

FPC Report - REALTORS® Legislative Meetings 2024 May 4-9 Washington D.C.

My first meeting was to the **FPC Political Group: Senate Democrats**. The purpose of this session was to review the following:

NAR's President Kevin Spears letter to Executive Director of Veterans Affairs John Bell urging the VA to revise its policies pertaining to fees veterans cannot pay when using their VA home loan benefit. Current policies put veterans at significant disadvantage compared to traditional buyers. Veterans are denied compensation from their representatives directly which in turn may have them forego being represented, losing a sale in a low inventory marketplace and even discourage them from buying a home. Vijay Yadlapati, Director of Government Advocacy chaired the meeting and invited Jeremy Green, Federal Housing Policy Representative to give a detailed presentation on his recent negotiations with the VA. **Note:** This information was of high importance and given to Senator Kelly, member of the Armed Services Committee on my Hill Visit.

Also covered in detail were the **2024 REALTOR® Legislative Policies, NAR Priority Issues 2024**, and information about the newly formed Bi-Partisan Congressional Real Estate Cucus.

The **Federal Political Coordinator Roundtable** two-hour event followed. FPC's gather annually to partake in training, networking, and valuable discussion before returning to regular order and leading constituent meetings with their Members of Congress on Capitol Hill. We heard from Rich Thau of Engagious and the Swing Voter Project relating to REALTOR® issues appearing in the 2024 election and how voters feel about Trump and Biden. His team conducts monthly online focus groups with U.S. adults who voted for Trump in 2016 and Biden in 2020. The group respondents live in the ten most competitive states in the 2020 election. We also received an update on the status of the lawsuit and heard from a panel of six veteran FPC's from all over the country including yours truly "J.T." Tsighis Arizona FPC for Senator Mark Kelly on best practices around Hill Visits. President Spears awarded two deserving FPCs the 2024 Meritorious Service Award.

Another important session attended was **The Advocacy Scoop**. Chief Advocacy Officer Shannon McGahn and the NAR Advocacy Team of Bryan Greene, Joe Harris, Evan Liddiard and Jon Waclawski had a discussion on the key priorities we are working on with the 118th Congress, the administration, and at the state and local levels. Topics addressed everything from America's affordable housing shortage to ensuring fair housing for all, and hearing about how REALTORS® are leading efforts to expand access to the American Dream and revitalize communities.

Other events attended include the **General Session-Election Preview: Political Perspectives with Eugene Daniels and Margaret Hoover** which gave the listening audience an open, provocative insight as to how these presenters see both political parties. **Regulatory Issues Forum: What lies Ahead- Practical and Policy Solutions in a Post-Settlement Environment**. The Forum focused on various solutions following the proposed Sitzer/Burnett case settlement and the impact of the required practice changes that will take effect in mid-August 2024. It also focused on the practical and policy changes expected in a post-settlement environment, including more expansive use of buyer broker agreements and the impact of the proposed settlement on minority, veteran, first-time home and first-generation home buyers.

The **FPC 50th Anniversary Ice Cream Social in Booth #735** was a fun ice cream social in the Expo Hall and allowed all FPCs from all over the country to celebrate our 50th Anniversary Reception. Additional sessions attended were the **Golden R/Platinum R Hospitality Reception** and the **FPC 50th Anniversary Reception** celebrating the NAR Federal Political Coordinators (FPCs) who represent, defend, and advocate for our REALTOR® brand in Washington D.C. This event marked the success of this elite program.

Respectfully submitted, James "J.T." Tsighis, FPC Senator Mark Kelly