

## **Take advantage of the opportunity**

*Your involvement in opportunity races makes a difference in your future.*

Do you want your voice to be heard when decisions that affect your business are being made? Then you must get involved in your association and your industry. Your participation is key to ensuring that elected officials will protect your pocket book, your business and the rights of private-property owners. With your vote this past November 2007 for Prop 6 Texas REALTORS® saved roughly \$51 million annually in potential taxes to their personal vehicles.

As the new year begins, it also signals the start of Texas primary election season. Voters across the state will go to the polls Tuesday, March 4 to select their parties' candidates for the general election in November. All 150 members of the Texas House and 15 of the 31 Texas senators will be up for election. Early voting begins February 19 and ends on February 29. If you are not registered or you recently moved, you must be a registered voter in Texas by Monday, February 4 in order to let your voice be heard. You may download a voter registration form online at the [Texas Secretary of State's website](#).

### **Help your friends**

It's important for the voices of Texas REALTORS® to be heard during this process. How important? During the past legislative session, approximately 4,000 bills filed affected your business. Having elected officials friendly to REALTOR® issues is vital to the success of your business and the industry.

Some current officials who've shown past support for REALTOR® issues need our help to stay in office. These "friendly incumbents" as well as other REALTOR®-friendly candidates can benefit from the Texas Association of REALTORS® [Opportunity Race Program](#). This program channels the combined resources of state and local associations to help elect candidates for state office who are supportive of real estate interests.

### **Opportunity races**

The Opportunity Race Program enables local associations to participate in a candidate's race through direct-mail, phone calls, road signs, promotion in association publications, and personal promotion to clients, friends, and family of Texas REALTORS®.

Below are some activities that Texas Association of REALTORS® field reps are working on for Opportunity Races in their areas:

- Encouraging Texas REALTORS® to register to vote—by Feb. 4
- Creating "Texas REALTORS® for [candidate name]" steering committees
- Organizing events within legislative districts for Texas REALTORS® to meet and learn more about candidates
- Distributing press releases to local media
- Posting yard signs for candidates, block walking and phone banking
- Assisting candidates' campaign teams with any get-out-the-vote activities

[For a complete list of Opportunity Races candidates check out TexasREALTORS.com](#)

### **It won't happen without you**

Get involved and let your voice be heard. Contact your association executive or [Texas Association of REALTORS® field rep](#) to find out how you can help with opportunity races in your area. Make sure elected officials whose decisions affect your business, industry, and community support the real estate industry and private-property rights.

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