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## **Landlord Group Announces Ballot Measure to Raise Berkeley's Tax Rate on Rental Income**

*Increase in tax rate on property owners would raise 50 percent more revenue available for affordable housing programs*

**BERKELEY**, Calif., March 29, 2016—The Berkeley Rental Housing Coalition, an association of rental housing providers, announced today it will begin gathering signatures to qualify for the November ballot an increase in the tax landlords pay on rental income.

Under the measure, the city's annual business license tax—a percentage of gross receipts on rental income—would rise from 1.08 percent to 1.5 percent. The higher rate would bring in at least \$5.3 million a year available for affordable housing programs and would be the highest tax rate of any neighboring city. The total revenue would rise as the rental income of new and future rental units rise.

"The vast majority of the Coalition's members are already doing their part by renting units at below market rate," said Krista Gulbransen, executive director of the Berkeley Rental Housing Coalition. "We recognize the critical need for more resources for city efforts to preserve and build additional affordable housing," Gulbransen added, "and an across-the-board increase in the business license tax owners are paying on rental income is one of the fairest ways to accomplish that."

*The Berkeley Rental Housing Coalition (BRHC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting safe, affordable and well-maintained residential rental housing in the city of Berkeley. By representing the voice of rental housing providers through its political action committee and legal defense fund, BRHC works to restore fairness, efficiency and objectivity to Berkeley's rental housing policies. BRHC is an affiliate of the Berkeley Property Owners Association. Visit us at [www.thebrhc.org](http://www.thebrhc.org).*