

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 02/10/2026 02:33 PM

Council File No: 20-1084-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Why is this group getting taxpayer funding?

Waste of the Day: L.A. Funds Activists, Then Group Sues

By [Jeremy Portnoy](#), RealClearInvestigations
February 04, 2026

Topline: A Los Angeles advocacy group that sued the city twice was simultaneously being funded by the city itself.

Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE) has received at least **\$1.2 million** in city contracts since 2020, including \$375,000 in 2024. The funding stayed intact even while the group sued Los Angeles over **Covid-19 emergency rental assistance** and **hotel construction**.

The nonprofit has also advocated for abolishing the Los Angeles Police Department and **cancelling** the 2028 Summer Olympics, among other social justice issues.

The funding was first reported by the [New York Post](#) and verified through Open the Books' public spending database.

OPENTHEBOOKS.COM
#WASTE OF THE DAY
IT'S YOUR MONEY!

ACTIVISTS GET CITY FUNDS, THEN SUE
\$1.2 MILLION
TAXPAYER-FUNDED
Funding Source: City of Los Angeles

OPEN THE BOOKS™
Every Dime. Online. In Real Time.
BOOKS™
OPEN THE

Waste of the Day 2.4.26

Open the Books

Key facts: Most of SAJE's public money came from the city's Systematic Code Enforcement Program, which is funded by an annual fee on landlords and tenants. The program pays for apartment safety inspections and education about health codes. SAJE does not have to publicly disclose an itemized list of how its money was spent.

In 2023, SAJE and the advocacy group PolicyLink sued Los Angeles over its use of state and federal funds meant for rental assistance during the pandemic. They argued that a confusing application process caused tenants to be wrongfully denied assistance with limited access to the appeals process.

Separately, PolicyLink brought in **\$308,000** from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2024.

SAJE is currently suing the city over its plans to allow a Marriott Hotel to be built on land previously designated for affordable housing, which SAJE claims violates zoning laws. SAJE argues the land should have been included in a 2019 motion that set aside "surplus public land for 100% affordable housing in Black and Latinx neighborhoods as a corrective to Los Angeles' history of racist housing and land-use policies."

The nonprofit is also lobbying to cancel the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, which it **claims** will "accelerate the displacement, homelessness, and police violence so many Angelenos suffer on the daily." And because the event will require a federal security presence, SAJE is concerned the Trump administration will use the opportunity to "militarize" Los Angeles.

According to the New York Post, SAJE has also held rallies and lobbied city council members to completely close down the Los Angeles Police Department.

Search all federal, state and local salaries and vendor spending with the world's largest government spending database at [OpenTheBooks.com](https://www.openthebooks.com).

Background: SAJE spent more than \$2.7 million on salaries in 2024, according to its **990 tax form**. At least three employees earned more than \$100,000.

Summary: Open the Books has found that the federal government often funds nonprofits that later **sue the government**, and the state of California has also **funded litigious organizations**. Now the practice has expanded to cities as well.

The #WasteOfTheDay is brought to you by the forensic auditors at [OpenTheBooks.com](https://www.openthebooks.com)

Support RealClear, Independent Journalism

RealClear Media Fund

“Information wants to be free!” was a rallying cry at the dawn of the Internet Age. The paradox is that information also “wants to be expensive.”

At RealClearPolitics, we provide news and information spanning the ideological spectrum—without a paywall. That’s the “free” part.

But producing quality journalism means paying reporters, editors, aggregators, tech team, and the analysts who curate RCP’s renowned polling averages. That’s the expensive part.



Carl Cannon, RCP Executive Editor

If you value independent news and seeing a diversity of viewpoints, **please consider making a tax-deductible donation to RealClear Media Fund**. Every dollar you donate is an investment in an informed public discourse and holding government and other key institutions accountable. Your support helps us put First Amendment theory into real-world practice.

Donate Now

Sincerely,

Carl Cannon
Executive Editor
RealClearPolitics

Communication from Public

Name: Los Angeles Right to Counsel Coalition

Date Submitted: 02/10/2026 06:31 PM

Council File No: 20-1084-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Committee Members- We urge the Housing and Homelessness Committee to approve The Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD)'s recommendation for Stay Housed LA (SHLA) to continue its eviction defense and prevention work that is so key to solving LA's housing crisis. Our winning bid reflects our five years of leadership in empowering tenants in close collaboration with the city. We hope we can count on your vote in supporting the LAHD recommendation that SHLA be approved for the eviction defense & prevention and rental assistance contracts. Three organizations within SHLA were recommended for three-year contracts, which will be implemented and coordinated across the coalition through our integrated services model. The program is implemented by ten legal services providers and sixteen community based organizations providing tenant outreach and education. LAHD's recommendation is a testament to the unique value of our work. Last year, eviction filings in the City of LA were down 16% from the year before, and your collective work helped make that possible because we know that Right to Counsel programs around the county have lowered filing rates. But the 21,000+ evictions filed in the city last year are still far too many, and it's crucial that our work continues. About Stay Housed LA's 5- year Impact For five years, Stay Housed LA has defended and protected renters who are faced with often-unlawful attempts to evict them. In the City and County of LA, we've supported more than 33,000 tenants with legal services, represented 11,000 tenants in court, and educated over 2.3 million renters about their rights through workshops, phone calls, texts and in-person outreach. Stay Housed LA teaches renters their rights through a proven model that integrates legal services and community outreach. With tenant education workshops, legal clinics, and self-help resources, we make it easy for tenants to get help. One hotline and website (in 14 languages) offers access to our coalition of 12 legal aid providers and 16 community-based organizations. We manage referrals using a shared system, and the majority of tenants we represent are with us from the beginning of their eviction case. Stay Housed LA wins in court. 90% of our cases are successful for our tenants—over the past five years, 50% of tenants we represented stayed in their homes, and 40% secured favorable settlements,

