



THE INSIDER

(HERE ARE YOUR **FIVE** INSIGHTS FOR THE MONTH)

HAR Governmental Affairs E-Newsletter

February 2016—Vol. 1

Welcome 2016 Political Affairs & Governmental Affairs Advisory Group Volunteers!

The HAR Governmental Affairs team is thrilled to start working with the 2016 Political Affairs & Governmental Affairs Advisory Groups. The 2016 primary elections are upon us and electing candidates that support REALTOR® issues is our main priority. We also will be reviewing federal, state and local legislation, regulations and issues that affect the real estate industry and profession.

Meet your 2016 Chairs!



Political Affairs Advisory Group Chair: John Nichols (Nichols Realty)

John Nichols has served as Chairman of the Board of the Houston Association of REALTORS® and the Texas Association of REALTORS®. John is also the Federal Political Coordinator (FPC) for U.S. Congressman John Culberson (TX-07). He plays an integral role in advocating for REALTOR® issues at the local, state and federal level.



Governmental Affairs Advisory Group Co-Chair (Local Issues): Ed Wolff (Beth Wolff, REALTORS®)

Ed Wolff has served on the boards of directors of both the Houston Association of REALTORS® and the Texas Association of REALTORS®, and was the 2003 Chair of the HAR Political Affairs Advisory Group. He was a trustee for the Texas Real Estate Political Action Committee (TREPAC) and director and spokesperson for FIABCI-USA, the American chapter of the International Real Estate Federation. Like John, Ed is a leader in the Houston community and real estate community statewide.



Governmental Affairs Advisory Group Co-Chair (State & Federal Issues): Ray Wade (Legacy Texas Properties)

Ray Wade is the Broker/Owner of Legacy Texas Properties. He received the HAR “20 Under 40” Rising Star Award in 2012, and graduated from TRLP in 2013. He was President of the Greater Houston CRS Chapter in 2014. He has served on 9 HAR Advisory Groups over the years and holds 11 designations/certifications. He is a 2016 TAR and NAR Director, as well as a TREPAC Trustee for Region 14 (Houston).

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Welcome 2016 Political Affairs Advisory Leadership Volunteers!

Meet your 2016 Chairs!



Bay Area Political Affairs Advisory Leadership Chair: Troy Cothran (Victory Properties, Inc.)

Troy Cothran has worked in real estate for over 31 years. For the past 26 of them, he has chaired the HAR Bay Area REALTORS® Networking Breakfast Meeting. In that time he has booked hundreds of speakers and programs for HAR members to enjoy and learn from. Troy was the 2012 recipient of the John E. Wolf Community Service Award and has been the Bay Area PAAL Chair for the past two years.



Fort Bend Political Affairs Advisory Leadership Chair: Tina Wilcher (Berkshire Hathaway HomeService)

Tina Wilcher exuberates integrity, positive energy, hard work, and dedicated service in every detail of her real estate career. Her recent service includes HBREA Chaplain (2016) and Professional Development Advisory Group Chair (2015). Tina is a graduate of the Texas Real Estate Leadership Program (2014) and holds the prestigious CIPS Designation.



Montgomery County Political Affairs Advisory Leadership Chair: Deborah Spangler (Spangler Realty Group)

Deborah is a native Houstonian, with over 15 years experience as a licensed REALTOR®. She is highly involved in the real estate industry, at both the local and state levels, to keep informed on the rapidly changing issues involved in buying and selling real estate. She served as the 2015 Montgomery County PAAL Chair and is a 2016 TREPAC Trustee.

Tuesday, March 1 Primaries!



Open Seats in the Texas Legislature

There are four open seats in the Texas House of Representatives that will be filled in 2016. They are:

District 18—Currently held by John Otto, who is not seeking re-election

District 126—Currently held by Patricia Harless, who is not seeking re-election

District 130—Currently held by Allen Fletcher, who is not seeking re-election

Recommended Candidates

Please note that for a Primary Election, you must vote on a party specific ballot (i.e. Democrat or Republican). HAR Recommended candidates for the Tuesday, March 1, 2016 Primary are:

US Congress

Ted Poe(R) **John Culberson(R)** **Kevin Brady(R)** **Al Green(D)** **Michael McCaul(R)**

District 2 District 7 District 8 District 9 District 10

Randy Weber(R) **Sheila Jackson Lee(D)** **Pete Olson(R)** **Gene Green(D)** **Brian Babin(R)**

District 14 District 18 District 22 District 29 District 36

Texas Senate

Brandon Creighton(R) **Sylvia Garcia(D)** **Larry Taylor(R)**

District 4 District 6 District 11

Rodney Ellis(D) **Lois Kolkhorst(R)**

District 13 District 18

Texas House of Representatives

Cecil Bell, Jr.(R) **Mark Keough(R)** **Will Metcalf(R)** **Wayne Faircloth(R)**

District 3 District 15 District 16 District 23

Greg Bonnen(R) **Dennis Bonnen(R)** **Rick Miller(R)** **Ron Reynolds(D)**

District 24 District 25 District 26 District 27

John Zerwas(R) **Ed Thompson(R)** **Phil Stephenson(R)** **Kevin Roberts(R)**

District 28 District 29 District 85 District 126

Dan Huberty(R) **Wayne Smith(R)** **Dennis Paul(R)** **Tom Oliverson(R)**

District 127 District 128 District 129 District 130

Alma Allen(D) **Mike Schofield(R)** **Jim Murphy(R)** **Sarah Davis (R)**

District 131 District 132 District 133 District 134

Gary Elkins(R) **Gene Wu(D)** **Dwayne Bohac(R)** **Armando Walle(D)**

District 135 District 137 District 138 District 140

Senfronia Thompson(D) **Harold Dutton(D)** **Ana Hernandez(D)** **Gilbert Pena(R)**

