



# CHECK THE FACTS & CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Campaign CA\$H and  
**REBNY**'s real record on  
affordable housing

**Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation**  
232 East 11th Street, New York, NY 10003 • [www.gvshp.org](http://www.gvshp.org)



# gvshp

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### **Mission**

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation was founded in 1980 to preserve the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo. GVSHP is a leader in protecting the sense of place and human scale that define the Village's unique community.

Our programs include: Educational outreach in the form of public lectures, tours, exhibitions, and publications; A school program that teaches children about Greenwich Village history and architecture; Preservation leadership on such issues as preservation of the South Village; Preservation projects that promote an understanding of the Village's historic importance, such as the Greenwich Village Preservation Archive and Oral History Project; Consultation services on a wide variety of preservation issues, with GVSHP serving the community as historian, educator, archival resource, and technical consultant.

GVSHP is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tel. (212) 475-9585.

# Check the Facts and Consider the Source

The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) has waged a campaign to paint landmarking and other preservation measures as the enemy of affordable housing in New York City.

**But REBNY's record on affordable housing is abominable, with a long history of working to prevent any reform sought by policymakers and advocates to preserve, protect, and create affordable housing in New York City.**

This is just the latest twist in REBNY's years-long campaign against landmarking and other preservation measures in New York City, which it regards as an obstacle despite landmarking's many proven benefits.

According to affordable housing advocates, the number one impediment to their legislative agenda is a Republican majority in the State Senate, which blocks any progress on affordable housing. **REBNY has consistently written checks to help maintain that statewide majority and its developer-friendly policies.**

## **REBNY has been a powerful force in supporting and ensuring Republican control of the New York State Senate, which has been its top priority in Albany:**

- ✓ Over the decade from October 2004 through October 2014, the Real Estate Board PAC was the #2 interest-group donor to the New York Republican State Committee, second only to the landlords' Rent Stabilization Association PAC.<sup>i</sup>
- ✓ Over the decade from October 2004 through October 2014, the Real Estate Board PAC was consistently in the top ten largest interest-group donors to the NYS Senate Republican Campaign Committee, giving \$454,000.<sup>ii</sup>
- ✓ Over the decade from October 2004 through 2014, the Real Estate Board PAC gave more than four times as much to the Republican senate campaign committee as to the Democratic one.<sup>iii</sup>
- ✓ Despite being a New York City organization, nearly three-quarters of REBNY contributions to candidates went to districts outside of NYC during 2011-2013.<sup>iv</sup>

*“Since the Republicans recaptured control of the State Senate in November 2010, real estate money has prevented action on any and all bills that would benefit tenants or stop the loss of affordable housing. Not a single pro-tenant bill has made it to the floor in the last four years.”*

*-- Michael McKee,  
Treasurer, TenantsPAC*

## **When REBNY’s officers are added to the mix, REBNY’s impact in ensuring a Republican-controlled State Senate that blocks all affordable housing measures is even more dramatic:**

*“The return on REBNY’s political investment in Albany is crystal clear: New York City rent regulations remain weak, while multi-billion dollar subsidies like the 421a and J-51 continue to grow each year. These policies collectively affect the lives of millions of New Yorkers but also impact billions of dollars of potential profits for REBNY.”*

*-- Common Cause NY*

✓ From 2011 to 2013, REBNY and its leadership gave \$3.2 million to candidates and committees in the State Senate.<sup>v</sup>

✓ REBNY and its officers gave three and-a-half times as much to Republican State Senate candidates as to Democratic candidates.<sup>vi</sup>

✓ Independent Democratic Conference candidates received half as much money as the Democrats, despite having only a small handful of members, because the IDC swung control of the State Senate to the Republicans.<sup>vii</sup>

✓ REBNY and its officers gave 31 times as much to the Republican State Senate Committee as to the Democratic State Senate Committee. They gave almost three times the Democratic total to the comparatively tiny IDC Committee.<sup>viii</sup>

**REBNY’s “Jobs for New York” PAC entered the State Senate campaigns for the first time in 2014, and worked almost entirely to ensure complete Republican control of the body:**

- ✓ REBNY’s “Jobs For New York” PAC raised \$2.5 million in the month before the election to elect Republicans in districts outside New York City.<sup>ix</sup>
- ✓ In all five races targeted by “Jobs for New York,” Republicans won, cementing the GOP majority.<sup>x</sup>
- ✓ REBNY’s “Jobs for New York” spent nearly \$300,000 on TV ads for upstate Republican George Amedore alone, who won one of its targeted elections.<sup>xi</sup>

**WHY BELIEVE REBNY’S CLAIMS THAT  
LANDMARKING IS BEHIND  
NEW YORK’S  
AFFORDABILITY CRISIS?**

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- <sup>i</sup> State Board of Elections Campaign Finance Database, GVSHP computation
- <sup>ii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>iii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>iv</sup> Common Cause report, Aug. 5, 2013: “[‘Moreland Monday’ Analysis of REBNY Contributions Raises Serious Issues for Commission to Consider](#)”
- <sup>v</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>vi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>vii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>viii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>ix</sup> “[Brookfield, Extell give big pre-election boost to REBNY-backed PAC](#),” The Real Deal, October 27, 2014; State Board of Elections Campaign Finance Database, GVSHP computation
- <sup>x</sup> State Board of Elections Campaign Finance Database, GVSHP computation
- <sup>xi</sup> Center for Public Integrity: “[Who’s Calling the Shots? State Ad Wars Tracker – New York](#).”