

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

April 14, 2026

Declaring Housing Insecurity in Los Angeles County a Public Health Crisis

Los Angeles County (County) is home to more than ten million residents across over three million households, with fifty-three percent of those households living in rental housing. Every resident deserves safe, healthy, and affordable housing, which is essential to physical, mental, and social well-being. Studies¹ have shown that housing insecurity is a significant public-health determinant that contributes to chronic disease, toxic stress, exposure to violence, respiratory illness, behavioral health crises, negative birth outcomes, preventable emergency medical use, and premature mortality.

The following resolution declares housing insecurity a public health crisis and affirms that all County departments must treat housing stability as fundamental to the health, safety, and prosperity of County residents. It directs departments to coordinate cross-sector action plans to address housing preservation, expand housing stability, and address the health consequences of housing insecurity. As part of this coordination, the resolution directs the Department of Homeless Services and Housing to host an intradepartmental housing summit at least every two (2) years for collective data review, analysis, and strategy planning, aligning the timing with the annual Los Angeles County Housing Outcomes Report. This is an important step to ensure County departments

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10728029/>

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MOTION

MITCHELL _____

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continue to collaborate on strategies and align on data that support the health and housing of all Angelenos.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt the attached resolution declaring housing insecurity a public health crisis.
2. Direct the Directors of the Departments of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH), Public Health, Health Services, Mental Health, and Consumer and Business Affairs, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, and other relevant department heads, along with the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Development Authority, to coordinate cross-sector action plans to prevent housing loss, expand housing stability interventions, and address the health consequences of housing insecurity.
3. Direct the Director of HSH to convene an intradepartmental housing summit at least every two (2) years for collective data review, analysis, and strategy planning, aligning the timing with the annual Los Angeles County Housing Outcomes Report.

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(IG/PL)

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROCLAIMING HOUSING INSECURITY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County is home to over ten million residents, and stable, safe, and affordable housing is essential to the physical, mental, and social well-being of every individual; and

WHEREAS, housing insecurity — including rent burden, overcrowding, substandard housing, displacement, eviction risk, frequent moves, and homelessness — has reached crisis levels, disproportionately impacting low-income residents, working families, older adults, people with disabilities, immigrants, women-led households, and Black, Indigenous, and other people of color; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, of the Los Angeles County households that are extremely low-income, 79% of them were paying more than half their income on housing costs.

WHEREAS, the 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count shows that over 72,000 residents are unhoused on any given night, while hundreds of thousands more are one missed paycheck, illness, or rent increase away from losing housing; and

WHEREAS, decades of inadequate housing production, income inequality, rising rents, a shortage of deeply affordable units, and structural inequities have made housing insecurity a widespread and chronic condition in Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, housing insecurity is a recognized social determinant of health that contributes to chronic disease, toxic stress, exposure to violence, respiratory illness, behavioral health crises, negative birth outcomes, preventable emergency medical use, and premature mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Department of Health Services, and Department of Mental Health consistently identify housing instability as a major cause of avoidable illness, crisis episodes, and health disparities; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County has pioneered nationally recognized health-and-housing programs — including Housing for Health, recuperative care, sustained street-based medicine, and behavioral health housing — demonstrating that access to stable housing is among the most effective health interventions; and

WHEREAS, the lack of stable housing undermines community safety, family stability, educational attainment, economic mobility, and the County's ability to advance racial equity and health equity; and

WHEREAS, addressing homelessness alone is insufficient without upstream efforts to stabilize households facing rent burden, displacement, eviction, habitability issues, and economic shocks; and

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WHEREAS, proclaiming housing insecurity as a public health crisis will expand the County's ability to align health, housing, planning, legal, economic, and community-based strategies, mobilize cross-sector partnerships, and elevate prevention as a core component of the regional response; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County is committed to ensuring that all residents — regardless of income, background, age, or circumstance — have access to safe, healthy, and stable homes as a foundation for well-being and dignity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles hereby declares housing insecurity a public health crisis and affirms that all County departments shall treat housing stability as fundamental to the health, safety, and prosperity of the County's residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles directs the Directors of the Departments of Homeless Services and Housing, Public Health, Health Services, Mental Health, and Consumer and Business Affairs, the Chief Executive Officer, and relevant department heads, along with the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Development Authority, to coordinate a cross-sector action plan to prevent housing loss, expand housing stability interventions, and address the health consequences of housing insecurity; and to explore the use of existing delegated authorities to rapidly advance and coordinate cross-sector action plans addressing housing insecurity as a public health crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Los Angeles County commits to advancing evidence-based, equity-centered, and community-informed strategies to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to thrive in safe, stable, and affordable housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Department of Homeless Services and Housing will host an intradepartmental housing summit at least every 2 years for collective data review, analysis, and strategy planning, aligning the timing with the annual Los Angeles County Housing Outcomes report.