



Emily Levitt
2026 STAR President

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Powering REALTORS® Across Stark, Carroll, and Trumbull Counties...

President’s Message

2026 | April

A Message from Your 2026 STAR President - Emily Levitt

As we move into April, the real estate market is gaining momentum and setting the stage for a busy spring season. With more listings coming online and buyers actively searching, this is one of the most exciting times of the year in our industry. It’s a great reminder of the important role we play in helping our clients achieve their goals and navigate an ever-changing market.

At STAR, we are focused on supporting you during this busy season by providing opportunities to learn, connect, and grow. We kick things off with a **3-Hour Core Law Continuing Education class on Thursday, April 23 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, offered both at the STAR office and via Zoom. This class is free for STAR members and provides the required Core Law credit for Ohio licensees. It will be taught by our Legal Counsel, **Jamie Haren**, making it a valuable opportunity to stay compliant and up to date on current laws and best practices.

Next, we invite you to our signature spring event, **the Derby Day Social & RPAC Auction on Wednesday, May 6 at Glenmoor Country Club**. Doors open at 5:30 PM, with dinner and the auction beginning at 6:00 PM. This event features **live and silent auctions** and brings our members together for an evening of fun, networking, and meaningful support of RPAC—ensuring REALTORS® continue to have a strong voice in protecting private property rights.

We will wrap up the week with **our Morning Mixer on Friday, May 8 from 9:00–11:00 AM at Union Park Coffee and Cocktails in Canton**. This relaxed event includes complimentary coffee and pastries and offers a great opportunity to connect with fellow REALTORS® and Affiliates in a casual, welcoming setting.

Spring is not only a time of growth in real estate—it’s also a time to grow your involvement within STAR. Whether you attend an event, complete your education, or build new connections, your engagement strengthens our entire association.

Thank you for all that you do each day. Wishing you a successful and productive spring season!

Warm regards,
Emily Levitt
2026 STAR President

Classes & Events

APRIL

- APR 3 STAR OFFICES CLOSED | Good Friday
- APR 6 Growth & Connection Committee | Staff Liaison: [Maggie McAbier](#)
- APR 16 [REGISTER NOW](#)
MLS NOW CE | CMA 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720
- APR 23 [REGISTER NOW](#)
CORE LAW CE | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720

MAY

- MAY 4 Growth & Connection Committee | Staff Liaison: [Maggie McAbier](#)
- MAY 6 Leg. Affairs / RPAC Committee | Staff Liaison: [Rich Cosgrove](#)
- MAY 6 [REGISTER NOW](#)
RPAC AUCTION | 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Glenmoor Country Club | 4191 Glenmoor Rd NW, Canton, OH 44718
- MAY 8 Affiliate Committee | Staff Liaison: [Collene Burgess](#) / [Maggie McAbier](#)
- MAY 8 [REGISTER NOW](#)
Morning Mixer | 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Union Park Coffee | 4700 Everhard Rd NW Canton, OH 44718
- MAY 21 [REGISTER NOW](#)
MLS NOW CE | Listing Input 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720
- MAY 25 STAR OFFICES CLOSED | Memorial Day

JUNE

- JUN 10 [REGISTRATION COMING SOON](#)
SHP Bed and Breakfast | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720
- JUN 12 Affiliate Committee | Staff Liaison: [Collene Burgess](#) / [Maggie McAbier](#)
- JUN 18 [REGISTER NOW](#)
MLS NOW CE | CMA 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720
- JUN 19 STAR OFFICES CLOSED | Juneteenth
- JUN 30 [REGISTRATION COMING SOON](#)
ETHICS CE | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B, North Canton, OH 44720



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A Note from the CEO

A Message from Your CEO

As we move further into 2026, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible momentum we've built together at STAR this year. From a strong start in January to the continued growth we're seeing this spring, it's clear that our Association is moving in a positive and purposeful direction.

We kicked off the year with a successful Installation, bringing our members and Affiliates together to celebrate leadership, recognize achievements, and set the tone for the year ahead. Since then, our focus has remained on delivering value, strengthening connections, and creating opportunities for our members to succeed.

