



Tenant Commissioner Elections — FAQ



What is a Tenant Commissioner?

- A **Tenant Commissioner** is a person who lives in public housing or uses a Section 8 voucher.
- They are **elected by other residents** to serve and help make decisions with the Housing Board.
- They speak up for the needs of tenants.



What does a Tenant Commissioner do?

- They go to **housing board meetings** (usually once a month).
- Help make decisions about **housing rules, budgets, and policies**.
- Share **resident concerns** with the housing board.
- Work with **other board members** to improve housing.



How long do they serve?

- They are elected for a **2-year term**.
- Their term starts **January 1** of even years and ends **December 31** of odd years.
- Example: Start in 2026, end in 2027.



How do elections work?

- Residents who want to run must:
 - Be **18 or older**
 - Be in **good standing** (no evictions or late rent unless on a repayment plan)
 - Live in **Albany Housing Authority housing** or have a **Section 8 voucher**
- They must collect **50 signatures** from eligible voters and submit them **by November 10**.
- Ballots are mailed out to all AHA residents **by December 1**.
- Voters must **mail ballots back (postmarked)** by **December 14**.
- Votes are counted **in public on December 18** by an independent group.

Who can vote?

- Anyone who:
 - Is **18 or older by September 1**
 - Lives in AHA housing or gets Section 8
- Only **one petition** can be signed per person.

What's the difference between a Tenant Commissioner and Resident Council/Tenant Association?

- **Tenant Commissioner**
 - Elected by all residents in Albany Housing Authority
 - Helps make **official decisions** with the Housing Board
 - Represents **everyone in the housing program**
 - Serves a **legal role** on the board
- **Resident Council**
 - A local group in a **specific building or complex**
 - Plans **community events**
 - Shares local **concerns and ideas**
 - **Does not make official board decisions**
- A tenant commissioner can also serve on the board for their respective Resident Council (if established)

What's the time commitment?

- Usually, **one meeting per month**
- May read reports or attend special meetings
- Can take **2–5 hours a month**