

Ellen Smith

From: LegislativeLiaison-owner@smtp.texasrealtors.com on behalf of Craig Chick [cchick@texasrealtors.com]
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79th Legislative Session Jan. 21, 2005

Historic legislative facts

Did you know that our Texas Legislature is based on the citizen participant model? This means that the members all go back home to their businesses or jobs when the Legislature is not in session. This also means that the members do not receive a full-time wage for their service. All House and Senate members are paid \$7,200 a year.

Week Two

The second week of the 79th Legislature was very quiet. The Legislature took the week off to allow the members to travel to Washington, D.C., to enjoy the presidential inauguration of George W. Bush.

The National Association of REALTORS® hosted members for a reception during the inaugural parade yesterday at the association's new building near the U.S. Capitol. The reception was a great success

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst late last week did release a school finance plan featuring several financing mechanisms to restructure Texas' reliance on property tax. The plan did not feature a real estate transfer tax or other industry-targeted proposals. The plan will now go through the lengthy process of debate and scrutiny to hash out details.

Rest assured, the Texas Association of REALTORS® will be at the negotiating table working hard to see that a fair tax is enacted. The Texas Association of REALTORS® will continue to fight to make sure every citizen in Texas can realize the American Dream of homeownership.

With 73,000 members, TAR's grassroots effort will play a key role in determining the best way to properly fund our children's future.

Next week's edition: The next Legislative Liaison will include an update on TAR's legislative agenda and any bill-filing activity. Please refer to the [Governmental Affairs section of TexasRealtors.com](#) for a complete review of our legislative positions. Encourage your colleagues to sign up for the Legislative Liaison Program by visiting the [Political Affairs section of TexasRealtors.com](#).