



TALKING POINTS NOVEMBER 2020

ESIGN

Effective Saturday, May 1st, 2021, the Arizona REALTORS® eSign member benefit program will undergo the following changes.

- Unlimited use of Arizona REALTORS® eSign member accounts: accounts currently used by members will be converted to free, limited use accounts, **which will continue to allow members to access all of their files and current signing sessions.**
- The free plan offers 5 signing sessions per month; however, each session will only allow 1 document and 1 signer per session.
- Discounted rates for unlimited use access for Arizona REALTORS® members will be available starting at \$120 per year for individual users. Bulk and Broker accounts will also be available.
- **Arizona REALTORS® will continue to provide unlimited use of the Lone Wolf Transactions – Authentisign program as a member benefit.**

LEGISLATIVE

Eviction Moratorium: In 2020 Arizona REALTORS® fought vigilantly against Governor Ducey's eviction moratorium. From the beginning the REALTORS® advocated a clear solution:

if proper rental and landlord assistance dollars were dispersed in an expedited and streamlined way to those in need, all unnecessary evictions could be avoided.

In July, the REALTORS® lobbying efforts led to the establishment of \$5 Million Rental Property Owners Preservation Fund to assist property owners facing non-payment from tenants impacted by COVID-19.

In August, the Arizona REALTORS® funded in part, a Special Action filed in the Supreme Court to challenge the legality of the executive order; followed by filing an amicus brief in September to support the special action, presenting arguments why the Supreme Court should accept jurisdiction.

Ultimately, the Supreme Court denied jurisdiction in October; however, on October 29th, the REALTORS® received word from the Governor's office that the Eviction Order would expire on October 31st without renewal and an additional \$7 million would be made available for tenant rental assistance and the Rental Owners Preservation Fund.

As we head into the coming legislative session and a federal eviction moratorium continues, the Arizona REALTORS® will explore every opportunity to prevent further takings of private property and advocate that the state make additional tenant and landlord assistance funds available to help those in need.

REALTOR® Day at the Capitol: The 2021 REALTOR® Day at the Capitol is on-track to happen in-person, **January 12th, 2021**. This event allows REALTORS® from across Arizona to converge at the state capitol to advocate in support of the industry, meet with their legislators and enjoy a catered lunch.

- Registration check-in begin at 10:30am.
- Online registration closes once event is sold out or on January 6, 2021.
- At door registrations are \$50.00 and will not be guaranteed lunch or materials.
- Cancellations made less than 24 hours prior to the event, and "no-shows" will be charged \$75.

Please note COVID protocols will be in place and masks will be required. We look forward to seeing you there!

State Election Results: With the 2020 General Election results in, the Arizona REALTORS® feel confident about maintaining our influence at the Arizona State Legislature, as 96% of candidates (74 out of 77) endorsed by the Arizona REALTORS® won their respective elections.

- In the State Senate, Republicans retained majority with a 16-14 split, losing one seat with Democrat Christine Marsh defeating Republican incumbent Kate Brophy McGee from Legislative District 28.
- Republicans were also successful in holding a 31-29 majority in the state House of Representatives, losing one incumbent Republican, Anthony Kern, to Democrat Judy Schwiebert; but picking up a new seat in Legislative District 4 with Republican Joel John defeating Democrat incumbent Geraldine Peten.
- Both Senate President Karen Fann and Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers were reelected to their leadership positions.
- Senator Rebeca Rios was elected as Senate Minority Leader and Representative Reginald Bolding was elected as House Minority Leader.

We look forward to working with elected leaders on both sides of the aisle to advance our legislative priorities and protect REALTOR® Party Issues.

MEDIA

REALTORS in the Media – Arizona REALTORS are featured in news stories around the state. Go to <https://www.aaronline.com/media-contacts-coverage/> for articles, interviews and videos.

Award winners – During our October virtual leadership conference we conducted our annual awards. Our vision award winners were Beth and James Adams, our distinguished service award winner was 2018 Arizona past president Lori Doerfler; 2020 Community Outreach Award individual winner was Dawn Marie Rapaport, and the association winner was the West & Southeast REALTORS of the Valley.

Diversity efforts – During our April 2020 Planning Session, the incoming Executive Committee approved the formation of a Diversity & Inclusion committee. The committee was formed this summer and has already held 2 meetings. The staff liaison and committee chair facilitated a Zoom meeting with other state associations’ Diversity Committees to share best practices and activity ideas.

FORUMS

Broker-to-Broker Forum - This year we rolled out monthly virtual Broker Forums as well as Property Management Forums. These forums provide opportunities for our brokers and managers as well as property managers to stay up to date on legal and regulatory issues, business practices and industry insights. Delivering these virtually allows members around the state to participate. Dates and registration information can be found on our website calendar.

RISK MANAGEMENT

PS Hearing Stats - The Arizona Professional Standards program has remained very busy in 2020. Through the first three quarters of this year we have held 43 hearings, with an additional 22 hearings scheduled for the fourth quarter. Our mediation and ombudsman programs also remain busy and continue to achieve high success rates.

ER Form Update - A forms workgroup recently completed drafts of two new statewide forms: (1) Residential Listing Contract Exclusive Right to Sell/Rent; and (2) Residential Listing Contract Exclusive Agency. Pending approval by the Association’s Risk Management Committee and Executive Committee, these listing contracts will be presented to each MLS in the state so that they can consider whether to adopt the forms for use effective February 1, 2021.

AIR/CRE Forms update - The Arizona REALTORS® maintains an agreement with the AIR Commercial Real Estate Association pursuant to which its members are able to purchase AIR commercial real estate forms at a steep discount. In September of this year, AIR released new commercial forms that have been “localized” for Arizona and reflect Arizona law. These revised forms have been well received by the Association’s commercial practitioners.