

# Over 92% of tenants facing eviction are unrepresented. We need to change this!

## Evictions are going up

Over the past 10 years, on average nearly 40,000 eviction cases have been filed a year in Massachusetts. At stake in each of these cases is someone's housing.

## Trauma of eviction

The trauma of eviction is devastating. Losing a home sends families into shelters and onto the streets. It invites depression and illness, spirals into job loss, is uprooting neighborhoods.

## Most tenants are unrepresented

Over 92% of tenants last year were forced to fight their eviction case in Housing Court without an attorney, while most landlords have an attorney.

## Representation matters

Having an attorney and access to right resources, education, and support can change the outcome for the better for a tenant and preserve a tenancy. The Massachusetts Right to Counsel Coalition is working to ensure that low income people have access to resources and assistance that can prevent their eviction.

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**To join the Growing List  
of Supporters for Right to  
Counsel and for more  
information go to  
[www.MassRTC.org](http://www.MassRTC.org)**

## Join the Growing List of Right to Counsel Supporters

A broad coalition of municipal leaders, housing advocates, and community groups support legislation to provide a right to counsel in Massachusetts for low income people facing eviction.

Allston/Brighton Community Development Corp  
Boston Tenant Coalition  
Chelsea Collaborative  
Chinese Progressive Association  
Citizens' Housing and Planning Association  
City Life/Vida Urbana  
City of Boston  
Community Action Agency of Somerville  
Fenway Community Development Corporation  
Greater Boston Legal Services  
Heisler, Feldman & McCormick  
HomeStart  
Homes for Families  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts  
League of Women Voters - Salem  
Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School  
Lynn United for Change  
Mass Assoc of Community Development Corp  
Mass Senior Action Council  
Mass Coalition for the Homeless  
Mass Law Reform Institute  
Mass Smart Growth Alliance  
Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
MetroWest Legal Services  
NuLawLabs, Northeastern School of Law  
Project Hope  
Right to the City Boston  
Rosie's Place  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Boston  
The Neighborhood Developers  
Tenant Advocacy Project at Harvard Law School  
United Way of Mass Bay and Merrimack Valley  
Western Mass Network to End Homelessness

# Who Is Co-sponsoring Right to Counsel bills?

## Lead Sponsors

Senator Sal N. DiDomenico - S. 913

Rep Chynah Tyler – H. 3456

Rep David M. Rogers and Rep Michael S. Day - H. 1537

Boston Mayor Walsh is a co-sponsor of H. 3456

## Co-Sponsors

*The following Senators and Representatives signed-on to co-sponsor at least one of the three Right to Counsel bills, some co-sponsored all three bills. The bills have been reported to the Judiciary Committee.*

"It is David versus Goliath," says Sal DiDomenico, a state senator from Everett. "People who are low income don't have the resources to compete."

**Hard Times, High Rents**

*Globe Magazine*

Feb. 19, 2019

## Senators

Joseph A. Boncore  
William N. Brownsberger  
Harriette L. Chandler  
Nick Collins  
Joanne M. Comerford  
Brendan P. Crighton  
Diana DiZoglio  
James B. Eldridge  
Cindy F. Friedman  
Patricia D. Jehlen  
Rebecca L. Rausch

## Representatives

Brian M. Ashe  
Ruth B. Balser  
Natalie M. Blais  
Christine P. Barber  
Jennifer E. Benson  
Antonio F. D. Cabral  
Peter Capano  
Michelle L. Ciccolo  
Mike Connolly  
Daniel R. Cullinane  
Marjorie C. Decker  
Marcos A. Devers  
Mindy Domb  
Michelle M. DuBois  
Nika C. Elugardo  
Tricia Farley-Bouvier  
Sean Garballey  
Denise C. Garlick  
Carlos Gonzalez  
James K. Hawkins  
Stephan Hay  
Jonathan Hecht  
Natalie M. Higgins  
Kate Hogan  
Russell E. Holmes

Kevin G. Honan  
Daniel J. Hunt  
Mary S. Keefe  
James M. Kelcourse  
Kay Khan  
David Henry Argosky  
LeBoeuf  
Jack Patrick Lewis  
Adrian C. Madaro  
Elizabeth A. Malia  
Paul W. Mark  
Joseph McGonagle, Jr.  
Paul McMurtry  
Joan Meschino  
Liz Miranda  
Michael J. Moran  
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.  
Tram T. Nguyen  
Denise Provost  
Maria Duaime  
Robinson  
Daniel J. Ryan  
Lindsay N. Sabadosa  
Jon Santiago  
José F. Tosado  
Andres X. Vargas  
Aaron Vega  
Tommy Vitolo  
Bud L. Williams

"...right to counsel could save the state and localities millions annually in terms of sheltering or subsidizing those who are displaced."

***Massachusetts right to counsel legislation gains urgency amid rising number of evictions***

Curbed Boston  
Feb 20, 2019

## There's still time to co-sponsor the Senate Bill, S. 913

If your Senator or Representative has not yet signed on use the fact sheet and ask them to support Right to Counsel for eviction cases. Both Senators and Representatives can sign-on to S. 913 until it is reported out of Committee.