

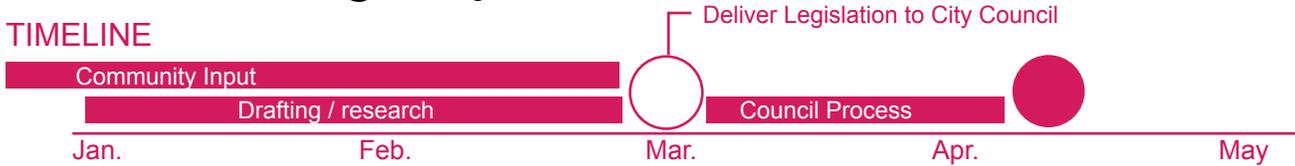
Preventing Source of Income Discrimination

Renters who receive income from Social Security, veteran’s benefits, child support, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Section 8 vouchers should not face barriers to housing based on their income type. It is currently illegal under City law to discriminate against a tenant based on the use of a Section 8 voucher. The City will introduce legislation that expands anti-discrimination laws to include other sources of income.

The Seattle Office for Civil Rights has convened diverse stakeholders to provide input on a legislative strategy to address barriers currently faced by low-income people while also balancing business concerns.
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Legislation would ensure landlords can’t discriminate against tenants based on the source of their income.



Strengthening Tenant Protections

The Mayor and Council are working to strengthen protections for renter households that live in substandard dwelling units and/or experience other prohibited landlord-led actions. Proposed legislation includes:

- Require minimum housing standards to be met when rent increases occur.
- Enhance protections for tenants who experience prohibited landlord-led actions (e.g. retaliation for complaints).
- Enable City enforcement action against landlords that do not provide 60 days’ notice before applying a rent increase of 10% or more.
- Streamline the penalty structure for violations of the Housing Code.

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Legislation would protect tenants from rent increases without adequate notice.