One of the areas I'm most proud of is the continued engagement we're seeing across our events and programs. From well-attended New Member Orientations to our SHAKER networking events, it's evident that our members are showing up, getting involved, and building meaningful relationships. These connections are what make STAR special—we are not just an association; we are a community.

Advocacy remains a top priority as well. Whether it's staying engaged in local issues like the recent water service discussions or supporting RPAC, we are committed to ensuring that REALTORS® have a strong voice at every level. Protecting private property rights and supporting our industry is not optional—it's essential.

As we head into a busy spring season, we are excited about several upcoming opportunities for you to stay engaged. Our Core Law Continuing Education class on April 23 will help ensure you remain compliant, followed by our RPAC Derby Day Social on May 6, and our Morning Mixer on May 8. These events are designed to support your business, expand your network, and keep you informed.

Looking ahead, our focus remains clear: efficiency, engagement, and excellence. We are committed to providing you with the tools, resources, and opportunities you need to thrive in today's market.

Thank you for your continued support, involvement, and dedication to your profession. STAR is strong because of you—and together, we will continue to raise the bar.



Collene Burgess
Chief Executive Officer

cburgess@star.realtor
office: (330) 494-5630

Sincerely,
Collene Burgess
CEO, STAR



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1:30pm - 3:30pm

at Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®

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January 22: Listing Input

The Matrix Listing Input class should be taken by those who have broker permission to input listings. This class will go over how to properly use the input portion of Matrix while following MLS Now rules.

February 19: My Matrix and More

Explore the My Matrix tools, including custom headers and grids, personalized email signatures with photos and links, speedbar shortcuts, team settings, hot sheets for market tracking, and portal notifications to monitor prospect activity.

March 19: Real Reports

Real Reports consolidates tax records, public data, and property insights into a single platform—eliminating the need to jump between multiple systems. The AI-powered features help you translate raw data into client-ready insights, positioning you as the local expert.

April 16: CMA

Learn how to find comps using radius or map searches and create a CMA package with customizable reports, cover pages, and stats—saved under the contact for easy editing, printing, or emailing anytime

May 21: Listing Input

The Matrix Listing Input class should be taken by those who have broker permission to input listings. This class will go over how to properly use the input portion of Matrix while following MLS Now rules.

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To learn more, please allow 15 minutes after your class for a brief lesson.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

3-Hour CORE LAW



"Ohio Real Estate Core Law: Mastering Legal Compliance and Best Practices"

THURSDAY

April 23, 2026

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
at the STAR Office and
Via ZOOM

7110 Whipple Ave NW, Suite B,
North Canton, OH 44720

FREE

FOR STAR MEMBERS

\$20 for Non-STAR Members
Registration Open to All!

Credit:

This course is certified for 3 hours of State Required CORE LAW credit for Ohio Licences.

Per ODRE requirements, attendees must be present 90% of the program.

You will be charged a \$20 No Show Fee if you do not cancel your reservation 24 hours prior to the event per STAR Policy.

QUESTIONS? Contact Maggie McAbier
maggie@STAR.Realtor | 330.494.5630

SIGN UP TODAY!



Instructor: Jamie Haren

www.STAR.Realtor



Derby Day SOCIAL with STAR

STAR RPAC Committee presents our Annual
RPAC Auction & Dinner
WED, May 6, 2026

\$65 Dinner Ticket IF PAID BY MAY 1, 2026
\$70 Dinner Ticket at the Door

\$40 of your Dinner Ticket will go toward
your RPAC Investment



5:30 pm Doors Open
6:00 pm Dinner & Auction begins

Glenmoor Country Club
4191 Glenmoor Rd NW, Canton, OH 44718

SCAN CODE to sign up! SCAN the Code or text "LEAD2026" to 76278
to sign up today!

