



# Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS®

## Legislative Committee

### 2015 Annual Report

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE 2015 REALTOR® ACTION FUND!



## REALTOR® Government Affairs 2015 Accomplishments

2015 has been an interesting year for the Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® Legislative Committee (SILVAR LC). First off, we changed our name! We shed the term Political Action Committee (PAC) because our group is so much more than that. We don't just endorse candidates and support issue campaigns, we also guide the fundamental policies of our association, making sure that at all times we stay focused on our core values of preserving private property rights and promoting a strong and vibrant real estate industry.

We had some big wins this year and increased our member participation in California Association of REALTORS® (C.A.R.) and National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Calls for Action. We also turned out scores of SILVAR members to City Council and County Board of Supervisors meetings when it counted most.

2016 will be a big year for political engagement with elections happening at every level of government. Within SILVAR's five districts, we expect to see city council elections in almost every city, ballot measures affecting the real estate industry, and an open seat for the 24th State Assembly District.

The SILVAR Legislative Committee and our five Local Government Relations (LGR) committees will be actively engaged in these elections. They will also work hard lobbying on important policy issues that impact your bottom line and your clients.

Our political success rests on our member involvement. We need YOU to join the fight!

## BIGGEST WINS IN 2015

### In Silicon Valley

Helped defeat a proposal for rent control and a "just cause" eviction ordinance before the Mountain View City Council.

### In the San Francisco Bay Area

Joined Associations from around the Bay Area to defeat a proposed fireplace ban at the point of sale before the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

### In California

Educated members about the risks of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing and stopped a law that would have extended this kind of mortgage to earthquake retrofits for this year. Stay tuned, the law could be back next year.

### In Washington, D.C.

Activated thousands of members across the country to say NO to G-fees, a tax on conforming mortgages to pay for highways. This issue is not over yet, expect to hear more from NAR in 2016.

## Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® Legislative Committee (SILVAR LC)

The Silicon Valley Association of REALTORS® Legislative Committee (SILVAR LC) tracks local political issues and provides financial campaign support for local candidates and issues within the SILVAR territory. SILVAR LC administers a portion of REALTOR® Action Fund (RAF) contributions and California Association of REALTORS® (C.A.R.) dues assessments dedicated to issues advocacy, and National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) political dues allocations paid by SILVAR members. SILVAR LC is non-partisan and supports candidates and issues that are good for private property rights and REALTORS®, regardless of political party. SILVAR LC consists of up to 15 Trustees appointed by the SILVAR Board of Directors and District Councils.

### What is the REALTOR® Action Fund, Action Assessment, Party Initiative?

Funds raised through the REALTOR® Action Fund (RAF) are used to support candidates who are sympathetic to REALTOR® issues and toward supporting or opposing issues that impact REALTORS® at the local, state and federal government levels.

The REALTOR® Action Fund is the \$148 voluntary contribution level that appears on your membership dues billing statement. Every REALTOR® is asked to make this, or any contribution when paying their local Association, C.A.R. and NAR dues.

The REALTOR® Action Assessment (RAA) is the \$49 portion of C.A.R. membership dues assessment and can only be used for state and local efforts.

The REALTOR® Party Initiative (RPI) is the \$40 portion of NAR dues and is dedicated to support REALTOR® led issues and candidate campaigns.

## How to Help in 2016

- Contribute to the REALTOR® Action Fund (RAF).

### 2016 Levels of Participation

- *Introductory Level:* \$20
- *RAF Minimum Contribution:* \$49
- *RAF True Cost of Doing Business:* \$148
- *California Silver Bear:* \$449
- *NAR Sterling R:* \$1,000
- *NAR Crystal R: Initial \$2,500; Renewal \$1,500*

- **Participate in SILVAR's Local Government Relations Committees.** Each of the SILVAR five districts has an LGR that discusses local political issues, meets with council members and staff, and advocates for REALTOR® positions in their communities.
- **Contact your elected officials when you receive Calls for Action and Red Alerts from SILVAR, C.A.R. and NAR.** The strongest tool for our industry is strength in the numbers of REALTORS® who respond.
- **Stay informed and be involved.** SILVAR sends a constant stream of information on local, state, and national political activities through SILVAR's *Friday Facts* e-newsletter, the Silicon Valley REALTOR® monthly newspaper, emails and at district tour meetings.



