

With the help of RPAC, NJ Realtors® takes an active role on issues affecting real estate at the state and local level. Through its presence in Trenton, NJ Realtors® advocates on issues to ensure that state policies protect the interests of Realtors® and property owners.

RPAC ensures that good laws are passed and bad ones, which aim to restrict the industry, are defeated! RPAC works by staying engaged in the Legislature's political agendas, building relationships with key politicians on a local, state and federal level, and working with state agencies to make sure that proposed rules take into consideration the views of property owners and Realtors<sup>®</sup>!

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## **STATE ISSUES**

**Deed Recording Fee**: New Jersey Realtors® was successful in holding a bill concerning deed recording fees. This onerous legislation would have added an additional \$75.00 to record a deed. The funds would have been designated to support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Currently, a percentage of the Realty Transfer Fee subsidizes the Affordable Trust Fund. NJ Realtors is continuously working to prevent legislation that would create additional taxes on real estate.

**Sales Tax on Commissions**: NJ Realtors® aggressively lobbied against a possible extension of a 7% sales tax on commissions earned by Realtors. NJ Realtors works year after year to ensure taxes on commissions to real estate professionals are not implemented. NJ Realtors® works year after year to ensure these fees are not implemented.

**Realty Transfer Fee**: NJ Realtors® opposes taxes or fees having an impact on real estate, including realty transfer fee increases, making it more expensive to buy and sell homes in New Jersey. Additionally, the NJ Realtors® successfully fought legislation permitting municipalities to enact their own local RTF.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

**Rental Ordinance**: NJ Realtors® advocated for changes to a previously adopted rental ordinance which held landlords responsible for complaints against their tenants, even if they did not result in convictions. Landlords could have been held responsible for exceeding occupancy restrictions even if they only rented their property to the allowable number of tenants.

**Sign Ordinance**: NJ Realtors® worked with several local boards/associations to help stop or amend sign ordinances that prohibit Realtors® or property owners from displaying Open House/For Sale signs.

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