



The "REALTOR® Party" is the term the National Association of REALTORS® uses to describe their nonpartisan advocacy efforts to protect property rights and promote the industry. About 1/3 (or \$40) of National NAR Dues are earmarked for REALTOR® Party activities. The activities sponsored by the REALTOR® Party represent one of the largest professional, nonpartisan advocacy groups in the country, with significant presence at the federal, state and local levels.

Participation in REALTOR® Party activities does not require REALTOR® membership in COCAR™, but Affiliate membership in COCAR™ is minimally suggested.

In addition, REALTORS® and Affiliates are involved in a Political Action Committee (REALTORS® Political Action Committee or RPAC) and a Super-Pac (Corporate ALLY Program).

Contributions to RPAC and the Corporate ALLY Program are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions are voluntary and used for political purposes. Amounts suggested are merely guidelines. The National Association of REALTORS® and its state and local associations will not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount contributed, or a decision not to contribute.

The REALTOR® Party's [Corporate ALLY Program](#) is a Super-PAC, advocacy, fund-raising program designed to raise soft dollars, contributed directly to NAR from any corporation, regardless of NAR affiliation, and can be for:

- 1. Candidate Independent Expenditures** – To support advertising on behalf of candidates, but independent and without the knowledge of the candidate. Corporate checks are written to the “*NAR Congressional Fund*” and used to support federal REALTOR Party Champions. (NOTE: Some corporate charters preclude their spending of corporate funds to support candidates.) NAR will also allocate 50% of the contribution to donor selected candidates. Fundraising by paid corporate employees or using corporate resources must be reported to the Federal Election Commission; volunteer fundraising need not be reported. (See section on Disclosures for further information)
- 2. Issues Advocacy Campaigns** – To support advocacy of important real estate issues Corporate checks are written to “*NAR-Issues*” with 50% of the contribution used to support Federal Issues and 50% local (State, County or Municipal) donor selected advocacy issue campaigns. While not applicable in Oklahoma at this time, some states require contributions to local advocacy issue campaigns to be reported to local campaign finance regulators; NAR will advise if this is the case.



Soft dollars cannot be contributed directly to federal candidates, or to state or local candidates in some states. Distribution checks for local issues and local independent campaigns are written by NAR affiliated organizations, with contributor preferences considered. The Federal Election Commission Regulations define independent expenditure as expenditure for a communication "expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate that is not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, a candidate's authorized committee, or their agents, or a political party or its agents." *NAR's policy is to only participate in positive independent expenditure and advocacy campaigns, and will not allocate funds to campaigns that support goals contrary to NAR policies.*



The REALTORS® Political Action Committee's contributions are considered "Hard Money" in that they are Hard dollars that are, voluntary, *individual personal* contributions from REALTORS® or Affiliates and can be used to **directly** support candidates. Any family member of anyone affiliated with any REALTOR® organization, including COCAR™, may contribute individually, *corporate checks cannot be accepted*.

The **REALTORS PAC of Oklahoma**, the local affiliate of the **National Association of REALTORS® PAC**, is classified as a Limited Political Action Committee by the Oklahoma Ethics Commission. A limited committee is one organized to make contributions to candidates, and may also may make independent expenditures or electioneering communications. The Oklahoma Ethics Commission has issued rules and a **Guide to Political Action Committees**. More information on the Oklahoma RPAC is at <http://okrealtors.com/rpac>. REALTOR®, Institute Affiliate (CCIM, SIOR, IREM, etc.) or Affiliate membership in OAR is required for participation in the Realtors PAC of Oklahoma. COCAR's™ Government Affairs Committee makes recommendations to the Realtors PAC of Oklahoma for distribution of our share of the Local PAC funds to local candidates

The NAR PAC operates the **REALTORS® Action Center**, which provides a variety of advocacy, education, and community outreach services for Local Boards. REALTOR® and Institute Affiliate Members (CCIM, SIOR, IREM, etc.) members may participate at the national level, with the NAR Midyear **Legislative Meeting and Trade Expo** in Washington DC being the primary plannery meeting

RPAC contributions are split between National RPAC 30% (for federal candidates/issues) and State & Local RPAC 70% (for state and local candidates/ issues). Until the 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. (applied against your federal campaign finance law contribution limit of \$5,000 per year to RPAC.) Once a state PAC reaches its RPAC goal, it may elect to retain your entire contribution for use in supporting state and local candidate

