

Texas REALTORS®: Calculate your savings...thanks to TREPAC

Last year was an exciting time for Texas REALTORS® because of your investment in TREPAC, you were able to keep more money in your pocketbook. It's amazing that there is always someone trying to take away some of your hard-earned money, either through a tax on services, transfer fees, or vehicle taxes. Thankfully, we have TREPAC and our grassroots efforts in place to stop it.

The Texas Association of REALTORS® created a [TREPAC calculator](#) to show how much money you actually saved last year. The [TREPAC calculator](#) is a great reminder of how your investment really does work for you and your business.

Mixed-use vehicle tax savings

When you use the TREPAC calculator, the first step will ask you to enter the value of your vehicle. Why? Several county tax assessors actually targeted REALTORS® for an ad-valorem (property) tax on their personal vehicles. Then our association got involved. As a result of efforts spearheaded by Texas REALTORS®, this tax was permanently exempted through the passage of Proposition 6. The exemption saves Texas REALTORS® about \$600 or more each year.

Successful 80th Legislative Session

During the 80th Legislative Session, several proposals to tax our industry were brought to the table:

- A proposal to double the fee for real estate brokers to renew their license
- Continued efforts to tax professional services
- A tax on the transfer on the sale of real property.

Had any of these issues passed, it would have made buying a home even harder for prospective first-time homeowners in Texas, thus hurting the real estate economy. But thanks to a strong TREPAC, those proposals were defeated.

When you add up all your savings, it is quite clear that TREPAC *is* your pocketbook protector. By investing in TREPAC, you are helping to ensure your hard-earned money stays right where it belongs, in your pocket. So invest some of those savings back into TREPAC today to keep our industry strong and your income secure!

Elizabeth James is your Texas Association of REALTORS Central Texas Field Representative. Elizabeth can be reached at ejames@TexasRealtors.com or (512)971-8334.