

2000 Center Street, Suite 400
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-RENT (7368)
rent@berkeleyca.gov
rentboard.berkeleyca.gov/

The Rent Board Review

Housing News You Can Use!
Spring 2026

In This Issue:

- What Landlords & Tenants Should Know This Spring
- Executive Director's Message
- Rent Board Services Roundup

Traducción disponible ¡Llámanos! 提供翻譯。致電我們! الترجمة متاحة. اتصل بنا!

WHAT TENANTS SHOULD KNOW

2026 Apparent Lawful Rent Ceiling (ALRC) Notices Mailed to Tenants

Tenants in fully covered rental units will receive their 2026 Apparent Lawful Rent Ceiling Notices in the mail the week of March 8th. These are informational notices informing tenants of the maximum lawful amount they can be charged for rent. You can protect your rights by checking your ALRC Notices for accuracy. Go to our Rent Ceiling webpage to learn what to do if the information is inaccurate, or if the information is accurate but your current rent is more than the reported rent ceiling: bit.ly/RentCeiling



What is a Rent Ceiling?

3 Things to Know About Rent Control in Berkeley

- 1** A rent ceiling is the **maximum lawful amount of rent** a landlord can charge for a rental unit.
- 2** All **fully covered rental units have a rent ceiling** and are subject to rent control. In Berkeley, rent control means that once an initial rent is agreed upon for a new tenancy, future rent increases are controlled by the Rent Board and can only be changed by the Annual General Adjustment or through the Petition process.
- 3** Any **housing services** provided when the tenancy was established (e.g. water, trash, storage, laundry, etc.) are included in the rent ceiling and cannot later be charged separately without going through the Petition process.

Find your rent control coverage in our online Rent Registry!

Did you know you can look up your rent control coverage, your rent ceiling, and unit info in our online Rent Registry? You can even look up information on a property you're thinking about moving into!



IS MY UNIT COVERED BY RENT CONTROL IN BERKELEY?



→
@BerkeleyRentBoard

Learn More on Social Media!

Follow along on Social Media to learn more about rent control in Berkeley!

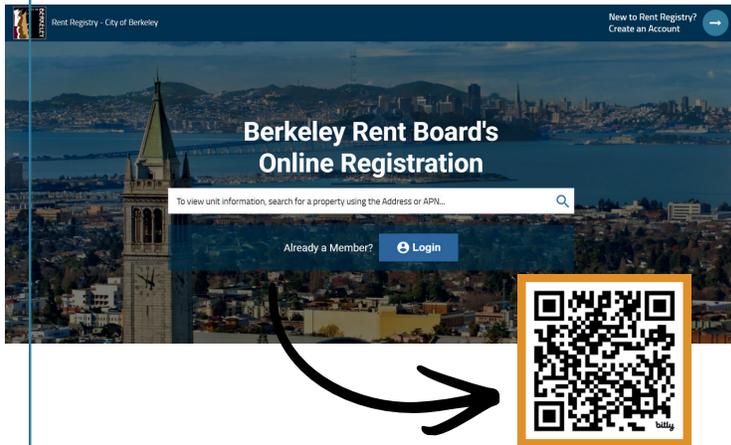
bit.ly/m/FollowBRB    

WHAT LANDLORDS SHOULD KNOW

Annual Registration Billing Opens in April!

Landlords of rental units covered by the Rent Ordinance are required to pay their annual registration fees by July 1. Our online Rent Registry will open for fee payments in April and paper bills will hit doorsteps in the first weeks of April.

Avoid the 100% penalty charge by paying on time by July 1!



Section 8 and Shelter Plus Care Landlords May Now Raise Rent Ceilings to Maximum Allowable Contract Rent

Landlords of government subsidized rental units in Berkeley can now petition the Rent Board to raise rent ceilings on their fully covered units to the maximum allowed by the subsidizing government agency. This does not impact the tenant's portion of rent paid to the landlord. Learn more about the qualifications and petition process in our recent news article: bit.ly/NewsBRB

3 Ways to Get Ready for Annual Fees

1

Have you set up your online Rent Registry account?

Paying online is the easiest way to pay your fees. If you haven't already done so, set up your online Rent Registry account and claim your properties. We have how-to videos to help!

2

Is your contact information up to date?

We'll contact you about your bill using the physical and email addresses listed in the Rent Registry, so make sure they're up to date to avoid missing important fee information.

3

Are your rental units properly registered?

Check to make sure your tenancy and property information is up to date in your account.

Don't Forget Annual Business Licenses and Other City of Berkeley Requirements!

Landlords often have additional legal and financial obligations with the City of Berkeley beyond those with the Berkeley Rent Board. Reminder that City of Berkeley Business licenses expire December 31 and must be renewed annually. For more details on requirements, fees, and penalties, please visit the City of Berkeley Business Licenses webpage or the Landlords webpage: berkeleyca.gov/

Rent Stability Supports Stable Communities

A Note from our Executive Director

Housing stability remains one of the most important foundations of a healthy community.

When residents feel secure in their homes, families can plan, small businesses can grow, and neighborhoods can thrive.

Across Berkeley, we continue to see the pressures that define today's housing landscape: rising operating costs, economic uncertainty, and increasing demand for limited housing stock. These realities affect both renters and housing providers.

Our role at the Berkeley Rent Board is to administer the law with fairness, clarity, and consistency, ensuring that Berkeley's rent stabilization system functions as intended and that the public has access to reliable information and responsive service. This quarter, our focus remains on strengthening core operations, improving our data systems, and ensuring that residents and property owners alike can navigate our processes with confidence.

We are here to support a housing environment that is **predictable, equitable, and sustainable for the entire Berkeley community.**

Yours in service,



DéSeana Williams

Berkeley Rent Board Executive Director

Rent Board Services Roundup

- **Housing Counseling**
- **Property Registration Support**
- **Tenant/Landlord Mediation**
- **Online Rent Registry**
- **Petitions**
- **Educational Events**
- **Language Access Services**

Traducción disponible. ¡Llámanos!

提供翻譯。致電我們!

!الترجمة متاحة. اتصل بنا

The Berkeley Rent Board is here to support a fair and thriving rental community. Whether you're a tenant, landlord, property manager, or real estate agent, we offer resources, education, and guidance to help you understand your rights and responsibilities under Berkeley's Rent Ordinance.

Visit Us: 2000 Center Street, Suite 400
Berkeley, CA 94704

Call Us: (510) 981-RENT (7368)

Email Us: rent@berkeleyca.gov

Website: rentboard.berkeleyca.gov/