	RPAC REALTORS® Political Action Committee	Corporate ALLY Candidate Independent Expenditures	Corporate ALLY Issues Advocacy Campaigns
Make Check Payable To:	Personal Check: RPAC-OK	Corporate Check: NAR Congressional Fund	Corporate Check: NAR - Issues
Send Contribution to	COCAR 12316-A North May Box 151 Oklahoma City, OK 73120 <u>With your NRDS Number, a Personal Credit Card may be used – Click Here:</u>	NAR Finance Department attn. Karen Paschal 430 N. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60611 Additional Information: Paula Martino 202-383-1156 / pmartino@realtors.org	

Other Grants and Independent Expenditure Requests

NAR also provides for Independent Expenditure Requests and grants, independent of RPAC and Corporate ALLY contributions, for Issue Oriented Campaigns, Independent Candidate Expenditures, electioneering, and other community advocacy programs. Most of these grant requests must be initiated through a REALTOR® Local Board, such as the Central Oklahoma Commercial Association of REALTORS®



Disclaimer, Terms and Conditions

Corporate ALLY Program – Contributions for Candidate Independent Expenditures – Federal Election Commission Reporting Requirements:



Any direct or indirect expenses your firm incurs to solicit or encourage franchisees, subsidiaries, or affiliates to contribute to the Corporate Ally Program for use for candidates constitute in-kind contributions to the NAR Congressional Fund, and should be determined, recorded, and provided to NAR for reporting to the Federal Election Commission.

- Record all direct expenses associated with such solicitations, such as the costs of stationery, postage, or other supplies used in distributing solicitation materials, or direct expenses associated with conducting meetings or events to solicit such contributions.
- Compute and report to NAR the in-kind or indirect costs of compensation paid to corporate employees engaged on company time to create and distribute Corporate Ally Program solicitations, or organizing and conducting meetings or other activities where Corporate Ally Program candidate contributions are requested or encouraged. Also report such costs, if any, associated with collecting and forwarding to NAR any Corporate Ally (candidate) contributions received.
- Employees engaged in such activities on company time using company resources, such should record the amount of their time spent on such activity, an appropriate value should be assigned to that time based on the compensation paid to those various employees, and those amounts and the amounts of any direct out of pocket expenses incurred in such activities should be reported to NAR promptly after such expenses are incurred.
- Conversely, uncompensated volunteer time by corporate executives or other employees on their own time and not utilizing corporate resources do not constitute reportable contributions.

COCAR/OAR Notice:



COCAR will only send dues/invoice statements electronically (via email). Please make sure we have your most current information on file. All dues should be paid annually in advance, on or before January 1, 2016. Dues paid are non-refundable. All dues shall be delinquent each year after January 15, at which time a \$25.00 late penalty shall be applied to the delinquent dues. If dues are not paid by January 31, membership will be terminated and an additional \$75.00 reinstatement fee will apply. After ten (10) days, written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, any Member delinquent in the payment of dues and late penalty may be terminated.

MANDATORY TAX NOTICE:

Dues payments to the REALTOR® Association are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Dues payments may, however, be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense except that portion used for lobbying activities which has been determined to be \$50.00 of the National dues and \$10.72 of the State dues. The entire \$35 assessment related to NAR's public awareness campaign qualifies as deductible dues.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT NOTICE:

Your 2016 dues include a \$10 special assessment by the Oklahoma Association of REALTORS® of all REALTOR® and REALTOR®-ASSOCIATE members to replenish the OAR Public and Legislative Awareness Fund. The fund's purpose is to fund lobbying, consulting and other expenses on issues consistent with OAR's Legislative Policy Agenda. Additionally, your 2016 dues includes a \$35 mandatory assessment by the National Association of REALTORS® of all REALTOR and REALTOR-ASSOCIATE members to fund a nationwide public awareness campaign that includes TV network and cable ads highlighting the value a REALTOR® brings to a transaction and stressing the importance of using a REALTOR®.

Your 2016 dues also include a \$5 Professional Standards assessment by the Oklahoma Association of REALTORS® of all REALTOR® and REALTOR®-ASSOCIATE members to help offset the cost of providing the NAR core standards requirement that every association will maintain a viable professional standards process to enforce the Code of Ethics and provide arbitration and mediation as member services through the state association for the locals.

* I freely and voluntarily give the above RPAC Contribution amount from my personal property. I have not directly or indirectly, been compensated or reimbursed for the contribution included with my dues.