



Since its inception in 1969, RPAC has promoted the election of pro-REALTOR® candidates across the United States at all three levels of government. Candidates who receive support from RPAC are not selected based on their political party or ideology, but solely on their support of real estate issues. As we enter an election year, the RPAC Federal Disbursement Trustees Committee job is to make informed and consistent decisions on the best use of the hard-earned RPAC dollars to support candidates at the federal level.

Ohio REALTORS® and NAR RPAC Trustees support for Senator Brown goes back more than a decade to when he served in the US House of Representatives. RPAC's current support for Sherrod Brown is based on his very strong legislative voting record on federal legislation influencing REALTORS® that is the standard of measurement for all Members of Congress when it comes to RPAC support. As the top Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, in addition to serving on the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Brown was a go-to for NAR and helped usher the industry through the many changes that resulted from the housing crisis. Senator Brown has long been an advocate for federal housing programs such as FHA and USDA, as well as an advocate for affordable housing programs. He was one of the original sponsors of the Mortgage Debt Forgiveness Tax Relief Bill, voted on a bill to expedite the short sale process, and he took a leading role in opposing previous housing finance reform efforts, in line with NAR's position. He has signed multiple letters to extend the National Flood Insurance Program, cosponsored legislation to make refinancing student debt easier, voted to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act and voted for the Farm Bill that included important provisions for rural housing.

Overall, Senator Brown has not only been a friendly incumbent but a true REALTOR® Champion. As in the case with all friendly incumbents across the country, RPAC does not interview challengers but sticks with our friends no matter how tough their reelection may be. Based on all these factors the Ohio RPAC Trustees, made up of REALTORS® across the state of Ohio, unanimously voted to support Senator Brown, all 15 House incumbents in the Ohio delegation and, after conducting interviews, voted to support Anthony Gonzalez in the open 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Specifically for Sen. Brown they voted to endorse him with the maximum amount of political support –a \$5,000 RPAC check. Additionally, besides Senator Brown (D-OH Sen), RPAC is also conducting four opportunity races for Ohio House candidates Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH01), Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH12), Rep. Dave Joyce (R-OH14) and Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH15). The Ohio delegation is lucky to have such a strong bipartisan delegation where we can really see the strength of the REALTOR® Party.

As you know, RPAC is the largest bi-partisan PAC in the country and because the issues that impact our industry are inherently non-partisan, it follows that we would find REALTOR® champions on both sides of the aisle. In order for RPAC to stay true to its pledge to be bi-partisan, it is inevitable that the PAC may on occasion find itself at odds with the political opinions of individual members. I hope that this addresses many of the questions that have been raised.