LIVE & Silent Auctions

CASH Bar

Questions? Contact Rich Cosgrove, GAD@STAR.Realtor

REALTOR® Packages

\$1,000 Major Investor

\$300 PAID BY 5/1/2026 WITH \$700
PAID IN FULL BY THE EVENING OF THE EVENT

Major Investor Package Includes:

Eight (8) Dinner Tickets
Table Sponsor Recognition
Program Recognition

\$150 Capitol Club

MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY 5/6/2026
Capitol Club Package Includes:

Two (2) Dinner Tickets



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RPAC DISCLAIMER: Statement Restrictions on Foreign Contributions for Ohio Activity. Effective September 1, 2024, Ohio law (ORC 3517.121) prohibits "foreign nationals" from contributing to or spending on Ohio candidates, statewide ballot measures, and electioneering communications ("Ohio Activity"). Organizations, including Ohio REALTORS and its political affiliates (RPAC and ORPAF), cannot knowingly solicit, accept, or use such funds for Ohio Activity. "Foreign nationals" include non-U.S. citizens and foreign entities. On August 31, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio issued a preliminary injunction partially blocking the enforcement of ORC Section 3517.121(A)(2). As such, at this time, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs or green card holders) are not included in the definition of "foreign nationals," and LPRs may now contribute to and participate in Ohio political and ballot issue activities. Significant portions of the law remain in effect, particularly regarding other categories of foreign nationals. Non-U.S. citizens, other foreign nationals, and foreign entities may not contribute to Ohio REALTORS, RPAC, or ORPAF for Ohio Activity and should opt out of related voluntary dues assessments. By contributing, you certify that you are a U.S. citizen or national, or LPR (green card holder), and all underlying sources of your contribution are from U.S. citizens or nationals, or LPRs, or entities organized domestically with a domestic principal place of business.

Contributions to RPAC. 26 U.S.C. 162(e) requires that the portion of dues attributable to lobbying and political activities at the Local, State, and Federal levels of government be considered nondeductible for income tax purposes. Contributions are voluntary and are used for political purposes. The RPAC amount indicated is merely a guideline, and you may contribute more or less than the suggested amount. The National Association of REALTORS and its state and local associations will not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal. 70% of each contribution is used by your State RPAC to support state and local political candidates; 30% is sent to National RPAC to support federal candidates and is charged against your limits under 52 U.S.C. 30116. Notwithstanding this general allocation formula, the allocation may change, and all or a portion of your contribution may be allocated to other political accounts maintained by Ohio REALTORS if a contribution exceeds limits under the and/or if a contribution falls outside time limits under 52 U.S.C. 30102.

Non-Deductible Percentages of Dues Payments & Assessments. \$40 of Ohio REALTORS dues is used by Ohio REALTORS to engage in independent political expenditures for purposes of influencing the election or defeat of State or Federal candidates, as well as Local or State ballot issues; this amount is non-deductible for the member's income tax purposes. For the additional dues of \$255 per member, Ohio REALTORS computes 10% or \$25.50 to be non-deductible due to Ohio REALTORS lobbying effort. Total non-deductible for Ohio Realtor dues is \$65.50. For 2024, with dues at \$156 per member, NAR computes 35% or \$55 to be nondeductible for the member's income tax purposes due to NAR lobbying efforts. Please note that the entire \$45 Consumer Advertising Campaign special assessment qualifies as fully deductible.



STAR

Morning Mixer

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Complimentary Coffee and Pastry

Join the STAR Affiliates for a Fun and Relaxing Networking Event!
FREE for STAR REALTOR® Members

