



2022 RPAC Candidate Screening Questionnaire

1. What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Ohio General Assembly?
2. What do you think are one or two of the biggest issues impacting homeownership in your district?
3. In general, what do private property rights mean to you? More specifically, what role should government play in oversight of that?
4. Ohio REALTORS® is currently advocating for a bill called the First-Time Homebuyer Savings Act. The bills, House Bill 186 and Senate Bill 24, will create a new type of savings account that future buyers can use for the purchase of their first home. The law will allow for a special savings account be opened at any financial institution in the state. Once opened, the account holder(s) can begin contributing as much as they want but up to \$3,000 for single tax filers and \$6,000 for joint filers, plus accrued interest, will be tax deductible each year. Modeled after legislation currently in law in at least 15 states, the money deposited into the account can only be used for the down payment and allowable closing costs associated with the purchase of a home. These bills include a 10% penalty, with some exceptions, including the death of the account holder, for money withdrawn for reasons besides the purchase of a home. Will you SUPPORT legislation that creates a first-time homebuyer program?
5. Ohio is one of a few states that allows a third party the ability to challenge your property values in an effort to increase your property tax bill. Unfortunately, the law has been abused and attorneys who work for the school boards are making money by challenging as many properties as possible – even without having to prove the property is worth more. Typically, commercial properties are most often challenged, but we’ve heard from our REALTOR members that there are school boards challenging their client’s newly purchased homes forcing them to pay taxes on a home they did not own as taxes are paid in arrears. Ohio REALTORS is working to advance House Bill 126 and bring fairness and transparency into the property value challenge process. Do you SUPPORT legislation that would provide these protections to a property owner?

6. Ohio has three of the most underbuilt cities, Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, in the nation. Additionally, rural Ohio is also in desperate need of more housing of all types. Have you thought about how to tackle this problem? Would you SUPPORT legislation that would increase housing inventory?

7. Some members of the General Assembly want to reduce or do away with occupational licensing standards, no matter the industry. Our industry is regulated through the Department of Commerce and our members have long supported high professional standards. We have concerns with legislation that would reduce standards and put consumers at risk. Buying a home or commercial property is likely the largest purchase a person will ever make, and we assert the real estate professional should be properly licensed, trained and educated to ensure a smooth transaction. What are your thoughts on occupational licensing?

8. Do you believe that the General Assembly should prohibit a private business from requiring masks or vaccinations to protect against or reduce COVID transmission?

9. You have been invited to appear before us today because of our interest in the laws which govern real estate and our members. Why are you seeking our support?

10. Can you provide some general details on your campaign strategies and activities – in short, how do you plan to win this race?