

# Lincoln Coalition Wants to End Source of Income-Based Discrimination Faced by Many Renters

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln/Lancaster County, alongside 13 community organizations and 514 individuals, strongly advocates for the introduction and passing of a Lincoln city ordinance. This ordinance aims to prevent source-of-income discrimination against potential renters relying on housing vouchers, disability benefits, etc., to contribute to their rent payments.

On December 18, 2023, member organizations and community advocates gathered outside the City/County building at 5 PM in a show of support for the proposed ordinance during a news conference. Jean McGuire, VP for Action, and Cynthia Peterson, President represented LWVLL.

During the news conference, Kasey Ogle, senior staff attorney for Collective Impact, highlighted the damaging impact of source-of-income discrimination on Lincoln's housing crisis and its contribution to racial inequalities within our community. Ogle emphasized, 'Rental assistance is a vital resource for low-income families striving for stability and an escape from poverty's cycle. Unfortunately, Lincoln lacks safeguards, enabling landlords to reject tenants solely based on their rent payment method. Ending source-of-income discrimination is crucial to provide a baseline protection for those diligently working to improve their lives.

While 23 states and 134 cities have successfully implemented legislation prohibiting source-of-income discrimination, Nebraska has yet to follow suit.

After the press conference, supporters reconvened in the City Council chambers. In the council's public comment session, a petition endorsing the new ordinance, signed by over 500 individuals, was formally presented. Multiple advocates voiced strong support for this ordinance, sharing poignant stories of individuals enduring housing struggles.

The City Council holds the next course of action, with their next meeting scheduled after January 1, 2024. LWVLL members are encouraged to express their opinions to their City Council representatives about the proposed ordinance. See <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/City-Council/Council-Members>

