

RPAC Quick Facts:



What is a political action committee (PAC):

A PAC is a group of individuals that organize together to promote its political interests by raising money to make contributions to political candidates. In many cases, PACs are associated with other organizations (labor unions, corporations, trade associations, etc.). PACs are influential and valuable because they allow individuals to pull their resources together and make larger contributions to candidates. Therefore, the impact and influence of those larger contributions (through PAC contributions) is greater than one individual contribution alone.

What is RPAC and how does it work:

RPAC stands for the REALTORS[®] Political Action Committee. RPAC was created as a PAC associated with the National Association of REALTORS[®] (NAR). However, the Pennsylvania Association of REALTORS[®] (PAR) also has its own state-RPAC that is strictly a Pennsylvania PAC (only allowed to make contributions to state, county and municipal level candidates).

Under agreements between the Greater Harrisburg Association of REALTORS[®] (GHAR), PAR and NAR, fundraising for RPAC is conducted at the local level. Local GHAR members make contributions that are transferred to the state RPAC. Of all the contributions collected by PAR, 30% are transferred to the national RPAC to be used to make contributions to national Senators and Congressmen. The remaining 70% of contributions stays within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for PAR's RPAC to use to make contributions to state legislative, county level, and municipal level candidates. Because GHAR has created its own local PAC (GHAR-PAC), PAR returns certain percentages of all GHAR member's contributions to our local Association to use to make contributions to county and municipal level candidates. GHAR had to create its own local PAC in order to receive these funds from PAR.

Under the current agreement, PAR will return 20% of all contributions until GHAR makes its "Fair Share" goal. After GHAR makes its yearly goal, PAR will return 50% of contributions above the goal amount.

What are the advantages of RPAC to a REALTOR[®]:

- **Increases your political impact** - RPAC significantly increases the impact of your personal political dollars in a candidate's campaign because you pull your contribution with the thousands of other REALTORS[®].
- **Sends a message** - When your contribution is made through RPAC, candidates cannot misunderstand the issues that are important to you and your profession.
- **Gives you a national impact** - Many citizens believe they should support and try to influence just their own lawmakers. Yet, in the House of Representatives, there are 434 other members whose votes count on your issues just as much as the one vote cast by your own representative. You can have a greater impact on the issues you care about, and can expand your influence beyond your own congressional district, by joining RPAC.
- **Enhances political leadership** - RPAC serves as a stimulus to get you more actively involved in the process of government: people who contribute to RPAC are more likely to vote intelligently; they are more likely to write to their elected officials and express an opinion on an issue; and they are more likely to personally contribute or volunteer to work in a candidate's campaign.

"Contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes. Contributions to RPAC are voluntary and are used for political purposes. The amount suggested is merely a guideline and you may contribute more or less than the suggested amount. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal and the National Association of REALTORS[®] or any of its state associations or local boards will not favor or disfavor any member because of the amount contributed. 70% of each contribution is used by your state PAC to support state and local political candidates. Until your state PAC reaches its RPAC goal 30% is sent to National RPAC to support federal candidates and is charged against your limits under 2 U.S.C. 441a; after the state PAC reaches its RPAC goal it may elect to retain your entire contribution for use in supporting state and local candidates."

2009 REALTOR® Accomplishments:



• National

• Protecting REALTORS® Interest

- **Banks in Real Estate**—after eight years of struggles, NAR finally was able to achieve its goal of permanently banning banks from engaging in real estate activities.
- **Health Insurance Reform**—closely monitored the health care reform process in Congress to ensure REALTORS® interests were protected. NAR's success included thwarting a plan to limit the mortgage interest deduction as a "pay for" used to fund health care reform.

• Expanding Housing Opportunities

- **First-time Homebuyer Tax Credit**—successfully advocated for the creation of the tax credit and its subsequent extension and expansion.
- **FHA Modernization and FHA and GSE Loan Limits**—strongly supported legislation to provide FHA with resources necessary to upgrade and improve systems and procedures, as well as supported legislation to extend higher loan limits through September 2010.

• Expanding Commercial Real Estate Opportunities

- **Economic Stimulus**—strongly supported components of the stimulus legislation that addressed commercial real estate needs, including green building and energy efficiency, business tax incentives, and investment in transportation and infrastructure.
- **TALF**—successfully advocated for extensions to the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF) loans (from three to five years) and an extension of the program through 2010.

• Eliminating Barriers to Homeownership

- **Energy Efficiency Incentives**—successfully lobbied for elimination of point of sale energy efficiency requirements in House of Representative's energy reform bill.
- **Flood Insurance**—strongly advocated for extension of National Flood Insurance Program while Congress debates long-term solutions for the program.

• State

- **Act 14 of 2009**—aggressively lobbied for approved legislation that amends the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act (RELRA) relating to a broker's duty to hold escrow funds and to licensees' ability to form certain business entities (such as S corporations, LLCs, etc.).

• Local

- **Camp Hill Borough Point of Sale Ordinances**—conducted aggressive campaign to prevent two highly restrictive ordinances that would have mandated multiple inspections of property's sewer laterals and sidewalks/curbing prior to the property transfer. To date, Borough Council has NOT approved these ordinances.
- **Paxton Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan**—worked with a coalition of organizations to oppose the imposition of the TMDL, which will have a crippling effect on new development and property owners in the Paxton Creek watershed if implemented. To date, the coalition has stopped implementation of the TMDL.

All this could not have been possible without the strong backing of RPAC!

In 2010, REALTORS® still face many issues including:

- **National**—advocating for a moratorium on the Home Valuation Code of Conduct (HVCC); continuing to ensure REALTORS® interests are protected in any health care and energy reform proposals; and working for programs and actions to strengthen the commercial real estate market.
- **State**—once again preventing an increase in the realty transfer tax or an imposition of a sales tax on services, particularly amid budget concerns in the Commonwealth; and working to ensure energy efficiency initiatives do not hamper homeowners or the real estate market.
- **Local**—continuing to fight to stop government mandates at the point of sale; continuing to work with the Paxton Creek TMDL coalition to stop implementation of the TMDL; and working to expand the GHAR government affairs program.

**Please invest in your business by making your
2010 RPAC contribution today!**

"Contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes. Contributions to RPAC are voluntary and are used for political purposes. The amount suggested is merely a guideline and you may contribute more or less than the suggested amount. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal and the National Association of REALTORS® or any of its state associations or local boards will not favor or disfavor any member because of the amount contributed. 70% of each contribution is used by your state PAC to support state and local political candidates. Until your state PAC reaches its RPAC goal 30% is sent to National RPAC to support federal candidates and is charged against your limits under 2 U.S.C. 441a; after the state PAC reaches its RPAC goal it may elect to retain your entire contribution for use in supporting state and local candidates."