

Pennsylvania Association of Realtors® - Capitol Report

Governor Shapiro Budget Address

Gov. Josh Shapiro delivered his second budget address in front of a joint session of both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate. This year's budget proposes \$48.3 billion directed for public schools, education and housing, among other things.

Shapiro proposed a 14% increase, or \$1.1 billion, in funding for public schools. This proposal stems from the court ruling last year that the state needed to better fund its public school system. Of the \$1.1 billion, approximately \$872 million would go toward helping the state's poorest districts provide better education for their students.

Shapiro also proposed \$50 million for the Whole Home Repair program which originally was allotted over \$100 million in American Rescue Plan money last fiscal year. Additionally, the governor also pushed to increase the cap for the Pennsylvania Housing Trust Fund to \$100 million over the next four years for the purpose of subsidizing the construction and rehabilitation of houses and apartments.

As budget season officially kicks off, the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors® will continue to monitor the budget and advocate for our members, consumers and the industry as a whole.

Flood Insurance Premium Task Force

The Pennsylvania Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force held its first meeting on Feb. 7. This meeting included presentations from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Penn State University Harrisburg and the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. Presenters provided information about the flood insurance models in Pennsylvania, affordability programs and potential recommendations for new flood insurance policies and programs. The task force also reviewed recommendations from individuals and organizations on their views of flood insurance in the commonwealth and their recommendations for policies and programs. PAR was one of the four organizations that submitted written comments. The task force hopes to hold meetings across Pennsylvania once a month through July. Meeting dates are currently tentative.

Pennsylvania SREC Vacancy

The State Real Estate Commission has a vacancy for one of its five industry members beginning this year. PAR has a detailed process, which was approved by the board of directors, addressing candidates' requests for appointment support. Any member interested in being considered for PAR's support should review the application process and **submit an application online. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, March 1.**

The SREC requires industry members to be licensed and qualified real estate brokers with at least 10 years' experience prior to the appointment.

All applications will be initially reviewed by PAR's Public Policy Coordinating Committee. The committee will assess each applicant's educational background, experience and other pertinent information. The committee may submit one name to PAR's Executive Committee for consideration, however, if there are additional candidates with similar qualifications, the committee may submit up to three names.

The Executive Committee will review the recommendations and may approve any or all of the applicants submitted by the PPCC. PAR will send a letter of support to the appointing authority with the name(s) of the individual(s).