Morning Mixer in Stark
at UnionPark Coffee and Cocktails in Canton

4700 Everhard Road NW
Canton, OH 44718

Friday, May 8

Friday, November 13

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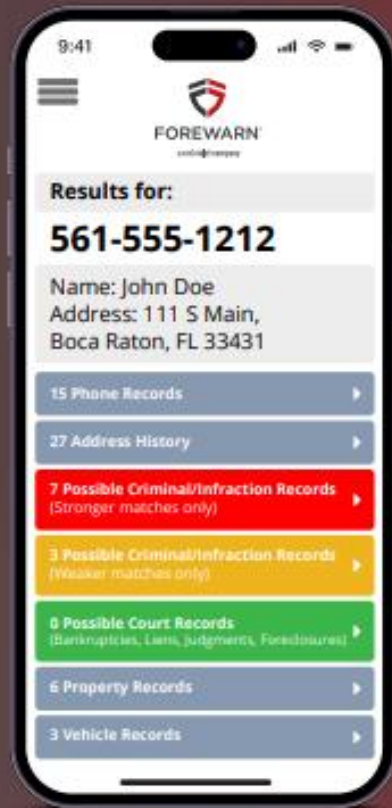


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APRIL

April 14, 2026

10:00 AM

Eastern Time (US & CA)

Register >

April 30, 2026

02:00 PM

Eastern Time (US & CA)

Register >

To set up your password, visit <https://app.forewarn.com/membersetup>

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April 2026 GAD Report

'Trigger leads' law goes into effect, protecting home buyers: The bipartisan Homebuyers Privacy Protection Act, which was signed into law on Sept. 5, 2025, went into effect on Thursday, March 5. The legislation prevents home buyers from being inundated with unsolicited calls, texts and emails from competing lenders offering loans. NAR consistently advocated for policies that protect home buyers throughout the mortgage process.

Ohio lawmaker proposes land value tax amendment as alternative to property tax elimination: While activists gather signatures to try to eliminate property taxes statewide in Ohio, a lawmaker is suggesting Ohio should tax the underlying land instead of the total property including improvements like homes and buildings.

Hartville council reviews strategic plan update: During the regular meeting March 9, the Village of Hartville Council heard an update on the village's Strategic Plan. Council

members said the zoning book will be discussed with Stark County officials this week. Council members suggested the book be separated into sections such as planning, signs, buildings or downtown.

Washington Twp. trustees pause high-density projects amid traffic, density concerns: Traffic concerns on two of its busiest roadways have Washington Twp. residents and the board of trustees asking developers for better plans for two proposed high-density developments on opposite sides of the township.

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Monthly Market **STATS**

February 2026

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out our Blog for shareable assets and watch social media for March STATS soon!

Market **UPDATE**

STARK COUNTY

Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®
Single-Family & TownHome Listing
Analysis of Stark, Trumbull, & Carroll Counties



NEW Listings
333



SOLD Listings
257



Average SALE Price
\$271,407



Average MARKET TIME
48 Days

FEBRUARY 2026

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Market **UPDATE**

CARROLL COUNTY

Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®
Single-Family & TownHome Listing
Analysis of Stark, Trumbull, & Carroll Counties



NEW Listings
20



SOLD Listings
10



Average SALE Price
\$308,400



Average MARKET TIME
46 Days

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Market **UPDATE**

TRUMBULL COUNTY

Stark Trumbull Area REALTORS®
Single-Family & TownHome Listing
Analysis of Stark, Trumbull, & Carroll Counties



NEW Listings
112



SOLD Listings
112



Average SALE Price
\$193,573



Average MARKET TIME
84 Days

FEBRUARY 2026

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Membership Report March 2026

New Salespersons

Leah Schaffner, *Real of Ohio*
Lisa Shepherd, *Tanner Real Estate*
Terry-Frimpong-Baohene, *KW Legacy Group*
Marisa Rodgers, *Rustic Roots Real Estate*
Kelli Blair, *KW Legacy Group*
Catrina Williams-Martinez, *KW Legacy Group*
Daniel Ward, *Real of Ohio*
Melissa Johnston, *BHHS Stouffer Realty*
Anne Martin, *BHHS Stouffer Realty*
Aleisha Johnson, *EXP-Westlake*
Lonzie Padgett, *KW Legacy Group*
Michael Hall, *KW Legacy Group*
Kailey Watkins, *KW Legacy Group*
Kaitlyn Lewis, *Real of Ohio*
Kaylee Fitzpatrick, *BHHS*
Morgan Stuart, *Re/Max Edge*
Tina Moyer, *XRE Realty*
Carli Stanley, *KW Legacy Group*
Justin Wade, *KW Legacy Group*