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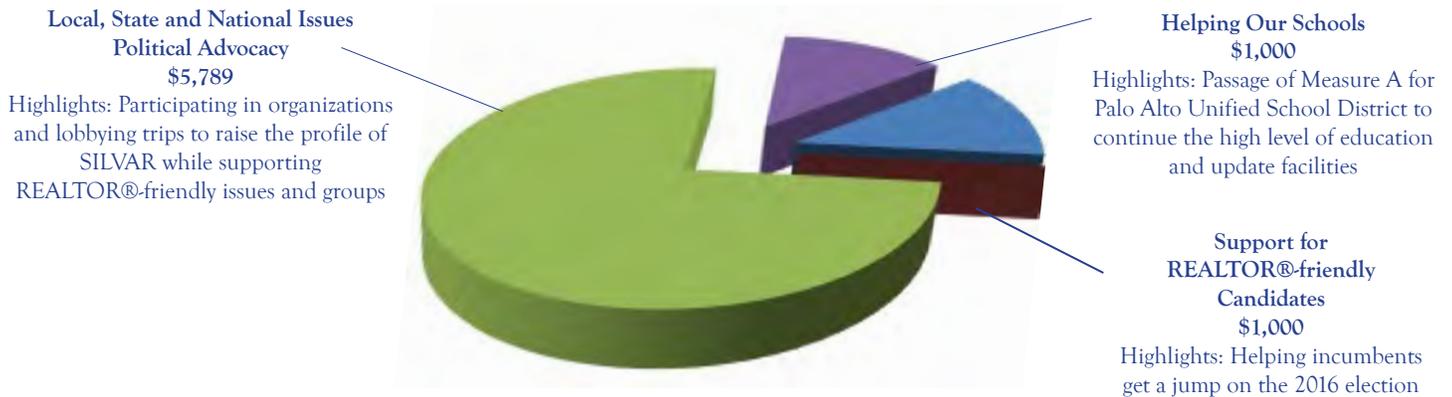
#### REALTOR® ACTION FUND, ASSESSMENTS AND PARTY INITIATIVE 2015 CONTRIBUTIONS

SILVAR members contributed over \$570,496 to the RAF, RAA, RPI and Issues Funds in 2015. Funds were approximately distributed to the following five major groups:



#### SILVAR LC 2015 EXPENDITURES

In 2015, SILVAR LC spent a total of \$7,789, with \$6,789 supporting real estate-related issues and \$1,000 in support of REALTOR®-friendly candidates.



#### SILVAR LC Mission Statement

*“To help protect, preserve and further good government and foster a political environment which will strengthen the rights of homeowners and REALTORS®’ ability to deliver excellent service to clients without unnecessary regulation or increased consumer costs.”*

#### The Fight Goes On!

- Fighting against local, state and federal government mandates for inspections and modifications to properties at the time-of-sale.
- Preserving the Mortgage Interest Deduction and conventional lending products and institutions.
- Improving local schools and keeping Silicon Valley a good place to call home.
- Working with municipalities to limit taxes on your business and homeowners, and keeping the state and federal government out of your wallet.

#### 2015 SILVAR LC TRUSTEES

2015 SILVAR LC TRUSTEES		At-Large Trustees
Bill Moody	Jim Massey SILVAR LC Chair Menlo Park/Atherton District LGR Chair	Jeff Bell
Amy Sung	Suzanne Yost Los Gatos/Saratoga District LGR Chair	Marc Bryman
	Barbara Williams Los Altos/Mountain View District LGR Chair	Mark Burns
		Mary Combes
		John Howe
		Leannah Hunt
		Gene Lentz
		Kathryn Tomaino