



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BREAKING:

Realtors' Association uses lawsuit to try to take affordable housing decision away from Santa Fe voters

Today, the Santa Fe Association of Realtors filed a lawsuit against the City of Santa Fe, attempting to stop the affordable housing ballot measure on this November's ballot. Santa Feans began voting on this measure three days ago, when early voting started on October 10, 2023.

United for Affordable Housing Chair and State Representative Andrea Romero stated, ***"This is a shameless, last-ditch effort by the Realtors Association to try to deny Santa Fe voters a voice on affordable housing. The realtors know that the public overwhelmingly supports this measure. They have had months, including a lengthy city council debate, to lodge a complaint. To try to deny voters their voice after voting has already begun is cynical and anti-democratic."***

The lawsuit reads almost exactly like the one filed unsuccessfully by the Realtors in the 2009 affordable housing ballot measure. The City of Santa Fe legal memo on this ballot measure has been posted on its website for months.

Campaign spokesperson Natalie Sept stated, ***"The Realtors Association tried this lawsuit 14 years ago and failed. This ploy is their latest attempt to sow doubt and fear among voters. It's not going to work. They should be ashamed of themselves for trying to circumvent the will of the voters."***

If approved in November, the affordable housing ballot proposal will implement a one-time 3% tax on homes sold for over \$1M, on only the amount in excess of \$1M. These collected funds will go directly to supporting affordable housing in Santa Fe.

In campaign finance reports that were due earlier this week, the Realtors showed \$50,000 in contributions from the Realtors Association of New Mexico. In the 2009 affordable housing measure, 100% of the \$194,520.81 spent by the realtors PAC to oppose this measure came from two sources: the National Association of Realtors gave \$75,000, and the Realtors Association of New Mexico gave \$119,520.81.

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