

Reporting on the Local Government Policy Committee
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This committee evaluates government policy on issues of particular concern to local associations, and emerging local policy issues affecting housing as well as encouraging local Realtor involvement and effectiveness in the political process.

Santa Barbara is conducting a Realtor impact campaign to see what the economic impacts are to the city when a property is listed/sold to show the economic value of a real estate transaction. Such items as painting, flooring, window coverings, landscaping etc...

Vacant Property Taxes - There is a push in Berkeley, Santa Cruz and South Lake Tahoe to create an annual "Vacant Property Tax" for those properties that are left vacant for a certain number of days a year. This kind of tax is already existing in some cities in California. The tax tends to run in the \$2,000.00 to \$6,000.00 dollar range.

Rent Control Proposals - Santa Ana, Orange County and Long Beach are currently fighting rent control measures.

Transfer Tax - Santa Ana is also fighting a "Transfer Tax". We have had them in our area recently. There was a transfer tax approved by the voters for a school bond. When a property is sold this is a dollar amount that goes to the schools for their needs such as needed upgrades to classrooms, new construction. These usually have a sunset clause maybe for 20 years then it goes away unless extended again by the voters.

There is grant money available from CAR and NAR. Some of these campaigns that Realtors are fighting to defeat these types of measures get into the \$100,000.00 to \$300,000.00 range depending on a number of items such as who is backing the measure and how much it will take to defeat that money influence, will there need to be expensive advertising etc.