

TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!

How to Organize a Tenants Association

Compiled by
Reno Sparks Tenants Union

RENOSPARKSTENANTSUNION.ORG





**I don't have any issues
with my landlord...**

**Is a Tenants Association
for me?**

YES! The best time to organize a Tenants Association (TA) is before you have problems. When issues arise, you'll have a solid foundation to organize quickly and effectively to respond to a problem.

Plus, there are plenty of other
benefits:

Why organize?

Bargain collectively for repairs
and against rent hikes

Prepare for emergencies

Get to know your neighbors

Build community

Cooperating to meet each
others' needs (mutual aid)

Create communal spaces

Keep yourself and your
neighbors safe

Fight gentrification and influence
community development

What is a Tenants Association?


Is it different from a Tenants Union?

A **Tenants Association (TA)** is an organization made up of (and led by) tenants from the same building, complex, and/or who have the same landlord.

A **Tenants Union (TU)** is a city-wide network of tenants who offer support and stand in solidarity with each other, but may live in different buildings or have different landlords.



How to get started



1. Planning: Join the Reno Sparks Tenants Union (RSTU). We can help you through the process and direct you to resources. Gather outreach materials, like door-knocking scripts and a contact information form.

2. Talk to your neighbors: Ask questions about their experience living in your building. Listen more than you speak. Find out what concerns people have and who is most motivated to act. Make it known that you are organizing together to improve your living conditions. Ask if they're interested in talking to more neighbors!

3. Build a communication method:

Set up a system for tenants to stay in communication (we recommend an encrypted app like Signal). Use this to promote meetings, discuss building issues, and get to know each other.



4. Hold your first meeting:



Pick a time and place.

This could be a potluck or coffee hour. You may want to rotate times, and make sure to have childcare if needed. Don't worry if not everyone can make it. Every meeting should have clear objectives. Designate roles: agenda-maker, facilitator, note-taker. Use this as a way to get people invested in the process.

5. Take action: The TA should work to better the homes, lives, and financial situations of its members. Explore strategies together and bring as many people in as possible. Consider escalating pressure: send a collective demands letter, visit the landlord's office or house, etc. Connect with other buildings whether they already have formed TAs or need help in starting one.



This is just a brief overview!

Tenants Unions across the world have developed comprehensive toolkits that have proven to work.

More Resources:



Organize and Rise: The Tenants' Handbook by Madrid Tenants' Union

[ROSALUX.ES/2024/05/MANUAL-DE-ORGANIZACION-INQUILINA](https://rosalux.es/2024/05/manual-de-organizacion-inquilina)



Autonomous Tenants Union Network Resource List

[ATUN-RSIA.ORG/RESOURCES](https://atun-rsia.org/resources)



How to Organize a Tenant Association by Tenant Union Flatbush

[TENANTUNIONFLATBUSH.COM/HOW-TO-ORGANIZE-A-TENANT-ASSOCIATION](https://tenantunionflatbush.com/how-to-organize-a-tenant-association)

Live in Washoe county and need help moving, paying for rent, or the like?

APPLY FOR AID AT [TINYURL.COM/RSTUMA](https://tinyurl.com/rstuma)