



## 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities

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Rosie's Place was founded in 1974 as the first women's shelter in the United States. Our mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that helps poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives. Our policy priorities are set based on guests' needs and aim to improve the lives of historically disenfranchised women experiencing homelessness and poverty.

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### Shelter & Homelessness

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An Act improving emergency housing assistance for children and families experiencing homelessness (H.202 Rep. Decker & Miranda | S.111 Sen. Gomez)

Streamline the application and verification process for EA shelter, create an ombudsperson unit to advocate for families within the system, and ensure that families can access shelter as soon as they are in need and are not forced to sleep in unsafe places.

An Act providing a bill of rights for people experiencing homelessness (H.246 Rep. Pignatelli & Moran | S.142 Sen. Rausch)

Recognize and affirm various rights of people experiencing homelessness, such as the right to move freely in public spaces, the right to confidentiality of records, the right to privacy of property, the right to register to vote and to vote, etc., and provide additional civil rights protections for people experiencing homelessness. Also give the Superior Court jurisdiction to enforce the rights included in the legislation.

An Act to provide identification to youth and adults experiencing homelessness (H.3515 Rep. Khan & O'Day | S.2276 Sen. Chandler)

Improve access to standard MA IDs for people experiencing homelessness by requiring the RMV to create a process and fee waiver for people without a permanent address to acquire an ID.

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### Eviction & Homelessness Prevention

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An Act providing upstream homelessness prevention assistance to families, youth, and adults (H.1385 Rep. Decker & Miranda)

Codify the RAFT program, ensure that benefits are available to households earlier in a crisis, streamline access, and allow households to access the resources needed to clear their arrearages without arbitrary caps.

An Act to prevent COVID-19 evictions and foreclosures and promote an equitable housing recovery (H.1434 Rep. Moran & Honan | S.891 Sen. Jehlen)

Establish comprehensive eviction prevention measures including a pause on no-fault evictions during the state of emergency, requirements for landlords to pursue rental assistance programs before filing an eviction, and protections for tenants against forced removal for COVID-19 debts.

An Act promoting housing stability and homelessness prevention in Massachusetts (H.1436 Rep. Rogers & Day | S.874 Sen. DiDomenico)

Provide legal representation for low-income tenants and low-income owner-occupants in eviction proceedings.

*At Rosie's Place, we don't just educate our guests in the democratic process. We strive to engage and empower them through it.*

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### Housing Access

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An Act promoting housing opportunity and mobility through eviction sealing (HOMES) (H.1808 Rep. Moran|S.921 Sen. Boncore)

Protect tenants from unfairly gaining an eviction record if they don't have a judgement against them, if they weren't actually evicted or if they didn't do anything wrong.

An Act relative to the Massachusetts rental voucher program (H.1428 Rep. Madaro|S.898 Sen. Lovely)

Codify MRVP into law, lower the monthly rent liability for voucher holders from 40% to 30% of their monthly income, and mandate that allocated MRVP funds are spent each fiscal year so that those most in need of housing can access it.

An Act providing for climate change adaptation infrastructure and affordable housing investments in the Commonwealth (H.2890 Rep. Elugardo|S.1853 Sen. Eldridge)

Double the current Deeds Excise Tax (from \$4.56 per \$1,000 to \$9.12 per \$1,000) to generate \$300 million in new revenue each year and invest in affordable housing and climate resiliency (50/50).

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### Safety Net & Public Benefits

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An Act to streamline access to critical public health and safety-net programs through common applications (H.1290 Rep. Livingstone|S.761 Sen. DiDomenico)

Allow low-income households to apply for MassHealth and SNAP at the same time via a common application. Also, require the Department of Transitional Assistance to allow households to apply for SNAP and cash benefits at the same time. This lays the foundation for a common application portal for families to access safety-net benefits.

An Act to lift kids out of deep poverty (H.199 Rep. Decker|S.96 Sen. DiDomenico)

Raise the maximum grants for TAFDC and EAEDC by 20% a year until they reach 50% of poverty and set a floor for cash assistance benefits at 50% of the federal poverty level so that benefit levels are adjusted with inflation.

An Act relative to language access and inclusion (H.3199 Rep. Madaro & Gonzalez|S.2040 Sen. DiDomenico)

Require all public agencies to offer interpretation services, translate vital documents, and employ language access coordinators. Also, create a stakeholder advisory board and enforce agencies' language access plans.

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### Voting Rights & Access

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An Act fostering voting opportunities, trust, equity, and security (VOTE) (H.805 Rep. Lawn|S.459 Sen. Creem)

Make vote-by-mail reforms permanent, expand early voting, ensure incarcerated eligible voters are not left out of elections, and establish same day voter registration.

An Act to establish free access to ride to elections in Massachusetts (FARE) (H.3547 Rep. Tyler & Moran|S.2261 Sen. Boncore)

Make public transit systems in the Commonwealth free to ride on state primary and general election days.

**We urge you to co-sponsor and actively support these bills during the 2021-2022 legislative session!**

If you have any questions, please contact Gaby Thurston, at [gthurston@rosiesplace.org](mailto:gthurston@rosiesplace.org), 617-318-0244.