



# CAPITOL CONNECTION

A brief weekly update from the Colorado Association of REALTORS® Government Affairs Division

Dear Member,

## **2010 Session Begins**

The 2010 General Assembly began on Wednesday, January 13, and over the next 120 days will consider a multitude of issues. Governor Ritter's State of the State speech outlined several legislative priorities, beginning with keeping the state budget balanced, a difficult challenge as Colorado continues to struggle to climb out of the recession. Election year politics are sure to play a role in the session, with both parties steering debates in order to gather political ammunition for the November election. The coupling of the election with severe budget challenges will make for a contentious four months at the state capitol.

## **Legislative Policy Committee Meets for First Time Today**

REALTORS® can be assured that the CAR [Legislative Policy Committee](#) (LPC) will work tirelessly to promote the protection of private property rights, the real estate transaction, and our state's economic vitality. The committee, consisting of 37 REALTORS® across the state, reviews each bill of interest to the industry and takes a position on those that are most important to be lobbied at the state capitol.

Although the session is mere 10 days old, there have already been over 275 bills introduced; to-date, CAR is monitoring more than 25 of them and has taken a position on 9. More information will be forthcoming, but current positions can be viewed [online](#).

Should you read an article in the paper or wonder what CAR is doing at the capitol on a specific bill, please be sure to contact your CAR Government Affairs Division staff. We like to know your thoughts and opinions and are here to help breakdown the issues for you: [ga@coloradorealtors.com](mailto:ga@coloradorealtors.com) or 303.790.7099.

## **REALTOR® Day at the Capitol**

Pre-register today for the 2010 REALTOR® Day at the Capitol on February 2, 2010! By attending you can learn about government issues affecting the way you do business and will have the opportunity to network with your fellow REALTORS® and legislators from around the state. The deadline to pre-register is Tuesday, January 26, 2010. [Pre-register online](#).

## **Race to the Top Bill First Passed of 2010**

Colorado is working hard to win Race to the Top dollars, a federal competition for states to advance reforms in education. Colorado's application, which will be submitted on Tuesday, January 19, is expected to request approximately \$400 million. Awards in Race to the Top will go to states that are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform in four areas:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;

- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
  - Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
  - Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.
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**Interested in what is happening at the Federal level?**

Sign up for the National Association of REALTORS® [Washington Report](#)

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**"If Real Estate is your Profession, Politics is your Business"**

By investing in the Political Survival Fund and REALTOR® Small Donor Committee, you are helping to:

- Protect your income and maintain your commissions;
- Educate and elect policy makers who support REALTOR® issues; and
- Improve the Quality of Life in your community and the marketability of property in your neighborhood.

Your support of PSF is critical to our legislative success - **Invest to your profession today!** This is the most vital piece of insurance your business will ever have.

\*\*Your contributions are voluntary and may be used for political purposes. You may refuse to contribute without affecting your membership rights. 30% of your contribution may be used by RPAC to support federal candidates and other federal grassroots activities. A portion may also be used by the PSC to support state and local candidates and issues and other grassroots activities. Your contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

**For more information on legislation affecting REALTORS®, bill positions, political affairs, and other current events, please visit: [www.ColoradoRealtors.com](http://www.ColoradoRealtors.com).**

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