Affordable Housing is a Myth!

Across the country, landlords and developers are seizing every opportunity to raise rents, kick out workers and the poor, and bring in people able to pay skyrocketing prices. Housing has become a luxury that only the rich can afford.

- About half of the working population can't afford a one-bedroom apartment.

- Over five million households are behind on rent.

- Over 3.7 million people are living "doubled up" (sharing housing with others in small spaces meant for less people).

Nationwide, the average renter is paying more than 30% of their income in rent. But that includes renters of all incomes. For working-class households, especially those in or near big cities, the average renter is paying 50% or more of their income in rent, and having to live farther and farther from work in order to do so.

- In Oakland, California, a worker would need to make about $77,000 per year just to afford to live in a one-bedroom apartment (to pay about 30% of their income in rent).

- In Baltimore, Maryland, a worker would need to make about $54,000 per year just to afford to live in a one-bedroom apartment.

- In New Jersey, a worker would need to make about $86,000 per year just to afford to live in a one-bedroom apartment.

Politicians cater to big developers, who find all sorts of ways to get around offering affordable housing — raising the income level of what counts as affordable, or only offering a few units in a new complex. And there are little to no laws placing restrictions on skyrocketing rents. There are nearly three times as many people in need of affordable housing as there are reduced rental units available. So, hundreds of thousands of low-income families have been on wait lists for years, with no end in sight.

Housing is a necessary part of life and should be guaranteed to every person in society. But the bosses know that if workers can't afford rent, then we are more likely to accept working at low-paid jobs because we need the money. Most workers are just one paycheck away from facing eviction. Under capitalism, expensive housing is just another way for the rich to get richer and for the bosses to try to keep us desperate enough to tolerate their exploitation.

Get in touch with us if you want to fight for a better world.

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Wall Street Money Supports Biden

Soon after Biden announced his re-election run, he had a two-day fundraiser with 120 of his biggest donors, which included CEO's of some of the biggest financial companies, and other billionaires of the business world. With nothing to show for working people, Biden knows he's going to need all the money he can get — even more than the $1.4 billion he spent in 2020.

And why are these big-time capitalists supporting Biden and the Democrats? One put it very plainly: "Biden has been good for the economy" (meaning: *good for their profits*) and "the fear of him moving to the left hasn't happened." The Democrats pretend to represent something different than the Republicans, but their donors make it clear that both parties defend the same system.

Hollywood Writers Have Had Enough

On May 1, the Writers Guild of America, representing TV and film writers, launched a major strike. Writing for the entertainment industry isn't the glamorous job many people imagine. Long hours, low pay, no benefits, job insecurity — writers face all of these things. Not only that, the big movie and TV companies have taken advantage of recent changes in the industry to chip away at writers' working conditions. Pandemic-era online meetings never ended because they are cheaper than real-world workplaces. Writers are burnt out and have had enough. But just like many workers, they strike, and their industry shuts down. Those who do the work have the power!

Workers in France on the March!

More than a million people across France demonstrated on May 1, International Workers Day, against the move by the French government to raise the age of retirement. The demonstrations, along with strikes across the workforce, show the anger of the working class at this brutal attack on their quality of life.

Some politicians from the so-called left, and union officials, are looking for an agreement or calling for a referendum, as if there can be a compromise, and as if the will of working people isn't clear. But so far, the movement against the pension reform shows no sign of slowing down.

The Oakland A's: Stolen by the Rich

Billionaire owner of the Oakland A's baseball team has signed a deal to abandon Oakland for Las Vegas. The Oakland A's have been in the city since 1968, in their current stadium at the Oakland Coliseum. Working class families have been connected to this team for multiple generations. And this fan base has stuck with the team for years of ups and downs. It is a total gut punch to lose this team after so long. And for what? The rich billionaire owner, John J. Fisher, son of the founder of Gap Clothing, wants to abandon Oakland, and settle for the rich playground of Las Vegas, where he can pay less for a stadium. He has no concern for the fans, who've been around much longer he has, and no concern for the city of Oakland.

Fans and the players should have a say on what happens to our teams, not the billionaire owners, who treat our teams like their little toys.

Older Workers Can't Afford to Retire

Millions of U.S. workers, especially workers of color, make poverty-level wages and can't possibly support themselves when they retire, even with Social Security. So, workers have to spend more years at low-paying jobs, even as their health declines. About half of all workers with retirement accounts have less than $10,000 in those accounts when they reach retirement age. How long will $10,000 last? And how many people can't even afford to put any money into such an account?

After decades of work, elderly workers should be able to retire comfortably, and not be stuck in low-wage jobs, forced to keep working just to survive.

I USED TO BE IN THE LABOR FORCE.

NOW I'M IN FORCED LABOR!