

OPINION

Newton and other communities must reform housing approval process

Facing a crippling housing crisis, our region needs to make it easier to build dense, multifamily homes

By Katherine Levin

The Boston Globe

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A rendering of Northland's plans for an apartment complex in Newton. NORTHLAND INVESTMENT CORP.

Last Tuesday, almost 60 percent of [Newton voters supported](#) the highly contentious Northland Newton Development. The mixed-use development — the largest in the city's history — will provide 800 units of housing, 140 of which will be [affordable](#). Housing advocates are celebrating the success of this referendum, and the infusion of housing it will provide in one of the region's most advantaged suburbs.

The process of approving this much-needed housing, however, underscores the region's