

Name: California YIMBY
Location: California
Founded in: 2018
Team size: 10
2018 Funding: \$3.4M



Organization website



Our History

In the three years since our founding, California YIMBY has been at the forefront of major legislative victories that will help end the housing shortage and make California a more equitable, affordable, and livable state.

Popular Solutions for the Housing and Climate Crises

Our solutions are wildly popular with California voters. Across the political, economic, and demographic spectrum, Californians understand that the housing crisis is the result of a shortage of homes — and that allowing more homes to be built is the solution. Fully 66% of Californians support making it legal for more homes to be built near transit and jobs while protecting tenants. That includes “Yes In My Back Yard” voters who would welcome new homes in their neighborhoods — and on their blocks.

Grounded in Research

Our legislative and policy agenda is guided by empirical research into the causes of the housing shortage and housing cost burdens, and the measures needed to overcome them. We work closely with top housing researchers and academics from across the US, including California’s extensive network of experts on land use, urban planning, housing affordability, transportation systems, low-income housing, and related finance and tax policies.

Changing the National Debate

As the largest YIMBY organization in the largest state in the US, California YIMBY has played an outsized role in advancing the cause of affordable housing and urban land use reform across the country. As our policy priorities advance in the Golden State, other states are taking notice — and taking action: Zoning and land use reform is moving forward in states across the country, taking lessons learned and concepts from our efforts in Sacramento and bringing them to state houses far and wide.

Our pro-housing agenda is also supported by scores of advocacy organizations, with policy partners like AARP, the League of Women Voters, NRDC, the California Labor Federation, the California Chamber of Commerce, the Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and the California Association of Realtors.

Our Mission

We believe that everyone should be able to benefit from California’s boundless opportunity to achieve their full potential. California YIMBY’s mission is to make California an affordable place to live, work, and raise a family. Achieving our mission will put California on a path of broad-based economic prosperity, creating vibrant, livable, and inclusive communities for everyone. We advance our mission by:

- addressing and correcting systemic inequities in California housing laws, and in related laws and regulations;
- empowering Californians across the state to engage their elected representatives at the state and local levels on housing and related policies;
- ensuring that California housing laws and local regulations are evidence-based, equitable and inclusive; and
- drafting and advocating for proven legislative solutions that accelerate the pace of home building.

Our Vision & Values

Our vision is of a California where neighbors welcome new neighbors of all backgrounds, and current residents are not displaced from their communities.

We believe in neighborliness, and that communities are enriched and strengthened by openness and diversity. We believe that California holds the promise of opportunity for all: the chance to start a new life, the freedom to be our authentic selves, the promise of prosperity, the lure of our natural wonders.

We believe in empowerment, and support those who want to accommodate new neighbors while ensuring that new developments take place without displacement. We believe that existing residents have a right to remain in their neighborhoods. We make an effort to seek out and include people with varied backgrounds, experiences and identities to inform our agenda and priorities. We do not tolerate intolerance.