

Dear Neighbor,

You may have seen calls for a 2020 rent strike due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this crisis many have lost their jobs, had their hours and benefits cut, and are sick. Our most impacted community members will not be able to afford rent now, nor retroactive payments in the near future. You should not have to choose between your housing and basic necessities.

We are members of Tenants United Corvallis (<https://tinyurl.com/rhboraa>), we are your neighbors, and we are asking you to join your community in the rent strike. Don't pay rent in April or May!



What is a rent strike and why should I participate?

A rent strike is when renters collectively refuse to pay rent until demands are met. Our demands are that no rent is collected until at least 2 months after all workers have been able to return to work. Our paying or withholding rent is our strongest form of power against landlords, and by disrupting their profits we can make them act on demands.

A rent strike works best with numbers. Even if you are able to afford your rent, withholding rent in solidarity with others is the only way this strike will work. If you cannot afford to pay rent, striking and demanding no rent is due until after this crisis is over is necessary and powerful.

How do I participate in the rent strike?

1. Do not pay your rent or mortgage in April or May.
2. Send a declaration of withholding your rent to your landlord (templates linked at <https://tinyurl.com/rhboraa> or QR code to the right)
3. Share this information with everyone you know and ask them to join the strike!



What are the risks?

We encourage you to know your legal rights as a tenant in Oregon. More info can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ums4hbe> (or QR code to the right)

For now, we are all still legally obligated to pay rent during this crisis. But we shouldn't have to, nor can many of us! That is why a rent strike is so important!



What if my landlord or property management company harasses me for participating?

Please reach out to Tenants United Corvallis at tenantsunited@riseup.net if you are being bullied, harassed, or threatened by your landlord or management company. We can discuss ways to support you as a community.

For more information on rent strikes:

- <https://pdxrentstrike.info>
- <https://tinyurl.com/dontpayrent>

If you are in need of other forms of mutual aid, check out the Benton County COVID-19 Request Form here: <https://tinyurl.com/sk9vkl> (or QR code to right)



Phone Zap for No Rent!

In addition to calling for rent strike, we are also working to pressure the governor to suspend all rent and mortgage payments until the COVID-19 crisis passes.

We're asking Tenants United Corvallis members, all renters, and our allies to call the governor and demand: No rent as long as we can't work!

Here is the number for the governor's office: (503) 378-4582 [because of the stay at home order, you will likely just be leaving a voicemail]

Here is a template of what you can say, but feel free to make it your own:

"Hi, my name is __, I'm a resident of [Corvallis, OR] [and I'm a member of Tenants United Corvallis]. I'm also a renter and today I'm calling to talk to you about rent!

We all know that the COVID-19 pandemic is both a disaster to public health and to our tenuous economy. In our community, where nearly 37% of the population was already severely burdened by rent, layoffs and loss of hours due to the stay-at-home order leave tenants and working class folks in an impossible situation. Renters are having to choose between putting their own and others' health at risk to make rent or facing eviction once the pandemic ends. The 90-day ban on evictions is a start, but does not provide nearly enough support to renters, who need as much as they can to weather shortages and predatory price gouging. 90 days from now, just when our state will be working hard to recover, a wave of delayed evictions would only deepen our crisis.

Today, I'm calling on the state to suspend all payment of rent for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. In a crisis where the need is so great and so immediate, the suspension of rent is the most fair and most simple solution. We ask you to ban landlords from collection of rent for April and until the stay-at-home order has been lifted. Any rent already paid for the month of April shall be carried forward to count towards future months rent.

Thank you for your prompt and decisive action to support tenants and ensure Oregonians can, indeed, stay-at-home."