

## Transmitting Contributions to OAR

### What date starts the clock ticking for contributions?

The date the money is actually *“in hand”*. Local associations must report to OAR the date they actually received the money from the contributor (*not the date the association sent it to OAR or the date on the actual check, as those dates may all differ*).

### When do we need to have our contributions in to the state association to meet deadlines required by law?

Because of strict federal and state law, investments have timelines that must be adhered to when being reported. Since these rules are different for different amounts and different circumstances, the Oregon Association of REALTORS® has set guidelines for local associations in terms of transmitting funds collected, regardless of the amount. Each Local Association should send transmittals to the Oregon Association of REALTORS® **every Tuesday and Friday of each week** in order to be within the state and federal campaign finance laws.

### What happens if the local association doesn't transmit the contribution to the State Association within the required timeline?

The contribution will not be accepted and must be returned to the contributor.

### Can a broker hold on to contributions until they've received all agents' money, i.e. in the case of dues billing?

The broker may collect the dues billing RPAC contributions and deposit those into the broker's account and forward the money using a single check as long as they keep detailed records regarding the RPAC contributions received from the agents. **The broker should not “hold” contributions until all dues are collected though.** The best practice would be to have the agents write separate RPAC checks and forward those on immediately with actual contribution dates. ***These contributions must still be transmitted to the Oregon Association of REALTORS® every Tuesday and Friday.***

### What information do local boards need to keep for records?

Keep copies of the bi-weekly transmittals and copies of individual checks that come in so those will be available and can be forwarded to the State Association if needed.

### Is there a standard form local boards should use when transmitting contributions to OAR?

Yes, we ask that all local boards use the provided **RPAC Contribution Transmittal Form** available through the Oregon Association of REALTORS®. If you do not have this form, please contact us and we will provide it to you.

R P A C Q U I C K R E F E R E N C E G U I D E

## Common Questions

### What is the difference between soft dollars and hard dollars?

*Hard dollars* = personal contributions for use in campaigns for Federal Candidates.

*Soft dollars* = corporate monies that may not be used for campaign contributions, but may be used for other purposes such as Opportunity Races.

### Do soft and hard dollars matter in Oregon?

No, in Oregon there are no hard and soft dollars. ORPAC can take contributions from individuals or corporations to be used for campaign contributions. Federal law *does require* differentiation, however, and since Federal law requires this, we ask that amounts be differentiated when submitted to OAR (via **\*RPAC Contribution Transmittal Form**).

### Are contributions to RPAC tax deductible?

You are eligible for a tax credit from the State of Oregon for a contribution of \$50 (single) or \$100 (married couple).

### Who decides which candidates get endorsements and how?

The State Trustees determine who to endorse and how much at the State level based on the candidate interview process conducted by the Oregon Association of REALTORS®.

### What's the percentage breakdown for contributions?

30% goes to National, 35% goes to State, and 35% goes to the local boards for use on local issues and/or with local candidates.

## Collecting Contributions:

### Can agents make contributions online?

Yes, just go to the RPAC link from the OAR home page and sign in to make a credit card contribution.

### Can we accept anonymous contributions such as those received by “passing around a hat” at an event?

No. We must have specific information about the contributor in order to include that money as a contribution.

### What information must we have about the contributor?

Name, mailing address (where financial info is received), & occupation are **required by law**.

### Do contributors need to specify whether they are making a personal or business contribution (i.e. what account will the contribution be drawn from?)

Yes, when making a contribution the contributor should specify. If the check is written on a business account, it will be classified as business. If it is written on a personal account it will be considered personal. If making a credit card contribution, it should be specified whether the card is a personal or business credit card.