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New apartments on Ridge Avenue in the Francisville section of the city. —MARK HENNINGER/MAGIC DIGITAL

# Philadelphia rents grew 6% during pandemic

## They increased twice as fast in the suburbs

Lizzy McLellan Ravitch  
BILLY PENN/WHYY

Rent is up in Philadelphia since the pandemic landed, but city dwellers have been hit by less intense cost increases than renters in the surrounding counties.

The city has seen average rents jump by about 6% over the past two years, while rents in the suburbs grew by two to three times that amount.

In the Pennsylvania collar counties — Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and Bucks — rent has risen between 12% and 15% since 2020. In New Jersey, the three counties bordering Philadelphia have seen rents jump 14% to 20%.

The data comes from real estate search firm CoStar Group, and was analyzed by The Washington Post earlier this week.

That Philadelphia rents rose less than surrounding areas may be linked in part to demand. While people kept moving to big metropolitan centers during the pandemic, they tended to favor the suburban parts of those areas, according to a recent Pew report.

Monthly rent in Philadelphia is still relatively high. It averages \$1,624, which is more than all but two of the surrounding counties, Montgomery and Chester.

The high cost of housing in the city has been a problem for years. Over half of renters in the city are “cost-burdened,” meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing, Pew data shows. If you include homeowners, 40% of the city’s households fall into this category. Philadelphia does not have a

rent control program like some other places.

Zooming out to the Philly metro area, which includes a wide swath of the suburbs, rent has gone up 12% during the pandemic — just higher than the national average.

Nationally, rents increased by 11.3% last year, CoStar found, which is a record for single-year growth.

And the rise isn’t slowing: data shows that pace of growth continuing through the first part of 2022. Average nationwide rent will likely increase another 6% by the end of this year, CoStar projects.

Other big cities had similar relationships to their suburbs when it comes to rent changes during the pandemic. Of the 10 largest cities in the U.S., six

RENTS » 4A

# Fight over right to abortion is shifting

## Court opinion would disproportionately affect Black women

Stephen Williams  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The fight for abortion rights is shifting to the U.S. Congress, state legislatures and the governor’s offices in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation, Democratic activists said this week, after a preliminary vote of the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade and abortion rights was leaked to the news media.

If the court strikes down abortion rights, then each state legislature and governor will have jurisdiction over abortion rights. The U.S. Congress can also make abortion rights law, if they have the votes. The U.S. Senate is scheduled to vote next week to codify abortion rights into federal law.

In the disproportionately poor Black and brown communities in Philadelphia and throughout the U.S., there is fear that making abortions illegal won’t stop them, but will move the procedure to the back alleys, as was the case before abortions were legal, supporters of abortion rights said.

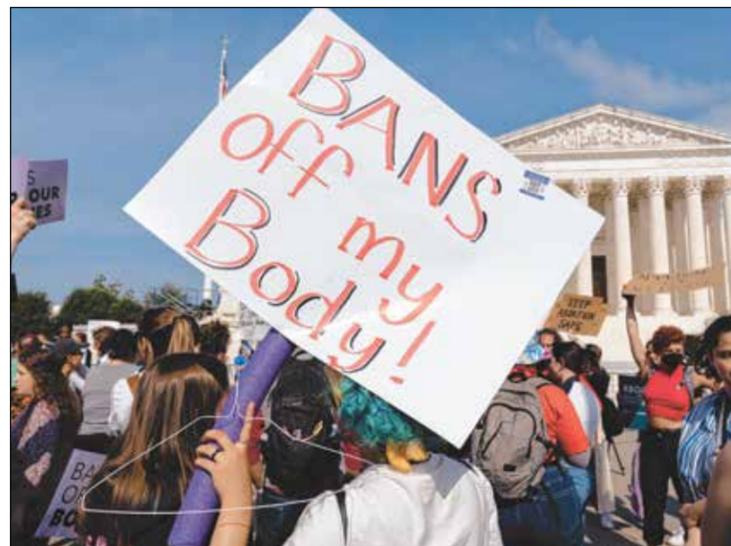
By contrast, wealthy women, who tend to be disproportionately white, will still have access to abortions, by going to doctors in Canada, Mexico and throughout the world.

U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans said the draft Supreme Court opinion would have “a disproportionate impact” on Black and brown women.

“I voted for the Women’s Health Protection Act when it passed the House last September. That was over seven months ago — it’s time for the

Senate to hear the voices of tens of millions of American women and allies who support reproductive freedom — and act!,” Evans said. “The Senate has made more than 160 exceptions to the filibuster — the

ROE » 4A



Abortion rights activists protest outside of the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday in Washington. —AP PHOTO/JOSE LUIS MAGANA

# HBCU ‘incensed’ by search of women’s lacrosse team bus

## Georgia deputies rummaged through Delaware State students’ personal items

Stephen Williams  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

An incident where the historically Black Delaware State University women’s lacrosse team bus was stopped on I-95 for a minor traffic violation and the women’s personal items were searched by Liberty County, Georgia, sheriff’s deputies and drug-sniffing dogs is under investigation by the sheriff’s office.

Samantha Fuller, executive assistant to William Bowman, sheriff of Liberty County, said the incident took place on April 20 but there will be no further comment until the investigation is completed.

Tony Allen, DSU president, said he was incensed. “We do not intend to let this or any other incident like it pass idly by. We are prepared to go wherever the

evidence leads us,” Allen said. “We have video. We have allies. Perhaps more significantly, we have the courage of our convictions.”

Team coach Pamela Jenkins and several members of the lacrosse team said they felt traumatized after the deputies came onto the bus and said they were looking for illegal drugs and urged them to admit to it before the search. Then the deputies began going through and tossing about their personal items, such as underwear and feminine products. No drugs were found.

Professor Jules Epstein, an Edward D. Ohlbaum Endowed Term Professor at Temple Beasley School of Law, said it appeared that there was no probable

HBCU » 4A



The Delaware State University women’s lacrosse team. —COURTESY OF DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Many states will ban abortion immediately if Roe is reversed

Stephen Williams  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

If the Supreme Court reverses Roe v. Wade this summer, the country will likely see a sharply divided landscape of abortion rights depending on which political party controls each respective state legislature or governor’s office.

Last week, the nation inched closer with the leak of a draft majority opinion by Justice Samuel Alito, indicating a majority of votes to overturn Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, with Chief Justice John Roberts in the middle.

“If the draft that we read is the draft that gets handed down, then about half the country is going to ban abortion as soon as they can,” said Rachel Rebouché,

a James E. Beasley professor and interim dean at Temple School of Law. “Some states are not going to rush. They don’t know what they are going to do. So I think you’ll see a lot of complexities.”

For example, in Pennsylvania, Gov. Tom Wolf has made it clear that will protect abortion rights, which is legal in state, under the Abortion Control Act of 1982. But Wolf is a lame duck and the state’s voters will pick Democrat and Republican nominees on May 17 and elect a new governor and lieutenant governor on Nov. 8.

All of the Republicans running for governor have said they are in favor of some form of abortion restrictions.

State Attorney General

ABORTION » 4A



Demonstrators protest outside of the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday. —AP PHOTO/MARIAM ZUHAIB