District 141 District 142 District 143 District 144

Carol Alvarado(D) **Borris Miles(D)** **Garnet Coleman(D)** **Jessica Farrar(D)**

District 145 District 146 District 147 District 148

Hubert Vo(D) **Debbie Riddle(R)**

District 149 District 150

TREPAC is Working for You!

This year HAR TREPAC is embarking on #Mission1Million and we need your help in getting there. Below are some fun upcoming events that you can participate in while investing in your career.

- **March 9:** The annual GNW Basket Auction at Raveneaux Country Club during the GNW Networking Breakfast. This year we are excited to announce that Jim McIngvale, "Mattress Mack" will be our guest auctioneer.
- **April 21:** The annual Fort Bend Spring Auction during the Fort Bend Networking Luncheon. April Showers? Don't worry. TREPAC's got you covered with this *Singing in the Rain* themed event!

If you have any questions or want to get involved please contact :

Karen Driscoll, TREPAC Director
Karen.driscoll@har.com
(713)-629-1900 ext. 271



Want to keep up to date with REALTOR® Issues?

Check out HAR Connect

Read your weekly HART-beat

Read the TAR Legislative Liaison

Visit the NAR REALTOR® Action Center

Regional Monthly Recap

In January...

Harris County

- Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee (Precinct 1) passed away in the beginning of January. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett later appointed attorney Gene Locke to fill the position. The Harris County Democratic Party is tasked with nominating a new general election candidate, which will take place in June.
- City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner formally debuts new pothole repair initiative, website & improved customer outreach. On Inauguration Day, Mayor Turner proclaimed that potholes reported to the City's 311 Help and Information line will be assessed and addressed by the next business day.
- Mayor Turner signed an Executive Order requiring a new focus on performance based budgeting in the City budgetary process.

Bay Area Houston

- Pearland City Council voted to adopt a resolution supporting the Pearland 20/20 Community Strategic Plan. Pearland EDC recently approved an update to the plan, which provides a long-term strategic community and economic development plan for the city's future growth.
- Pasadena City Council voted unanimously to approve an interlocal agreement with Harris County for construction of Garner Road from Shaver Street to Pasadena Boulevard, a much needed project for the community.

Fort Bend County

- Fort Bend County Commissioners Court awarded a contract for the first phase of the FM 1093 Westpark Extension Project. The item was one of several questioned in regards to the impact of Texas House Bill 1295, which requires business entities to submit a form disclosing "interested parties" to the governmental entity at the time the business entity submits a signed contract. A governmental entity or state agency may not enter into a contract unless the form is submitted.
- Fort Bend County Commissioners Court voted unanimously to adopt a resolution in support of Fort Bend County's continued use of countywide polling places in the March 1 Primary and future elections.
- Sugar Land City Council received a report on a referendum petition submitted by residents seeking repeal of an ordinance containing the city's zoning and development regulations. The petition had received 3,000 signatures from voters and were obtained within the 46 day time requirement, according to a letter filed with the petition. However, the petition was declared invalid, as state law does not allow the use of initiatives or referendums to amend zoning regulations, according to a news release from the city.

Montgomery County

- Montgomery County Commissioners Court approved the Montgomery County Major Thoroughfare Plan. This plan includes the extension of the Woodlands Parkway from FM 2978 to Texas 249, which was the project that caused turmoil during the May 2015 bond election.

Upcoming Important Dates

- **February 1:** Last day to register to vote for the 2016 Primary Election (March 1).
- **February 3:** Montgomery County Networking Brunch, River Plantation Country Club from 9-11 am. RSVP to realtorluncheon@gmail.com. Speaker is TBD.
- **February 4:** Pearland, Alvin, Friendswood Networking Lunch, Golfcrest Country Club (2509 Country Club Drive, Pearland) from 10:45 am– 12:15 pm. RSVP to Courtney Moore at courtm27@gmail.com. Speakers include PAF schools Superintendent Dr. John Kelly, Buck Gilcrease and Trish Hanks.
- **February 5-9:** TAR Winter Meeting in Austin (Hyatt Regency Austin)
- **February 10:** Bay Area Realtor Networking Breakfast, Luby's in Deer Park (4709 Center Street) from 7:45 am– 9:15 am. Speakers include State Representative Wayne Smith and Ron Johnson.
- **February 10:** Greater Northwest Breakfast, Raveneaux Country Club (9415 Cypresswood Drive, Spring) from 8:30 am– 10 am. RSVP to Ben Bryant at benbryantsells@gmail.com
- **February 10: Montgomery County PAAL Meeting at 2:00 pm.**
- **February 16:** First day of Early Voting in the March 1 Primary
- **February 26:** Last day of Early Voting in the March 1 Primary
- **May 24:** Primary Election Runoff
- **November 8:** Election Day

Contact Us

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