

# Letters to the Editor: Rent control and other policies are only exacerbating California's housing crisis

[Los Angeles Times Opinion](#)

Thu, October 2, 2025 at 7:00 AM PDT

**To the editor:** Staff writer Roger Vincent's recent article on why developers aren't building in Los Angeles misses the real issue (["Almost no one is building new apartments in Los Angeles. Here's why."](#) Oct. 1). Let's stop pretending most of our politicians care about solving the housing crisis. They keep doubling down on the very policies that created it: rent control, endless eviction bans, excessive red tape, height restrictions and now the [ULA tax](#) that makes projects financially infeasible. Then they act surprised when nothing gets built.

In fact, rent control can actually have [negative effects](#) for renters, discouraging developers from building to meet supply and demand. This isn't a housing crisis, it's a policy crisis.

The obvious solution is to replace crumbling rent-controlled buildings with taller apartments in multifamily zones. Instead, the City Council clings to "anti-displacement" rhetoric that preserves blight while bulldozing single-family neighborhoods. Rent control plus eviction bans equals permanent decay.

One more factor often overlooked: condominiums. Developers avoid them in California because of [10-year defect liability laws](#) that invite endless lawsuits. That's why virtually no one builds condos here, further choking ownership opportunities.

Until these failed policies are repealed, Los Angeles will stay stuck in decline.

*George Papanikolas, Los Angeles*

This story originally appeared in [Los Angeles Times](#).