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Report: Ohio's rent crisis getting worse

Danae King
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

More and more Ohioans are spending increasing portions of their income on housing, a new report shows. Nearly half of Ohio's 1.58 million renters are paying more than they can afford on rent, according to the 2026 Gap Report, released March 5 by the National

Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO). At the same time, Ohio has a shortage of 266,000 affordable and available rental units, the report states. "The data confirms what we hear all the time - renters across the board are having more trouble paying rent," COHHIO Executive Director Amy Riegel said in a prepared release. "For people at the

bottom of the pay scale, rent is gobbling up most of their paychecks. But this report shows the rent Pac-Man is moving up the income ladder." **How many low-income Ohioans pay rent?** In Ohio, there are 422,000 renters categorized as extremely low income, which means they earn less than

\$33,000 per year for a family of four, according to the report. Average monthly rent in Ohio for all sizes of units and types of properties was \$1,302 in February, according to Zillow. Extremely low-income renters are in the most precarious position, the report shows, as 73% of them spend more than **See RENT, Page 2A**

PRESERVING THE PAST



Crews from Dingey Moving, the village of Buckeye Lake, Spectrum, American Electric Power, Ohio Department of Transportation and others move the Historic Holtsberry Log Cabin on March 6 to village-owned property at 10500 Mill Dam Road. The cabin dates back to 1820, and the move aims to preserve it for future generations. DORAL CHENOWETH/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Buckeye Lake moves historic log cabin to village-owned property

Josué Perez
Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

The village of Buckeye Lake added to its history with the relocation of a historic log cabin that is at least one of the

oldest structures in Licking County. Crews across several companies and departments helped relocate the Historic Holtsberry Log Cabin from 4729 Walnut Road to 10500 Mill Dam Road as part of an effort to preserve the more than 200-year-old structure. The cabin

was next to the Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society Museum, which closed in 2025, and the historical society sold the building. During the sale, the historical society did not include the cabin, Buckeye Lake Mayor Linda Goodman told The Advo-

cate. The property's new owner also didn't want it, she said, and the village wanted to move it to property it owns. Goodman jumped at an offer in November allowing the village to relocate the **See CABIN, Page 3A**

Two Ohio pension funds still invested in Iran and Sudan

Laura A. Bischoff
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

The School Employees Retirement System of Ohio will sell off \$20 million in investments with companies that do business in Iran or Sudan - nearly 20 years after pledging to divest and within one week of the Trump administration

launching a war against Iran. SERS spokesman Tim Barbour said given recent events, the pension fund is seeking to complete divesting within the next two weeks. The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio holds \$7.4 million in companies that do business in Iran or Sudan, according state records. STRS did not immediately respond to a request for

comment. The other three public pension systems completed divestiture. In 2007, Republicans Josh Mandel and Shannon Jones sponsored legislation that would have mandated divestiture. The pension funds pushed back, saying mandates on how and when they invest could force pension officials to violate their fiduciary duty to act in the

best interest of the retirement systems. U.S. Sen. Jon Husted, who was then Ohio House speaker, negotiated a voluntary pledge from the pension systems and the bill was dropped. In 2007, STRS held \$1.6 billion and SERS held \$167.8 million in companies operating in Iran and Sudan. The **See PENSION, Page 2A**

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