

THE SO-CALLED FAIR ORDINANCE IS AN UNFAIR ROLLBACK FOR RENTERS.

A proposed law called the "FAIR Ordinance" would roll back renter protections in Chicago.

RLTO means the current law, the Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance. **PRO** means the proposed Protecting Renters Ordinance. The **FAIR Ordinance** is the competing counterproposal.

- 1 Current RLTO is the floor.**
It includes some notice and tenant remedies, but no general just-cause requirement.
- 2 PRO adds stronger protections.**
It would add just cause, clearer defenses, relocation help, and enforcement tools.
- 3 The FAIR Ordinance falls short.**
It leaves out or weakens several of the protections renters need most.

✓ Adds or keeps a stronger protection ~ Limited or partial protection ✗ Not included or weakened

FAIR would broaden the small-landlord exemption to cover landlords with fewer than 12 units.

That change could place thousands of tenants outside important protections involving access, security deposits, junk fees, foreclosure notices, code violations, essential services, retaliation, fire, and required notices and information.

Protection	Current RLTO	Protecting Renters Ordinance	FAIR Ordinance
Just cause to end or refuse renewal of a tenancy A landlord must have a valid reason before forcing a move.	✗ Not required	✓ Adds it	✗ Leaves it out
Clear eviction defenses when a landlord violates the rules Tenants can raise notice, cause, or relocation violations in court.	~ Limited / implied	✓ Strongest	✗ Removes existing defenses
Relocation help for no-fault displacement Moving assistance when renters are pushed out through no fault of their own.	✗ Not required	✓ Adds it	✗ Leaves it out
Tiered notice before rent increases Current law requires 30, 60, or 120 days depending on tenancy length.	✓ 30 / 60 / 120 days	✓ Strengthens to 120 days	~ Keeps notice periods but weakens the remedy
A remedy when a landlord gives a late non-renewal notice Notice only protects a renter when there is a consequence for ignoring it.	✓ Tenant may stay through the required notice period	✓ Keeps protections	✗ Removes the post-notice remedy
Security deposit and junk-fee limits Caps and transparency for upfront costs.	~ Some protections	✓ Stronger	~ Partial
Small-landlord threshold How many units a landlord may own before key RLTO protections no longer apply.	✓ 4-unit threshold	✓ Keeps 4-unit threshold	✗ Fewer than 12 units
Citywide rental registry and public enforcement A way to track rental units and repeat violations.	✗ No registry	✓ Adds tools	~ More limited and unfunded
Codify a Chicago eviction-defense program Helps renters get legal advice or representation when they are at risk of eviction.	✗ No dedicated program	✓ Adds eviction-counsel program	✗ No dedicated program

TAKE ACTION: EMAIL OR CALL YOUR ALDERPERSON.
UnfairOrdinance.org has a tool that makes it easy to email and call your alderperson.

