

REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC)

The REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC) is the best way a REALTOR® can protect their business. RPAC is the only grassroots and issues mobilizing force that exists to protect and promote the tradition of home ownership and real estate investment.

By contributing to RPAC, you are able to support REALTOR®-friendly legislators who believe in our industry and believe in protecting private property rights, preserving the American dream of home ownership, fighting for tax reforms and reducing burdensome regulations on our business.

Keeping Informed on REALTOR® Issues

With every media outlet in Idaho reporting news with varying degrees of information, it is hard to keep up to date on issues affecting the real estate industry. The Public Affairs section of the IAR Website contains useful information on matters affecting the real estate profession. Whether it is specific legislation, or general economic proposals being circulated in Boise, the IAR Public Affairs page is the place to go to stay informed.

RPAC Contributors

There are six (6) categories of contributors:

- \$99.00 / **Dollar Club**
- \$250.00 / **Chairmen**
- \$500.00 / **President's Club**
- \$1,000.00 / **Sterling "R"**
- \$2500.00 / **Crystal "R"**
- \$5000.00 / **Golden "R"**

There are several ways you can contribute:

- You can make a voluntary contribution when you pay your annual dues
- You can make contributions throughout the year
- You can participate in RPAC fundraisers

RPAC FAQ

I have heard of RPAC. What exactly is RPAC?

RPAC stands for Realtor Political Action Committee. RPAC was created in 1969 and raises funds voluntarily from members of the Idaho Association Realtors and local Associations for use in issues, campaigns and contributions to political candidates at federal, state and local levels.

What is the purpose of RPAC?

RPAC's purpose is to promote or defend issues that affect your livelihood and they do that by supporting candidates who support Realtor® issues.

When I contribute to RPAC where does the money go?

Of every dollar contributed to RPAC up to 70 cents stays in Idaho support state and local candidates and issues. The remaining 30 cents goes to the national RPAC for grassroots activities and supporting candidates running for office on the national level. In other words your dollars are helping elect local candidates that are supportive and understand your business.

Who establishes and implements REALTORS® Political Action Committee policy?

Much of the success of RPAC is due to the high degree of organization that characterizes the REALTORS® political Action Committee at every level. At the top of the National RPAC organization are the National RPAC trustees. The trustees establish and implement RPAC policy in accordance with the RPAC bylaws and NAR policy as established by the NAR Board of Directors. The trustees are made up of REALTOR® volunteers from around the nation who are appointed by NAR leadership.

How does RPAC establish fundraising goals?

The dollar goal of the National RPAC, set by the National Trustees, is \$10 per year, of which at least \$3 goes to National. This goal is called a "fair share." To ensure that all states contribute their fair share to the RPAC effort, a state's annual goal is determined by the number of members in that state based on the November 30 membership report. The National REALTORS® political Action Committee accounting year runs from January 1 to December 31.

Who may be solicited for REALTORS® Political Action Committee contributions?

According to federal election law, RPAC can solicit only individual members -- i.e., non-corporate members of the National Association and their families. The term "members" means all individuals who currently satisfy the requirements for membership in any one of the local, state, and/or the National Association and regularly pay dues. Executive, administrative and management personnel of the local, state and/or national association, though they may not pay association dues, are also considered under the NAR Constitution to be members of the association and may be solicited.

Is this contribution tax deductible?

No. Contributions used for political purposes are not tax deductible on your federal income taxes.

Can I earmark money to a party or particular candidate?

No. Under federal election law, the earmarking of contributions is illegal. See information below on how contribution decisions are made.

Who may the National REALTORS® Political action Committee contribute to?

Under the cooperative agreements in effect between the National RPAC and the states, the responsibility for making contributions to federal candidates is assigned to the National level, while state REALTORS® Political Action Committees decide which state and local candidates to support.

How do the Trustees decide to make contributions to candidates?

The National Trustee's policy is to act only on requests sent from state associations and signed off on by the state trustees. Once the National Trustees receive these requests, they have four options: Amend, Approve, Deny or Defer.

Upon what criteria does the National REALTORS® Political Action Committee base their decisions to support federal candidates?

1) Recommendations from state RPAC Trustees, 2) NAR Congressional voting records and analyses of incumbent U.S. Congressmen, and 3) campaign intelligence reports provided by the NAR political and legislative staff.

Will the National RPAC Trustees contribute to both candidates in a race?

No. The National RPAC Trustees policy is to only contribute to one candidate in any given election. Realize however that the use of In-State Reception funds and D.C. Reception Funds do not necessarily count as dual contributions if a challenger is supported by National RPAC. Again, these are relationship-building monies.

What is the difference between hard (personal) and soft (corporate) money?

Hard money has many restrictions on how it is raised and spent and must be fully reported to the Federal Election Commission. Hard money is raised from individuals, who can contribute up to 1,000 directly to a federal candidate per election and \$5,000 to a Political Action Committee, like RPAC, per year. RPAC can contribute \$5,000 to a federal candidate per election. RPAC can only accept money from individuals. Soft money is raised from corporations, unions and individuals. Federal candidates cannot accept soft money. Soft money is raised by party organizations, unions, corporations and associations. There are no limitations on the amount of soft money a corporation or individual can contribute, nor any limitation on the amount of soft money an organization can spend. Unlike RPAC, NAR can accept corporate contributions, which can then be used to communicate with our membership about a candidate through opportunity races or used for issue advocacy.