New Secondary Member

Brandy Maurer, *Re/Max Edge*

New Secondary Office

Daniel Young, *EXP Realty*

Transfers from Another Board

Kristofer Kampmeyer
Trace Johnson

Office Transfers

Lamont Hall, *Century 21 HomeStar*
Luke Clay, *Cedar One Realty*
Christopher DeGasperis, *KW Chervenik Realty*
Sheri DeGasperis, *KW Chervenik Realty*
Matthew Adamson, *EXP-Westlake*
Alexis Pernice, *The Agency Northwest*

New Affiliate Members

Tameka Thornton, *Equity Capital Mortgage*
Rick Rucker, *Equity Capital Mortgage*

Dropped Members

Michelle Sears
Christian Crock
Jarrett Blair
Neil McGowan
Chris McDonnell
Brandon Pankuch
Caleb Shaw
George Price
Allyson Eslich
Charles Griffin

Dropped Members Cont.

Jeremy Knowles
Pamela Huckins
Bradley Curlutu
Joshua Gaston
Michael Lucius
Stacy Starcher



Candice Likely, Administrative Assistant

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and take the
guesswork out
of getting started!**

Orientation Dates

Thursday, February 26
Thursday, June 4
Thursday, September 24
Thursday, November 12



Sign-Up TODAY!

NAR Pending Home Sales Report Shows 1.8% Increase in February

Published March 17, 2026 | NAR Newsroom

WASHINGTON (March 17, 2026) - Pending home sales in February increased by 1.8% from the prior month and declined 0.8% year over year, according to the National Association of REALTORS® [Pending Home Sales report](#). The report provides the real estate ecosystem—including agents and homebuyers and sellers—with data on the level of home sales under contract.

Month over month pending home sales rose in the Midwest, South and West, and declined in the Northeast. Year over year pending home sales rose in the South and West, and declined in the Northeast and Midwest.

“The slight gain in pending contracts appears to be driven by improved affordability conditions. However, those conditions could reverse if higher oil prices lead to an uptick in mortgage rates,” said NAR Chief Economist Dr. Lawrence Yun. “The Midwest—the most affordable region of the country—was the strongest performer in February. But the Northeast was held back by a combination of higher home prices and a shortage of supply.”

“For first-time homebuyers, purchasing a home is not a snap decision,” Yun added. “It takes time to build credit, save for a down payment, and fulfill existing rental lease agreements. Still, there is sizable pent-up demand that could be released into the market. Although job gains have been sluggish in recent months, there are still 6 million more jobs in the country than in the pre-COVID period.”

February 2026 National Pending Home Sales

- 1.8% increase month over month
- 0.8% decrease year over year

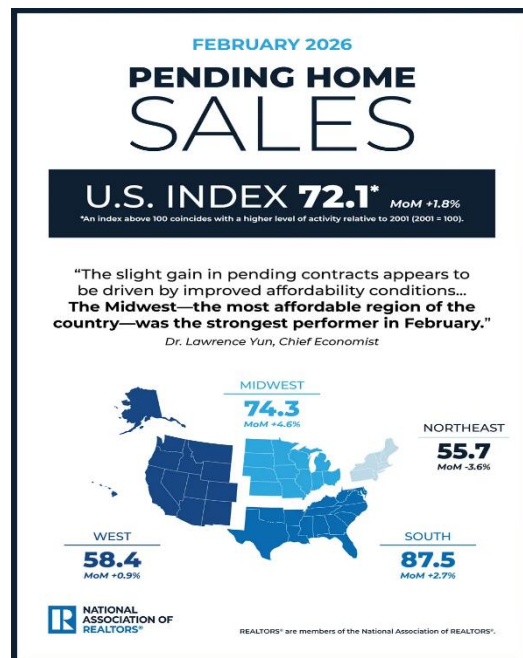
February 2026 Regional Pending Home Sales

