

How Do You Get Started?

How to Become Politically Active

It sounds simple but the first step to having a voice in politics is to register to vote. A voter card is enclosed in this magazine; fill it out and mail it in. This card may be used to register for the first time or even to change your address.

Once you are registered, find out who your elected officials are for your area by going to OKHouse.gov/FindRep.aspx, which will tell you both your state senators and state representatives.

The next step is to become informed on what issues are before the Legislature this year concerning the real estate industry. Get the latest information by going to OAR's Web site, OklahomaRealtors.com/LegislativeActivities, for a weekly update when the Legislature is in session. You will learn what bills to watch and who is involved in getting that bill to the floor.

Now that you know the bills, contact your legislators. This can be done through e-mail or a phone call. Let them know you live in their district, you are a REALTOR® and then make a positive comment about how they have voted on a bill. Don't let this be the one and only time they hear from you. Occasionally send

a thank you note or call with a concern as the session progresses.

This is just the beginning. Depending on your interest level and free time, during this election year there are a number of volunteer opportunities campaigning for candidates. If there is a candidate in your area that you believe would be an asset to the Legislature, city council or a county commissioner then take the time to help him/her become elected. Every candidate needs people to help through staffing their campaign office, going door-to-door or even organizing a fundraiser. Another way to help is financially — every candidate will need financial support to run their campaign.

Here are some Web sites that have important information:

- www.Elections.State.OK.US
- OKGOP.com
- OKDemocrats.org
- OKInsider.com
- Senate.gov/General/Contact_Information/Senators_cfm.cfm

IDEA

Stay up on the issues concerning real estate and personal property. During the legislative session, OAR posts weekly updates in the Government Affairs section of OklahomaRealtors.com. If you are informed, you can accurately speak with your legislator about why you support or do not support a bill.

