

## Basic rights:

**Living conditions:** Your landlord must provide safe, sanitary and livable housing conditions. (No mice or insect infestation, working plumbing, heat, ventilation, etc.)

**No retaliation:** Your landlord may not retaliate against you for reporting housing code violations.

**No self help eviction:** Your landlord may not force you or your things out of your home without a court order.

**Utility shut-off:** Your landlord may not disconnect your utilities under any circumstance.

**Deposit:** Your landlord may not charge you more than the equivalent of two months rent for your security deposit. The landlord must return your security deposit within 30 days from the date you move out along with an explanation for any money taken back for repairs.

**Privacy and respect:** Your landlord may not enter your residence without your permission or advance notice.

**Discrimination:** A landlord may not deny you housing or treat you differently from other tenants because of your race, color, national origin, sex, gender, disability, religion or family status. Sexual harassment is prohibited.


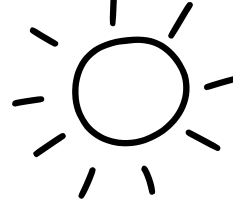
**Late Fees:** Your landlord may only charge you for fees (including late fees) that are provided for in your lease.

**Deceptive behavior:** Your landlord may not misrepresent the condition of the home to get you to move in or make other false statements to you.

**If Landlord sells the property:** If your landlord sells the building to another, the new owner must provide you with notice, contact information and a copy of the deed before collecting rent.

**And a right to organize.**

**EVICTIION DEFENSE, TENANT  
SUPPORT/ORGANIZING HOTLINE  
(508)-556-0639**



**WORCESTER TENANTS  
UNION**

WTU is an organization of tenants and workers in the so called Worcester area united to fight evictions and the for profit housing system entirely.

**(508)-556-0639**

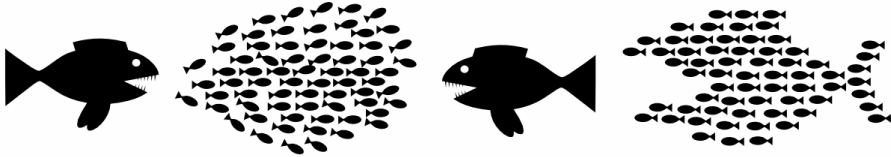


**★ DEFEND THE ★  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
BUILD TENANT POWER**

# WHAT IS A TENANTS UNION?

Tenant unions are building, neighborhood, and city-based groups of tenants fighting for shared needs. We fight as groups to have each other's backs & to support each other's demands. Alone, we are often not heard. Together, we can build a strong front and force our landlords into making repairs, stopping evictions and even giving up ownership. Together, we can fight so everyone has good, safe housing.

**DONT PANIC, ORGANIZE!**



## SHARED PROBLEMS SHARED SOLUTIONS

Building trust and relationships with your neighbors now will help you know how to support one other and fight together against your landlord. Community between tenants can help us learn what it means to live with people who are different from us in language, ethnicity, race, sexuality, and beliefs. Community is a strong tool that protects our housing. Share stories, knowledge, tips, skills and tools with your neighbors! You might be facing similar problems, or even discover similar hobbies or interests!

**INTRODUCE** yourself & your housing story.

Ask about their LIFE AND WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THEM. Ask about the ISSUES they have with the apartment, landlord, etc. What would they change?

**AGITATION:** Do we deserve this? It's not our fault we can't pay rent right now. Do we have the power to change this? What would it look like if we won?

**ASK:** Are you willing to let these things happen to us? How can we fight together? GET YOURSELF AND THEM READY for possible action/threats from the landlord

**FOLLOW UP:** Ask who else they know? Would they join us in a tenant meeting?  
Can they talk to their friends?



# ELEMENTS OF A STRATEGIC CAMPAIGN

Follow up with your neighbors and start planning.

## WHAT ARE YOUR DEMANDS?

Demands should be specific (what do you want), name a target (who can do it), have a deadline (when does it need to happen), and shared among the group (we all want this).

EXAMPLES OF DEMANDS: A THREE MONTH RENT SUSPENSION, NO LATE FEES, NO EVICTIONS, MAINTENANCE THAT HASN'T HAPPENED, NOTICE BEFORE ENTRY

## WHO IS YOUR TARGET?

Who has the power to fix the problem?  
This is often your landlord. How can you make them change their mind?



APPLY PRESSURE: WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR LANDLORD, NAME SHAME THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA, START A PETITION, CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOLIDARITY

## WHAT ARE YOUR TACTICS?

Come up with actions, based on what you know about your target and their weak spots. Make sure to have bigger actions planned if you don't get a response or your landlord threatens retaliation.

EXAMPLES OF TACTICS: COLLECTIVE DEMAND LETTERS TO THE LANDLORD, PRESS BRIEFINGS, GETTING YOUR CITY COUNCIL PERSON TO CONTACT THE OWNER/MANAGER, SIGNS IN WINDOWS, SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS, RENT STRIKES



Email: [WorcTenants@protonmail.com](mailto:WorcTenants@protonmail.com)

Website: [WorcesterTenantsUnion.org](http://WorcesterTenantsUnion.org)

Social Media: @WorcTenants

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