

MAR Issues Mobilization Fund FAQs

What is an Issues Mobilization Fund? Issues Mobilization Funds are designed to help REALTOR® associations, both local and state, by supporting effective advocacy campaigns on public policy issues that affect REALTOR® interests. The National Association of REALTORS® recognizes the critical importance of advocating for private property rights, and its NAR Issues Mobilization Fund partners with Funds operated by state associations in 47 states. When the state association's Issues Mobilization Fund contributes financially to an advocacy campaign, NAR can contribute as well, joining with them to maximize the reach and the impact of the effort.

When was the MAR Issues Mobilization Fund established? During their meetings in March and June of 2016, the MAR Board of Directors heard reports from an Issues Mobilization Fund Task Force, a group that studied the success of Issues Mobilization Funds in other states. After much discussion and deliberation, the Board voted:

- To establish a Mississippi Issues Mobilization Fund
- To make the Fund available for use by local boards for local advocacy issues as well as for state-wide advocacy campaigns
- To establish an Issues Mobilization Fund Committee to review and award grant requests for issues advocacy campaigns
- To be the first to make a commitment to the Fund, by contributing \$30,000 from MAR reserves and approximately \$20,000 by MAR from unspent designated funds
- To implement a \$12.50 per REALTOR® and Affiliate member per year assessment to build and maintain the Fund at a target of \$500,000 (a cost per member of just \$1.04 more per month)

Why does Mississippi need an Issues Mobilization Fund? In the past several years, Mississippi REALTORS® have been challenged by local government initiatives that have threatened private property rights and the real estate industry in our state.

- A change to Oxford's sign ordinance would have curtailed the use of "For Sale" signs; REALTORS® attended City Council meetings and wrote letters and the Council tabled the proposed ordinances pending further study.
- REALTORS® in the City of Jackson prevented a new inspection process and fees for rental units through their attendance at City Council Work Group meetings. The proposed ordinance has been tabled for now.
- The City of Pearl passed a very restrictive ordinance for rental properties despite REALTORS® attendance at their public meetings. And property owners there are now involved in expensive litigation to try to block the implementation of the ordinance. **Could an organized Issues Mobilization campaign have made a difference in Pearl?**

- Nationwide, REALTORS® face such challenges on a daily basis, and in most states, REALTOR® Issues Mobilization Funds are available to provide financial assistance in combating these threats. When we entered 2016, Mississippi was one of only three states without an Issues Mobilization Fund.

When will the MAR Issues Mobilization Fund be available? The new Issues Mobilization Fund assessment went into effect with the 2017 billing cycle and the funds are available now!

Who is serving on the Issues Mobilization Fund Committee in 2018?

- District One - Andrea Detrick (Term ends 2019)
- District Two - Ray Branscome (Term ends 2019)
- District Two - Levi McCraney (Term ends 2018)
- District Three - Larry Edwards (Term ends 2019)
- District Three - Lynette Praytor (Term ends 2020)
- District Three - **Cathy Feltenstein, Chair** (Terms ends 2018)
- District Four - Bruce Kammer (Term ends 2018)
- District Four - **Judy Freeman, Vice Chair** (Term ends 2020)
- MAR President - Karen Glass (Term Ends 2018)
- Executive Committee Liaison - David Griffith (Term Ends 2018)
- MARPAC Trustees Chair - David Stevens) (Term ends 2018)
- Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee Chair - Adam Watkins (Term ends 2018)
- Association Operations Committee Chair - Kristyn Davis (Term ends 20178)
- AE Liaison - Amanda Woods (Term Ends 2018)
- NAR Issues Mobilization Committee member - Chris Wilson (Term ends 2018)