

**PORTLAND TENANTS UNION**  
207-615-RENT (7368)

info@portlandtenants.org

P.O. BOX 4189, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101  
www.portlandtenants.org

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ How many children?: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Regular (renter / tenant) (\$ 5.00) (Must be renting or seeking to rent in Portland)  
Associate (\$40.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Organization / Business (\$60.00) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you cannot currently afford the dues they will be waived—YOU are more important to us than your (lack of) money!**

FOR OFFICE USE: Amt paid/date: \_\_\_\_\_ Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Check/Cash

✂ PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL ✂ ✂ PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL ✂ ✂ PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL ✂

**Portland Tenants Union MISSION**

Portland Tenants Union is a united voice organizing and advocating for the highest standards of affordable housing and working to balance the power between tenants and landlords.

Among the goals of the PTU are:

- educating tenants and the public on their rights
- lobbying the state and local government on tenant issues
- facilitating tenant / landlord and tenant / city issues



*Portland needs to build a minimum of 1500 units of affordable rental housing to achieve a vacancy rate of 5 to 7%.*

**MEMBERSHIP**  
PTU needs YOU!

**Monthly POTLUCK MEETINGS**

FMI: 615-RENT (7368) or  
info@portlandtenants.org



**PORTLAND TENANTS UNION**

**HOUSING**  
of the people,  
by the people,  
for the people.



Portland Tenants Union

[www.portlandtenants.org](http://www.portlandtenants.org)

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**MAINE'S HOUSING WAGE** is \$16.35

A worker earning \$6.25 per hour would have to work 109 hours a week to afford a 2-BR apartment at \$850 per month.

SOURCE: National Low-Income Housing Coalition ( www.nlihc.org )

PLEASE  
PLACE  
1ST CLASS  
POSTAGE  
HERE

**PORTLAND TENANTS UNION**

P.O. BOX 4189  
PORTLAND, ME 04101-0389

**PORTLAND TENANTS  
UNION—Background**

The PTU grew out of frustrations of tenants feeling that the voices of Portland's 36,000+ renters are not being heard. Many of these tenants voiced their concerns at a February 2001 Forum at which consensus was that there are "rapidly increasing rents in relation to non-increasing incomes, lack of subsidized housing, lack of housing related to family income, and discrimination (outright and subtle forms)" throughout the city of Portland.

**58% of PORTLAND PEOPLE ARE RENTERS!** We want individuals, families, and organizations as members. We are all in this together, and need your help. We need 1500 units IMMEDIATELY plus 3500 more units over the next 10 years—5000 TOTAL. We also need to know our rights.

The PTU had its 1st Annual Meeting in January 2002. At our 2nd Annual Meeting in October 2002, Maine Attorney General Steve Rowe advocated "documentation, documentation, documentation." So we developed a Tenants Documentation Form for tenants to use in keeping track of problems with their apartment and/or landlord / management company.

**Estimates of Portland's rental vacancy rate range from 1% to 3%. The equilibrium rate is 5% to 7%**

**HOUSING STATISTICS**

PORTLAND, MAINE

**1990      2000**

Total Households

# Units	28,235	29,807
# People/unit (AVG)	2.21	2.08
# People TOTAL	62,399	61,999

Rental

# Units	16,340	17,121
Vacancy Rate (%)	8.01	3.6 *
# People/unit (AVG)	2.21	2.08
# People RENTERS	36,111	35,611

Non-rental

# Units	11,895	12,686
# People/unit (AVG)	2.21	2.08
# People OWNERS	26,288	26,387

Homeless

# People HOMELESS	1,959	2,453
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**SOURCE:** Maine Sunday Telegram (07-01-01), Supply, affordability at heart of housing crunch

\* A City of Portland survey in May 2001 showed a rental vacancy rate of less than 1%. While some dispute that figure, most recent surveys have shown the vacancy rate decreasing since the 2000 Census to 1% or less.

**WEB LINKS**

WHEN YOU RENT AN APARTMENT  
Maine Attorney General  
[www.maine.gov/ag/index.php?r=clg&s=chap14](http://www.maine.gov/ag/index.php?r=clg&s=chap14)

MODEL LANDLORD RESIDENTIAL LEASE  
Maine Attorney General  
[www.maine.gov/ag/index.php?r=clg&s=chap16](http://www.maine.gov/ag/index.php?r=clg&s=chap16)

**WEB LINKS (continued)**

The Rights of Tenants in Maine  
by Pine Tree Legal Assistance  
[www.ptla.org/tenants.htm](http://www.ptla.org/tenants.htm)

Maine State Housing Authority  
[www.mainehousing.org/](http://www.mainehousing.org/)

"A Citizens Guide to the Maine Courts"  
and "A Guide to Small Claims Proceedings  
in the Maine District Court")  
[www.courts.state.me.us/](http://www.courts.state.me.us/)

National Low Income Housing Coalition  
[www.nlihc.org/](http://www.nlihc.org/)

Citizens Housing and Planning Association  
[www.chapa.org](http://www.chapa.org)

**PORTLAND HOUSING RESOURCES**

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES  
[www.ci.portland.me.us/planning/housingprog.htm](http://www.ci.portland.me.us/planning/housingprog.htm)

HOUSING [PLAN]: Sustaining Portland's Future  
[www.ci.portland.me.us/planning/housingplan.pdf](http://www.ci.portland.me.us/planning/housingplan.pdf)

PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS  
The Portland Web Connector Project  
[www.livinginportland.org](http://www.livinginportland.org)

**Portland Tenants YAHOO! Group**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/portlandtenants>

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