Northeast

- 3.6% decrease month over month
- 12.1% decrease year over year

Midwest

- 4.6% increase month over month
- 0.1% decrease year over year



South

- 2.7% increase month over month
- 1.2% increase year over year

West

- 0.9% increase month over month
- 3.2% increase year over year

At the local level, several markets posted notable year-over-year gains in pending home sales. Among the 50 largest metro areas, the following 10 markets posted the biggest annual increases in pending home sales, according to data from Realtor.com® Economics:

1. San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA (+13.5%)
2. Jacksonville, FL (+12.1%)
3. San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA (+10.6%)
4. Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO (+10.5%)
5. Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL (+10.0%)
6. Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ (+9.8%)

NAR Pending Home Sales Report Cont...

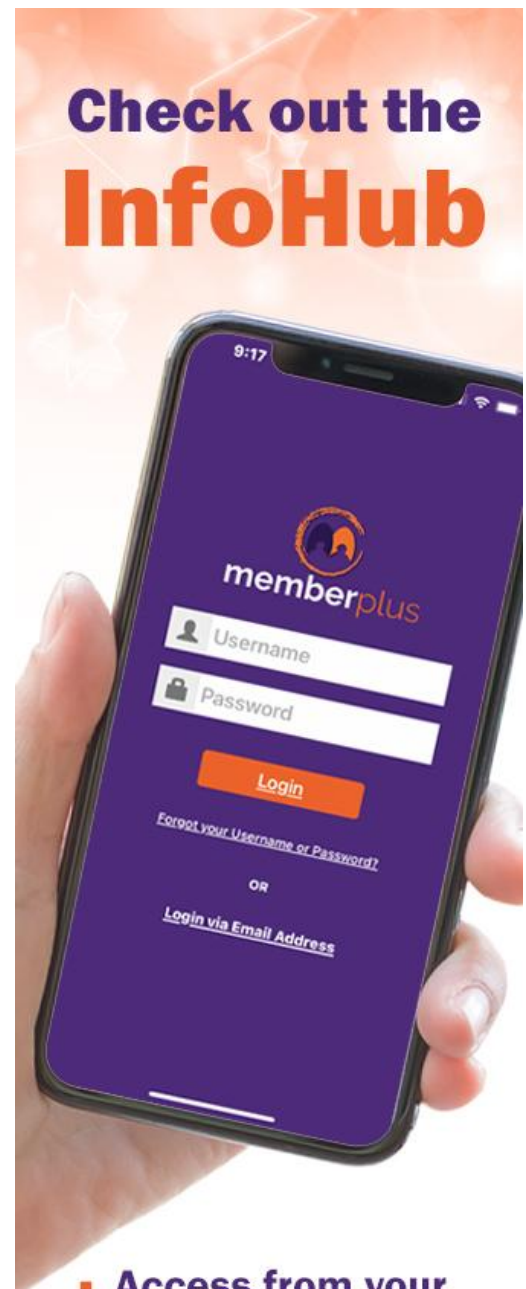
7. Sacramento–Roseville–Folsom, CA (+9.3%)
8. Kansas City, MO-KS (+8.7%)
9. Austin–Round Rock–San Marcos, TX (+8.1%)
10. Oklahoma City, OK (+8.7%)

About the National Association of REALTORS®

The National Association of REALTORS® is involved in all aspects of residential and commercial real estate. The term REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the National Association of REALTORS® and subscribes to its strict [Code of Ethics](#). For free consumer guides about navigating the homebuying and selling transaction processes – from written buyer agreements to negotiating compensation – visit [facts.realtor](#).

*The Pending Home Sales Index is a leading indicator for the housing sector, based on pending sales of existing homes. A sale is listed as pending when the contract has been signed but the transaction has not closed, though the sale usually is finalized within one or two months of signing.

NOTE: [Existing-Home Sales](#) for March will be reported on April 13. The next [Pending Home Sales Index](#) will be released on April 21. All release times are 10 a.m. Eastern. View the [NAR Statistical News Release Schedule](#).



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