

# Wake County Property Tax Justice Working Group

## Advocacy Recommendations

### Wake County

**Establish a Property Tax Relief Task Force with the goal of designing a local property tax relief program (or “longtime homeowners’ support program”) to be in place by the 2027 revaluation notices. This Task Force would:**

- Research other NC County property tax relief programs to determine what would work best in Wake County as well as enable municipal participation in programs.
- Include representatives from the County Tax Office, the County Commissioners, City of Raleigh, other municipalities, and members of the Wake County Property Tax Justice Working Group.
- Ensure legal and administrative barriers expressed in earlier attempts for tax relief are addressed in the design of local relief programs.
- Address gaps in existing tax relief programs including: 1) prioritizing long-term residents and those with historic ties to the neighborhood, 2) reaching households with higher incomes than state programs, 3) providing grant funding to off-set rising costs of living.

### City(ies) and County

- Help ensure Triangle MLS ends its practice of restricting County Tax Offices’ access to data.
- Work together to address the problem of city-funded deferred maintenance through homeowner rehab and repairer programs being viewed by the Tax Office as the equivalent of expensive remodels.

### State of NC:

- Urge your representatives to expand and improve existing property tax relief programs such as the Homestead Exemption and the NC Circuit Breaker program.
- Urge your representative to oppose the “levy limit” legislation. See more details here:<https://nchousing.org/will-levy-limits-reduce-property-taxes-for-homeowners>.

### Wake County Tax Office

*(The Working Group is already actively partnering with the Tax office in these three areas and looks forward to deepening that partnership in the next revaluation)*

- Enact systems-level fixes to neighborhood-wide issues identified and confirmed by the Working Group.
- Increase equity of future assessments in gentrifying neighborhoods proactively in the revaluation process.
- Increase access to and response to appeals by lower wealth communities.
- Collaborate with the Working Group to address specific technical challenges in the appeal process.