

FAIR HOUSING ADVOCATE



A Party with a Purpose: The Return of There's No Place Like Home

There's No Place Like Home, held August 18, 2026, at The Pinnacle, was a huge success! Inspired by the timeless tale of *The Wizard of Oz*, the event encouraged guests to wear their best red shoes for a chance to win prizes while enjoying an evening of entertainment and fun. Toledo rock band Arctic Clam kept the crowd moving with live music, while the Greater Toledo Realtist Association surprised guests with a lively flash mob. Visual artist Brian Lowe also brought the theme to life with a special *Wizard of Oz*-inspired art installation. From the red shoes to the music, art, and dancing, it was a memorable evening all the way around! Supporters helped us raise approximately \$3000 for The Fair Housing Center.

Homeownership Fair with the City of Toledo

The Fair Housing Center was pleased to participate in the 2026 Homeownership Fair, hosted by the City of Toledo on June 13 at Scott High School. TFHC tabled and passed out resources and CEO George Thomas gave a Fair Housing for Home Buyers presentation. Hundreds of participants showed up throughout the day to start or continue their homebuying journeys.



The Fair Housing Center staff and volunteers man the outreach table during the Homeownership Fair at Scott High School.

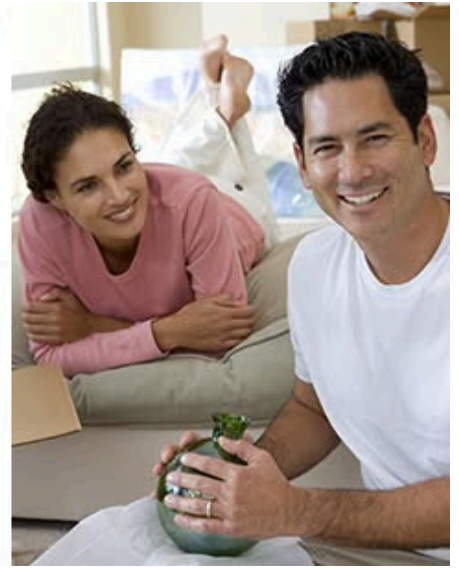
Toledo Rotary Panel Discussion: The Place We Call Home



On June 22, 2026, the Rotary Club of Toledo hosted a housing panel discussion called, "The Place We Call Home," featuring TFHC's own CEO and General Counsel, George Thomas.

Panelists shared insights on the lasting impacts of housing discrimination, the growing influence of investor-owned properties in disinvested neighborhoods, and the importance of collaborative solutions that expand safe, stable and affordable housing for all.

Expanding Retaliation Protections for Tenants



The Fair Housing Center has been working alongside the City of Toledo and community partners, including Legal Aid of Western Ohio and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, to **advocate for stronger local protections for tenants who experience retaliation** from a landlord or property manager.

The proposed ordinance grew in part from concerns raised by Toledo renters who said they feared consequences for requesting repairs, reporting unsafe conditions, or otherwise exercising their rights. If adopted, the ordinance would add a new "Retaliation Prohibited" chapter to the Toledo Municipal Code, strengthening protections already available under Ohio law.

On September 10, TFHC **hosted a Toledo Tenants Community Meeting** at Kent Branch Library, where tenants learned about their existing rights and the proposed local protections. TFHC continued those advocacy efforts before Toledo City Council in September, with CEO and General Counsel George Thomas and Staff Attorneys Christina Rodriguez and Noah Woods presenting information about retaliation and its impact on renters. Community members and partner organizations also spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

The legislation has been **spearheaded by Councilwomen Theresa Gadus and Dr. Brittany Jones**. The proposal would help ensure tenants can raise legitimate concerns about their housing conditions without fear of retaliation, including eviction, rent increases, or other adverse actions.



TFHC CEO and General Counsel George Thomas presents background information about the anti-retaliation efforts in Toledo at a Toledo City Council meeting on September 15.

Tenants who report problems with their rental housing may sometimes face retaliation, such as a sudden rent increase, threats of eviction, or other adverse actions. Ohio law provides protections for tenants who exercise certain rights, and Toledo is considering additional local protections against landlord retaliation. This Know Your Rights handout explains these protections and provides information for tenants who may be experiencing retaliation.

[**Anti-Retaliation Handout**](#)

Recent Client Successes

A Simple Accommodation for Safety and Security

A woman who relies on a wheelchair was denied permission to install a doorbell camera at her residence, despite concerns about her safety and security. The Fair Housing Center **assisted her in submitting a reasonable accommodation request supported by documentation establishing the medical necessity of the device.** After reviewing the request, the housing provider's legal department determined that there was a clear connection between her disability and the requested accommodation. The request was approved, and the housing provider agreed to install the doorbell camera through its maintenance staff to ensure the device protected her security while preserving the privacy of other residents.

The Right to an Emotional Support Animal

A young woman was advised by her therapist to obtain an emotional support animal. When she attempted to adopt a dog, the landlord accused her of trying to get around their "no pets" policy and told her they would let her out of her lease, or simply not renew her lease when it expired. They escalated by telling her she would have to pay a non-refundable deposit, and her rent would go up significantly. The Fair Housing Center **advocated for her, and the landlord signed a binding agreement stating they would agree to let her have her ESA, not retaliate against her, and agree to renew her lease at the end of the term,** provided she fulfilled her obligations under the lease.

A Safe, Accessible Home at Last

A woman who uses a wheelchair had lived for years in an apartment that was not accessible to her needs. A leaking shower caused water damage and mold, while repeated requests for repairs went unresolved. When the conditions began affecting her grandson's health, she turned to The Fair Housing Center for help. TFHC **assisted her with placing her rent in escrow, requesting reasonable modifications, and filing a housing discrimination charge.** Through a settlement, she was able to move into a newly-constructed, fully-accessible apartment, receive \$2,400 in escrowed rent, recover her full security deposit, and avoid responsibility for the needed repairs.

TFHC In The News

The Fair Housing Center received a mix of newspaper, TV, and radio coverage from local outlets this quarter, including The Blade, Toledo Free Press, 13ABC, WTOL11, and WSPD 1370.

[As housing pressures grow, Toledo leaders push for local solutions](#)

[Experts discuss growing challenges of homeownership affordability](#)

[Section 8 standstill: Toledo's voucher holders struggle as discrimination ban goes unenforced](#)

[Fair Housing Center stopped by with details on upcoming fundraiser](#)

[The Nine on 13ABC- Spotighting The Fair Housing Center](#)

[The Nine on 13ABC- There's No Place Like Home](#)

[Letter to the editor- There's No Place Like Home](#)

[Toledo tenants could gain new protections under proposed anti-retaliation law](#)

