

REALTORS® WORKING TO PROTECT HOMEOWNERS and Build Stronger Communities

When you bought or sold your home, your REALTOR® was by your side every step of the way.

But did you know that REALTORS® continue to be active in your community and protect your rights as a homeowner long after the "For Sale" sign is gone?

How are REALTORS® helping to protect homeowners and build stronger communities? Here are several examples:

- Protecting one of the most important financial benefits of homeownership: the ability to **deduct mortgage interest and property taxes** from federal income taxes.
- Defending the **capital gains exclusion** on the sale of a home. When you sell your home, a portion of the gain is excluded from the federal capital gains tax (\$500,000 for married couples and \$250,000 for single persons).
- Fighting increases or creation of new **real estate transfer taxes** that are owed when a home is bought or sold.
- Helping to pass state **real estate license law** that ensures the professionalism and expertise of real estate practitioners while also providing strong consumer protections.
- Ensuring that **regulations imposed by local governments** are reasonable and unobtrusive to home sellers.

REALTORS® and homeowners can work together to build strong communities and protect your most important investment—your home.



Every day, REALTORS® are working behind the scenes to protect the property rights and financial interests of homeowners—from your local City Hall to the State Capitol in Springfield and all the way to Washington, D.C.

REALTORS® are residents of the communities in which they work and take an active role in the civic life of their hometowns. They participate in public policy discussions to strengthen homeownership and improve the quality of life for all, and fight legislation and ordinances that could harm the community and threaten private property rights.



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