

# Commenting Party Toolkit

## HUD's Disparate Impact Rule | #FightForHousingJustice

HUD's proposed rule interpreting the disparate impact theory of housing discrimination would drastically impact the way we advocate for civil rights in the United States. The rule, if implemented, would limit opportunities for victims of discrimination to fight against facially neutral policies that have a disproportionate effect on members of protected groups. Our [Fight For Housing Justice Campaign](#) is rallying as many people as possible to submit comments during the administrative review process because it's essential that we fight to preserve this important tool against unfair discrimination.

### Why this Party is Important

On **October 10, 2019**, multiple campaigns are rallying for a Day of Action. This party is an opportunity to engage friends, neighbors, and co-workers on the Day of Action, bringing them together to learn about how HUD is trying to re-write long-standing fair housing law. We want people to have a chance to submit their comments against the rule, and we want to inspire them to recognize how it would impact their communities. **HUD is required to respond to the comments it receives, so the more comments opposing the proposed changes submitted, the better.**

### Day of the Party

#### Before the Party

- Set up a sign-in sheet so you can capture the names and emails of attendees
- Set up a commenting hub using a laptop or tablet (or multiple!) with the browser directed to [www.fightforhousingjustice.org/comment-now](http://www.fightforhousingjustice.org/comment-now)

#### During the Party

- Show this [video](#) to get people inspired and thinking about how the disparate impact rule impacts their communities
- Share why you are passionate about the disparate impact rule
- Share why it's so important for as many people to comment as possible to let the administration know we oppose this rule

#### After the Party

- Keep the discussion going, and keep sharing on social media until October 18th!
- Double check to make sure your organization is submitting longer, more thorough comments before the deadline of October 18.

### Social Media

Encourage your social media followers to submit comments, as well as party attendees. Sample social media posts are [available here](#). Please share sample posts with attendees so they can engage their social media followers as well. Of course, feel free to share your own messages to engage your community in the way you think is best.

### Designing your Party

**Guest List:** Think about folks who are interested in your work. This could include community partners, non-profit board members, co-counsel, and even the folks from a different program team down the hall. Invite them all, even if they can only make it for a couple of minutes!

**Event Format:** Your event can take any shape you want. For example, you could host a happy hour, a potluck, or even a wine and cheese party.

**Sending Invitations:** There are tons of great online tools for sending event invitations that will help you spread the word and anticipate the number of attendees. These include, for example, Facebook, Evite, or Paperless Post.

#### A sample invitation could read:

Dear Guest:

We want you to join us for a party championing civil rights! The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has proposed a rule that would dramatically change the way we can protect civil rights in the United States. The rule would change the way we interpret the disparate impact theory, which advocates use to challenge practices that have a discriminatory effect on protected groups under the law.

Our party is planned on a national Day of Action against the proposed rule, Thursday, October 10, 2019. At the party, you'll have a chance to learn more about the rule, and you'll have a chance to submit a comment voicing your support for housing justice in the administrative review process.

Will you join us?

[event name] Commenting Party

[event date] Day of Action, Thursday, October 10, 2019

[event time]

[event location]

RSVP by [date] at [link to you invitation site].

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Your Name]