



CITY of YORBA LINDA

2021-2029 Housing Element



Retain Local Land Use Control for the Future of Yorba Linda Housing

Yorba Linda 2021-2029 Housing Element

The City of Yorba Linda is seeking community engagement in our process to develop a new Housing Element that, if adopted, will help the City retain local control over land use planning and residential housing development. Your voice is an important part of that process.

Adopting a Housing Element is a critical requirement of State law. Failure to adopt a certified housing element can result in loss of funding, significant fines, loss of local land use control and create an opportunity for developers to use “Builder’s Remedy”. Builders Remedy allows developers to bypass significant portions of our local land use code and build residential housing on their terms—not the community’s.

Residents are encouraged to take part in the workshops and coffee chats noted below.

Visit YLLocalControl.com to learn more about Yorba Linda housing policy and take a deeper dive into the complex and important issues behind the Yorba Linda Housing Element.

Community Workshop Dates

Virtual Q&A on Zoom

Thursday, September 14 | 6-8 p.m.
Zoom Link at YLLocalControl.com

In-Person Workshop 1 (Central)

Thursday, October 5 | 6-8 p.m.
East Lake Village Association
(Club House)

Coffee & Housing Policy Chat

Saturday, October 7 | 9-10:30 a.m.
Monarch 9 Cafe (Patio)

In-Person Workshop 2 (East)

Tuesday, October 10 | 6-8 p.m.
Travis Ranch Middle School
(Multi-Purpose Room)

In-Person Workshop 3 (West)

Thursday, October 12 | 6-8 p.m.
Yorba Linda Community Center
(Yorba Room)

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 25 | 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

Housing Element FAQs

What is a Housing Element?

A Housing Element is a State-mandated policy document within a City's General Plan that identifies existing and future housing development plans that meet a need for housing as determined by the State. The Housing Element establishes clear housing development goals and zoning changes needed to meet those goals. The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is tasked with reviewing Housing Elements to determine how they adhere to State housing laws and ultimately certifying that the City has met State mandates.

Won't the State Legislature change course on housing policy when it becomes clear that communities are opposed to these State Housing mandates?

Not likely. While Sacramento policy decisions are hard to predict, it is pretty clear from policy experts that the legislature is even more bullish on housing mandates and that, rather than rolling back recent policy requirements, the State Legislature is adding on more mandates or expanding the applicability of mandates. The housing advocates in Sacramento (Yes in my Back Yard / "YIMBY") reportedly have the ear of elected officials and are driving policy while local governments are attempting to defend and retain their diminished local control. The November 2022 statewide election results only strengthened the housing advocates' political power.

Aren't there lawsuits that are going to overturn these State housing mandates? Can't that alleviate the 2,415 RHNA housing allocation?

Yes, there are lawsuits in action now by cities. Indeed, Yorba Linda is a member of the Orange County Council of Government (OCCOG), which has sued the State over the RHNA number for the SCAG region. However, OCCOG recently lost its lawsuit and is now considering an appeal on that decision. Additionally, the City of Huntington Beach is on the front line of challenging the State and the Attorney General. The viability of both lawsuits winning and reducing the incursion of state mandates remains unclear at best. Preliminary results have certainly broken in favor of the State and housing advocates and not local governments.

I hear there are citizen initiatives being drafted that would return local control to cities and roll back many State housing policies. Can't we wait for those to win before we commit to this new housing?

First: if those initiatives are successful, they will not reduce or change the current RHNA housing allocation. They may affect future ones, but all cities are obligated under existing law to address their RHNA housing allocation.

Second: the viability of those initiatives appears low at this time. While there is enthusiasm among local elected leaders and some outspoken members of the public, the initiatives have not seen any substantial financial backing that would help propel them to a ballot through signature gathering. There is no big interest group that appears ready to back the initiative efforts; without money, in a state like California, these are highly unlikely to advance.