

Letter to the Editor sent to The Seattle Times by Stephen Norman, Executive Director of the King County Housing Authority:

*In his recent opinion piece, Cory Brewer, ("The paradox of renter protections: Misguided policies worsen housing shortage", July 25) misrepresents the King County Bar Association's 2019 eviction study. His article is premised on the number of evictions, when the real concern is rate of eviction. He suggests that KCHA is "the No. 1 evictor in the state" and that we are more likely to evict residents than private sector landlords. This is false. KCHA residents are up to 40 times less likely to be evicted than those renting from private sector landlords.*

*Mr. Brewer's raw numbers approach produces inaccurate comparisons and flawed conclusions. For example, one private landlord cited in the report evicted 53 households, while KCHA evicted 58. While KCHA did evict five more households than the private landlord, KCHA manages 11,000 units to the private landlord's 254. The private landlord's eviction rate is nearly 21 percent; KCHA's eviction rate is one-half of 1 percent. The eviction rate and not the raw number of evictions is the only fair way to compare evictions across landlords.*

*KCHA has received national recognition for its efforts to keep its residents stably housed, and sees eviction as an absolute last resort.*

*Accurate information about eviction filings in King County in 2019 can be found at: <https://www.kcba.org/For-the-Public/Free-Legal-Assistance/Housing-Justice-Project/Explore-Data>*