

2017 DC Legislative Priorities

Homeowner, Landlord, and Renter Rights

One of the benefits of owning your own home is the right to do with it what you want. But your property's value can be affected by what the owners or renters do next door. DCAR works with legislators to write regulations and laws that balance property owner rights with reasonable restrictions to improve livability in the city. Specific issues include:

- Tenant Bill of Rights
- Landlord requirements
- Vacant property taxes
- Building permits

TOPA and other Transaction Regulations

The Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, or TOPA, is one of the biggest concerns for District homeowners looking to rent out property. DCAR has fought for years to fix some of the problems with the law. In 2017, we are working with Councilmember Anita Bonds, the chair of the Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization, to reform TOPA.

Other transaction regulations we watch include:

- Sign regulations
- Required disclosures and inspections

Affordable and Accessible Housing

The diversity in DC is immense and its housing stock needs to be, too. DCAR supports legislation and programs that increase affordable and accessible housing to meet the housing needs of all DC residents.

Recordation and Transfer Taxes

The District's recordation and transfer tax rates are among the highest in the nation, while its homeownership rate is among the lowest. DCAR is working to make the cost of buying a home more accessible to more people.

Economic Development

Homeownership directly impacts every aspect of a community, and it's one of the biggest drivers of an economy. Homeowners invest more passionately in their neighborhoods, and are the biggest patrons of city businesses including grocery stores, restaurants, and small businesses. We support business-friendly regulations that build communities and expand the DC economy.

Planning for the Future

Decisions made today will determine the DC of the future. DCAR works to ensure that the real estate market of the future is vibrant and that the city continues to be a great place to work, live, and play. Issues include zoning and transportation.