

# Chicago Housing Justice League



## Just Cause to Evict: Help Chicagoans Keep Their Homes

### What is the proposed Just Cause to Evict ordinance?

“[Just Cause to Evict](#)” would protect people from losing their homes without a legitimate reason.

### What is the current law?

Illinois and Chicago law allows people to lose their home, if they rent, for ANY reason or NO reason at all, as long as proper notice is given.

### How would Just Cause work?

Just Cause allows renters to keep their homes, unless the landlord shows one of the listed good causes to evict. The landlord must prove that the renter violated the rental agreement (non-payment of rent, disturbing neighbors, damaging the property or using the unit for criminal activity). Or, if the tenant has done nothing wrong, the landlord must demonstrate a well-recognized, listed reason to compel the renter to move (renting the unit to a close relative, making major repairs, or taking the unit off the market) and, for these reasons, the landlord would pay relocation assistance. Just Cause will also require advance notice of rent increases: the greater the increase, the longer notice period.

### Why is Just Cause necessary?

Housing is a basic human need and should be a human right. Unfortunately, over 10,000 Chicago families are forced to move every year through no fault of their own, leading to housing insecurity, neighborhood instability, and increased displacement and gentrification in many of the city’s oldest and most established communities. People cannot find new homes as landlords are reluctant to rent to people with an eviction on their records or credit reports. Also, the top ten Chicago neighborhoods where people are losing their homes to evictions are overwhelmingly Black or Latinx.

### Is Just Cause a novel idea?

No, Just Cause for Eviction exists in four states (California, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Oregon) and more than 20 cities, including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C., while over 50,000 Chicago subsidized apartments have been under a Just Cause requirement for decades. This is just a common sense, extension of the residential tenant law.

### Want to get involved?

Volunteer at [www.justcausechicago.org](http://www.justcausechicago.org).