

The 47th district is represented by Senator Mona Das, Representative Debra Entenman, and Representative Pat Sullivan, and is located in South King County. Data below are for King County and the Auburn School District.



JOHN'S STORY

John Hannaman has used a Housing Choice voucher to pay his rent since 1990. In his earlier years, he was a federal firefighter with the Bureau of Land Management, but when the vehicle in which he was patrolling crashed, he suffered extensive back and brain injuries. It took years of therapy and testing in order for doctors to really understand the extent of John's traumatic brain injury, and in that time he made several attempts to restart his career - all while not having the tools to cope with the extreme trauma his body suffered. Finally, John was placed on permanent disability due to his injuries and he received his housing voucher. John's voucher allows him to live in a safe and stable home.

As rents rose after the Great Recession, John was faced with moving from his long time Bellevue residence to somewhere more affordable. Moving out of Bellevue, where tenants are protected from discrimination based on the use of a housing voucher, presented a challenge for John in finding a new home, because most places in Washington do not have such protections. After a long search he finally found an affordable apartment in Kent where he felt safe, and he quickly became an active part of his community.

A few years later, when the building was sold, the new owners sent John an eviction notice stating they would no longer rent to tenants who use housing vouchers. With the help of an attorney, John was able to secure a one year extension on his lease, but when that lease is up he has no assurances about his future in his current home - not because he can't afford the rent, but simply because he pays rent with the help of a voucher.

The stress of not knowing if his home is stable has negative effects on John's health. John pays his rent on time, is a good neighbor, and loves his community. He says, "it insults me that people like me, who use vouchers to help us afford a home, are automatically assumed to be problem tenants."

