

September 2015

Rent Control in Seattle

Hi All,

Info on the Rent Control debate in Seattle:

- Washington state banned rent control in 1981.
- City Council members are advocating for the state to repeal the rent control ban so it can be put in place in Seattle.
- There are no specific details on what rent limits would be, who would be affected, etc.
- Lucas Roth was interviewed by KOMO at a town hall debate. Despite many google searches he cannot locate the video that played on evening news. He's sure he "looked pretty good" in it though. Article Here: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Rent-control-proposed-for-Seattles-affordable-housing-crisis-317743161.html>

Rent control helps the lucky people who get a rent-controlled. Everyone else loses. The landlord obviously loses money. Investors have less financial incentive and so produce fewer rental units. Rental apartments get turned into condos. Housing stock falls and everyone who doesn't have a rent-controlled unit has their rents increase.