

# Save Our Salary New York City: A Call for Economic Justice in the Big Apple



## \$O\$ NYC: Save Our Salary New York City: Over \$37,000 Of Savings In New York City by Donovan Russell

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### : The Plight of New York City Workers

New York City, the vibrant and bustling metropolis, holds a global reputation for its towering skyscrapers, iconic landmarks, and endless opportunities. However, amidst the glitz and glamour lies a somber reality for many of its hard-working citizens: financial insecurity.

The cost of living in New York City has skyrocketed in recent years, outpacing wage growth and leaving countless workers struggling to make ends meet. The median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Manhattan is now over \$4,000 per month, while the average price of a gallon of gas has climbed to nearly \$5. These soaring living expenses have created a profound strain on the financial well-being of New Yorkers, with many forced to make difficult choices between housing, food, and healthcare.

## The Birth of Save Our Salary

Recognizing the dire need for action, a group of grassroots activists and labor organizers came together in 2021 to launch the Save Our Salary New York City movement. This coalition unites workers from all industries, backgrounds, and neighborhoods across the five boroughs, with a shared goal of fighting for financial equity and improving the lives of working New Yorkers.

Inspired by similar successful movements in cities like Seattle and Los Angeles, Save Our Salary New York City aims to create a more just and sustainable economy for all. The movement's leadership team includes:

- Alicia Adams, a home healthcare aide and union organizer
- Brandon Garcia, a delivery driver and father of three
- Jennifer Kim, a social worker and advocate for immigrant rights
- David Robinson, a construction worker and long-time resident of Brooklyn

## The Key Demands of Save Our Salary

The Save Our Salary movement has put forth a set of specific demands aimed at addressing the systemic challenges faced by New York City workers. These demands include:

1. **A \$25 minimum wage:** The current minimum wage of \$15 per hour is insufficient to cover basic living expenses in New York City. Save Our Salary advocates for a \$25 minimum wage to ensure that all workers earn a living wage.

2. **Universal paid sick leave:** All workers, regardless of their employer or industry, should have access to paid sick leave to care for themselves or their loved ones. Save Our Salary demands universal paid sick leave to protect workers' health and well-being.
3. **Rent stabilization and affordable housing:** The soaring cost of housing is a major driver of financial insecurity in New York City. Save Our Salary advocates for rent stabilization policies and investment in affordable housing to make housing more accessible to all.
4. **Stronger labor protections:** Many workers in New York City face exploitation and abuse by their employers. Save Our Salary demands stronger labor protections, including the right to organize unions, fair working conditions, and protection from retaliation.

## **Strategies and Actions**

Save Our Salary New York City employs a variety of strategies and actions to achieve its goals. These include:

- **Grassroots organizing:** Save Our Salary builds power through grassroots organizing, engaging with workers and community members across the city to raise awareness and build support for the movement's demands.
- **Lobbying and advocacy:** The movement engages in lobbying and advocacy efforts to pressure elected officials to adopt policies that benefit working New Yorkers.
- **Public protests and demonstrations:** Save Our Salary organizes public protests and demonstrations to raise awareness of the movement's demands and mobilize support.

- **Coalitions and partnerships:** Save Our Salary collaborates with other labor unions, community organizations, and progressive groups to build a broad coalition for economic justice.

## Victories and Challenges

Since its launch, Save Our Salary New York City has achieved several notable victories, including:

- **Increased support for paid sick leave:** The movement's advocacy efforts have contributed to increased support for paid sick leave policies at the city and state level.
- **Passage of the Fair Workweek Law:** Save Our Salary played a key role in the passage of the Fair Workweek Law, which provides greater protections for low-wage workers in the retail and fast-food industries.
- **Mobilization of workers:** The movement has helped to mobilize and empower thousands of workers to stand up for their rights and demand better working conditions.

Despite these victories, Save Our Salary New York City faces significant challenges, including:

- **Opposition from powerful interests:** The movement faces opposition from powerful business interests and real estate developers who profit from the status quo.
- **Political gridlock:** The movement's legislative efforts can be hindered by political gridlock and the influence of special interest groups.

- **Economic headwinds:** The movement's goals are made more challenging by economic headwinds, such as rising inflation and a potential recession.

## **: The Fight for a More Just New York City**

The Save Our Salary New York City movement is a powerful example of the collective power of workers fighting for economic justice. By demanding a living wage, universal paid sick leave, rent stabilization, and stronger labor protections, the movement is working to create a more equitable and sustainable economy in the Big Apple.

While the road ahead is full of challenges, the movement remains determined to fight for a better future for all New York City workers. By uniting workers across industries and neighborhoods, Save Our Salary New York City is building a grassroots movement that will not be silenced until economic justice is achieved.

## **Call to Action**

Join the Save Our Salary New York City movement today! Visit our website at [www.saveoursalarynyc.org](http://www.saveoursalarynyc.org) to learn more, get involved, and support the fight for economic justice in New York City.



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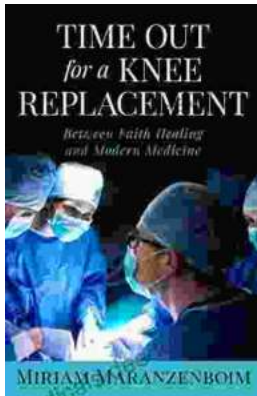
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