

ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS™

NATIONAL CHARTER

Status: Active Charter

Adopted: February 26, 2026

Version: 1.0

FOUNDING STATEMENT

The Association of Real Estate Professionals™ was established to strengthen and modernize the professional infrastructure serving the real estate industry across the United States.

The real estate profession plays a foundational role in economic mobility, private property rights, capital formation, housing stability, and community development. Those who serve this profession carry substantial responsibility.

The Association was formed to provide:

- A voluntary national professional framework
- Elevated standards of conduct and representation
- Institutional governance independent of marketplace control
- Recognition for professionals who commit to accountability
- Long-term credibility for the industry

The Association does not exist to regulate markets, impose participation mandates, or control commerce. Its purpose is to advance professionalism, strengthen institutional integrity, and promote responsible conduct within the profession.

This Charter reflects that mission and establishes the governing foundation of the Association.

PREAMBLE

The Association of Real Estate Professionals™ (“Association”) is a national professional trade organization operating under private governance authority. It exists to unify those who serve the real estate profession under a structured framework of voluntary standards and institutional accountability.

This Charter defines the foundational structure, principles, governance authority, and membership standards of the Association.

ARTICLE I — PURPOSE AND NATIONAL MISSION

The Association is organized to:

1. Advance the professional standing of those serving the real estate industry nationally.
2. Promote integrity, competency, and responsible professional conduct.
3. Provide structured national infrastructure supporting brokers, agents, lenders, investors, property managers, and aligned professionals.
4. Elevate public trust through voluntary professional standards.
5. Preserve and strengthen the long-term institutional credibility of the profession.

The Association is not a governmental entity, licensing authority, or regulatory body.

ARTICLE II — VOLUNTARY NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association is voluntary and conditioned upon adherence to this Charter and all applicable Association policies.

Members acknowledge that:

- Membership is a professional privilege.
- Continued membership requires compliance with Association standards.
- The Association maintains private governance authority over membership status and designation usage.

Membership does not require MLS participation, does not mandate cooperation policies, and does not impose listing distribution rules.

ARTICLE III — FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Members of the Association commit to the following national professional standards:

1. Professional Competency

Members shall conduct business with skill, diligence, and care consistent with their professional role.

2. Integrity and Transparency

Members shall avoid deception, misrepresentation, and material omission.

3. Accountability

Members accept responsibility for their professional conduct and acknowledge that membership may be suspended or revoked for material violations.

4. Respect for the Profession

Members shall conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the dignity, stability, and reputation of the real estate industry.

5. Institutional Stewardship

Members shall protect the Association's name, marks, and professional designations from misuse or misrepresentation.

ARTICLE IV — STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Members agree to:

1. Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
2. Maintain any required professional licensure.
3. Represent qualifications, credentials, and services accurately.
4. Protect confidential information entrusted to them.
5. Avoid fraudulent, misleading, or materially harmful conduct.
6. Conduct professional communications respectfully and responsibly.
7. Avoid conduct that materially damages the reputation of the Association.

The Association's authority extends solely to membership governance and does not regulate market operations.

ARTICLE V — PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE AND REPRESENTATION

Members represent not only themselves but also the integrity of the profession and the Association.

Accordingly, members shall:

1. Maintain a professional appearance in business settings consistent with industry norms.
2. Use Association branding, logos, and designations only in approved formats.
3. Avoid public communications that materially undermine the credibility of the profession.
4. Present themselves in advertising, media appearances, and digital platforms in a manner consistent with professional dignity and accuracy.

This section exists to preserve institutional credibility and public trust.

ARTICLE VI — NATIONAL BOARD AUTHORITY

The Association shall be governed by its National Board (or Managing Authority, as applicable under its legal structure).

The National Board shall possess authority to:

1. Adopt, amend, and interpret this Charter.
2. Establish and modify policies supporting the Association's mission.
3. Define membership classifications and eligibility criteria.
4. Approve education, certification, and designation programs.
5. Protect intellectual property and enforce brand standards.
6. Initiate and oversee membership accountability proceedings.
7. Establish committees, officers, and advisory bodies as necessary for governance.

The National Board acts in a fiduciary capacity to preserve the long-term institutional integrity of the Association.

All governance authority is administrative and private in nature.

ARTICLE VII — MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT

If credible evidence indicates a material violation of this Charter or related Association policies, the Association may initiate internal review.

Potential actions may include:

- Written notice
- Opportunity for response
- Required remediation
- Temporary suspension of privileges
- Revocation of membership
- Restriction or removal of designation rights

Enforcement procedures may be defined in separate internal governance policies.

All actions are internal, administrative, and private in nature.

Membership is a privilege, not a right.

ARTICLE VIII — DESIGNATIONS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The name “Association of Real Estate Professionals™,” all logos, seals, and professional designations including REPro™ are protected intellectual property.

Use of Association marks:

- Is conditioned upon active membership.
- Must comply with official brand standards.
- May be suspended or revoked at the Association’s discretion.

Unauthorized use may result in enforcement action and potential legal remedies.

ARTICLE IX — LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY

The Association:

- Does not regulate the real estate marketplace.
- Does not control listing distribution.
- Does not mandate cooperation practices.
- Does not replace governmental regulatory agencies.
- Does not provide legal advice.

Members remain independently responsible for compliance with all applicable laws and licensing requirements.

ARTICLE X — AMENDMENTS

This Charter may be amended by the National Board.

All amendments shall:

- Be formally adopted.
- Include an effective date.
- Reflect an updated version number.

The most current version shall constitute the official governing document of the Association.

ARTICLE XI — EFFECTIVE DATE

This Charter becomes effective upon formal adoption by the National Board of the Association of Real Estate Professionals™.

MEMBERSHIP OATH

Association of Real Estate Professionals™

As a member of the Association of Real Estate Professionals™, I voluntarily affirm:

- I will conduct myself with integrity and professionalism.
- I will comply with all applicable laws and licensing requirements.
- I will represent my qualifications truthfully.
- I will protect the credibility of the real estate profession in its entirety.
- I will uphold the institutional integrity of the Association.

I acknowledge that membership is a privilege and that continued membership is conditioned upon adherence to these standards and the governance authority of the Association.