including extra time, rent waivers and relocation assistance. Stay Housed LA is restoring justice to a system that too often exploits the most vulnerable. In eviction court in LA, a recent report showed 92% of landlords had attorneys, compared to 14% of tenants—putting renters at an unfair disadvantage that too many landlords exploit. Stay Housed LA is changing that. Stay Housed LA is making Tenant Right to Counsel a reality in both LA City and County. Measure A funds full right-to-counsel for renters in unincorporated LA County. This year, the City of LA joined unincorporated Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Philadelphia to establish a right to counsel for renters, which will be fully implemented by 2030, funded by Measure ULA and Measure A. Stay Housed LA has secured more than \$100 million of savings for vulnerable LA families. Over five years, our coalition has secured \$67 million in short-term benefits for our clients including rental debt forgiveness, relocation assistance, and court fee waivers, etc.; another \$75 million in long-term savings by staying in their home and eliminating moving expenses; and distributed more than \$18 million in rental assistance to 1,911 households. These millions go back into the mostly low-income communities where SHLA tenants live, shop and work. Stay Housed LA supports renters at highest risk of eviction. We prioritize legal representation for tenants who live in communities that are most vulnerable to displacement due to eviction. However, in 2025, 30% of tenants represented by SHLA lived outside the priority ZIP codes. Every tenant Stay Housed LA keeps from becoming unhoused is a cost saving to the community. Research in other regions has shown a 3:1 return on investment in right-to-counsel programs, due to savings on homelessness response and public health programs. In partnership, Amylinda Nevarez, Campaign Director The Los Angeles Renters' Right to Counsel Coalition



Dear Committee Members-

We urge the Housing and Homelessness Committee to approve The Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD)'s recommendation for [Stay Housed LA](#) (SHLA) to continue its eviction defense and prevention work that is so key to solving LA's housing crisis. Our winning bid reflects our five years of leadership in empowering tenants in close collaboration with the city. We hope we can count on your vote in supporting the LAHD recommendation that SHLA be approved for the eviction defense & prevention and rental assistance contracts.

Three organizations within SHLA were recommended for three-year contracts, which will be implemented and coordinated across the coalition through our integrated services model. The program is implemented by ten legal services providers and sixteen community based organizations providing tenant outreach and education.

LAHD's recommendation is a testament to the unique value of our work. Last year, [eviction filings in the City of LA were down 16% from the year before](#), and your collective work helped make that possible because we know that Right to Counsel programs around the county have lowered filing rates. But the 21,000+ evictions filed in the city last year are still far too many, and it's crucial that our work continues.

About Stay Housed LA's 5- year Impact

For five years, Stay Housed LA has defended and protected renters who are faced with often-unlawful attempts to evict them. In the City and County of LA, we've supported more than 33,000 tenants with legal services, represented 11,000 tenants in court, and educated over 2.3 million renters about their rights through workshops, phone calls, texts and in-person outreach.

Stay Housed LA teaches renters their rights through a proven model that integrates legal services and community outreach. With tenant education workshops, legal clinics, and [self-help resources](#), we make it easy for tenants to get help. One hotline and website (in 14 languages) offers access to our coalition of 12 legal aid providers and 16 community-based organizations. We manage referrals using a shared system, and the majority of tenants we represent are with us from the beginning of their eviction case.

Stay Housed LA wins in court. 90% of our cases are successful for our tenants—over the past five years, 50% of tenants we represented stayed in their homes, and 40% secured favorable settlements, including extra time, rent waivers and relocation assistance.



Stay Housed LA is restoring justice to a system that too often exploits the most vulnerable. In eviction court in LA, a recent report showed [92% of landlords had attorneys, compared to 14% of tenants](#)—putting renters at an unfair disadvantage that too many landlords exploit. Stay Housed LA is changing that.

Stay Housed LA is making Tenant Right to Counsel a reality in both LA City and County. Measure A funds full right-to-counsel for renters in unincorporated LA County. This year, the City of LA joined unincorporated Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Philadelphia to establish a right to counsel for renters, which will be fully implemented by 2030, funded by Measure ULA and Measure A.

Stay Housed LA has secured more than \$100 million of savings for vulnerable LA families. Over five years, our coalition has secured \$67 million in short-term benefits for our clients including rental debt forgiveness, relocation assistance, and court fee waivers, etc.; another \$75 million in long-term savings by staying in their home and eliminating moving expenses; and distributed more than \$18 million in rental assistance to 1,911 households. These millions go back into the mostly low-income communities where SHLA tenants live, shop and work.

Stay Housed LA supports renters at highest risk of eviction. We prioritize legal representation for tenants who live in communities that are most vulnerable to displacement due to eviction. However, in 2025, 30% of tenants represented by SHLA lived outside the priority ZIP codes.

Every tenant Stay Housed LA keeps from becoming unhoused is a cost saving to the community. Research in other regions has shown a [3:1 return on investment](#) in right-to-counsel programs, due to savings on homelessness response and public health programs.

In partnership,

Amylinda Nevarez, Campaign Director

The Los Angeles Renters' Right to Counsel Coalition