do?**

The eviction moratorium has kept tens of thousands of Seattle's renters in their home during the COVID public health crisis and ensuing economic and housing crises. Seattle's eviction