

## What's New in Government Affairs

June 12, 2009

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### LOCAL

**LOCAL ELECTIONS COMING UP:** This November, the cities of Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach and Lomita will hold elections for seats on their respective city councils. The last day to file as a candidate to run for these seats is August 7.

### STATE

**STATE ASSEMBLY RACE:** SBAOR congratulates former Assemblymember and now newly-elected State Senator Curren Price (D-26) who was just sworn into office this week. A special election will soon be called to fill his empty seat in Assembly District 51, which includes Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, and Lawndale.

**LEGISLATIVE DAY!** Our successful visit to the State Capitol last week marked some important victories for REALTORS® around California. Major events like Legislative Day show the importance of watching our government at work and helping ensure that our industry and your business are protected. During our visits, we shared our concerns on these bills with our elected legislators:

- **SB 407 (Padilla): Success!** This bill, once opposed by C.A.R., was amended to eliminate the point-of-sale requirements while still seeking to achieve water conservation.
- **AB 827 (Yamada):** This bill would authorize counties to impose document recording fees, not to exceed \$3 for the first page and \$1 thereafter, for archiving historical county records.
- **AB 985 (De La Torre):** which requires the removal of already illegal, and unenforceable restrictions from title records whenever a property transfers. While well intentioned this bill will significantly slow transactions and increase costs dramatically.

More than 50 REALTORS® from the South Bay, Palos Verdes, and Inglewood joined hundreds of their colleagues in Sacramento last week to meet with their elected representatives. We hope that you will join us next year! Watch for future information from SBAOR Government Affairs or call (310)326-3010.

### FEDERAL

**NAR JUMPS HEAD FIRST INTO HEALTH CARE DEBATE:** With nearly one-third of REALTORS® lacking ANY health insurance and hundreds of thousands more struggling to pay ever increasing premiums, health reform is an issue of critical importance to our membership. NAR's goal is to work in partnership with state and local associations in order to create access to affordable health coverage for the self-employed, independent contractors and small businesses. This month, members will be asked to send questions related to health care to NAR. Additional resources will be posted on REALTOR.ORG/healthcare starting Monday, June 15. Updates on the health care debate will be a key message in presentations and speeches by NAR's Leadership Team and Regional Vice-Presidents. Watch this space for future developments on this critical issue that impacts our members and their families.

#### Why Government Affairs?

Every city makes decisions on taxes, point-of-sale, signs, rent control, property rights, and more. This impacts your client's ability to buy, sell, or develop their properties and your ability to do business. The South Bay Association of REALTORS® Government Affairs Program protects and advocates for you. For more information, call SBAOR Government Affairs at (310)326-3010 ext. 715