

Westside Builder

The Newsletter of the Westside Home Builders Association



April
2026

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - Tuesday, April 14th from 11:30am to 1pm
At Gabe's Downton Villa Rica - 129 Main Street Villa Rica, GA.**

Single-Family Starts Remain Soft in January

Elevated construction costs and constrained affordability conditions led to a reduction in single-family housing starts in January.

However, led by solid multifamily production, [overall housing starts](#) increased 7.2% in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.49 million units, according to a report from HUD and the Census Bureau.

The January reading of 1.49 million starts is the number of housing units builders would begin if development kept this pace for the next 12 months. Within this overall number, single-family starts decreased 2.8% to a 935,000 seasonally adjusted annual rate. The multifamily sector, which includes apartment buildings and condos, increased 30% to an annualized 552,000 pace.

On a regional basis compared to the previous month, combined single-family and



multifamily starts were 47.4% higher in the Northeast, 10.8% lower in the Midwest, 11.4% higher in the South and 7.5% lower in the West.

Overall permits decreased 5.4% to a 1.38 million unit annualized rate in January.

Single-family permits decreased 0.9% to an 873,000-unit rate, which is the weakest reading since August of last year. Multifamily permits decreased 12% to an annualized 503,000 pace.

Looking at regional permit data compared to the previous month, permits were 9.6% lower in the Northeast, 9% higher in the Midwest, 3.5% lower in the South and 15.7% lower in the West.

The number of single-family homes under construction fell back to 582,000 in January, down 8.8% year over year as the single-family home building market has slowed.

!!!!!! URGENT: CALL TO ACTION !!!!!!

Dear Westside HBA Members:

It is vital that we elect a representative who supports the building industry and future growth of our 5 Counties. Terry Searcy is running for the District 3 commission seat in Douglas County, and he is the candidate who aligns with these goals.

Because there is no Republican on the ticket, it is necessary for us to vote in the Democratic primary to ensure we elect someone who will support our interests. We need to replace the incumbent, Martin Raxton, who has consistently opposed the growth and development our district needs.

Please share this message with other residents and builders in District 3. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

**WHBA MUST VOTE EARLY & VOTE
DEMOCRATIC**

VOTE FOR TERRY SEARCY District 3

**Douglas County
Board of Elections & Registration
2026 Scheduled Elections**

Election: May 19, 2026

General Primary/Nonpartisan Election

**Early Voting Period: April 27 - May 15
(8:30AM-6:00PM, Mon-Fri)**





Westside HBA Members:

Kevin Head - (678) 725-1459

Derek Wirz - (423) 763-1111

<https://thesouthernagency.com/>

At The Southern Agency, we don't just sell insurance—we deliver peace of mind. Built on the principle "Create great policies with great carriers at competitive rates," we take the time to understand your unique risks and craft coverage that truly protects what matters most.

We've redefined the insurance process with The Southern Agency Underwriting Narrative—a method that ensures businesses get a "top of the stack" application, giving underwriters a clear, compelling picture of their needs. For personal insurance, we take the same meticulous approach, designing policies that respond when life hits hardest.

Many agents cut corners. We don't. Our 10 P Underwriting Narrative Process uncovers key risks others miss, ensuring you're not just insured—you're truly protected. With The Southern Agency, you get a partner who advocates for you, fights for the best coverage, and makes sure you never feel lost in the fine print.

Insurance shouldn't be a guessing game. **Let's get it right—together.**

DON'T FORGET TO BRING CASH \$\$\$ FOR OUR B-PAC RAFFLE



The Builders Political Action Committee is a voluntary non-profit organization affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Georgia & Westside Home Builders.

The purpose of B-PAC is to give aid, through campaign contributions, to those political candidates who support the goals of improving the residential construction industry.

B-PAC is managed by a Board of Trustees who identify deserving recipients of campaign contributions.

HELP US KEEP GOVERNMENT OUT OF YOUR BUSINESS!

Big Win for NAHB on HUD IECC Mandate

A recent court decision in a case brought by NAHB and 15 states challenging federal energy code mandates is a major win for our members, housing affordability and common-sense regulations.

The ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas [prevents HUD and the USDA](#) from imposing the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the 2019 ASHRAE 90.1 standard on certain single-family and multifamily housing programs. Notably, the requirement would have applied to FHA mortgages.

Trump EOs Address Housing Affordability

President Trump on March 13 issued [two executive orders](#) on housing. One calls for EPA, HUD and other federal agencies to streamline permitting requirements and to eliminate unduly burdensome rules that constrain residential development. The other executive order, which seeks to expand credit access to home buyers and home builders, directs federal banking regulators to revise supervisory guidance to support responsible construction lending by community banks. It also calls for a modernization of appraisal regulations.

Concerning Ruling on Cluster Mailboxes

The U.S. Supreme Court recently issued a decision that illustrates the potential risks associated with the Postal Service's push for centralized mail delivery. The ruling has implications for home builders and developers who are increasingly pressured to install [cluster mailboxes](#) in new residential communities.

NAHB has long opposed efforts by the USPS to mandate cluster mailbox delivery as the "preferred" method in new residential developments.

NLRB Restores 2020 Joint Employer Standard

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) recently issued a [final revision of regulations](#) governing the standard for determining joint employer status under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). A company with joint employer status under the NLRA must comply with the NLRA with respect to collective bargaining by another company's employees.

The revision reinstates the NAHB-supported 2020 regulation, which established a test for joint employer status that conformed with decades of NLRA case law. It rescinds a 2023 regulation that established a broad new test that lowered the standard for joint employer status under the NLRA.

Watch Video Highlights from Leadership Meetings

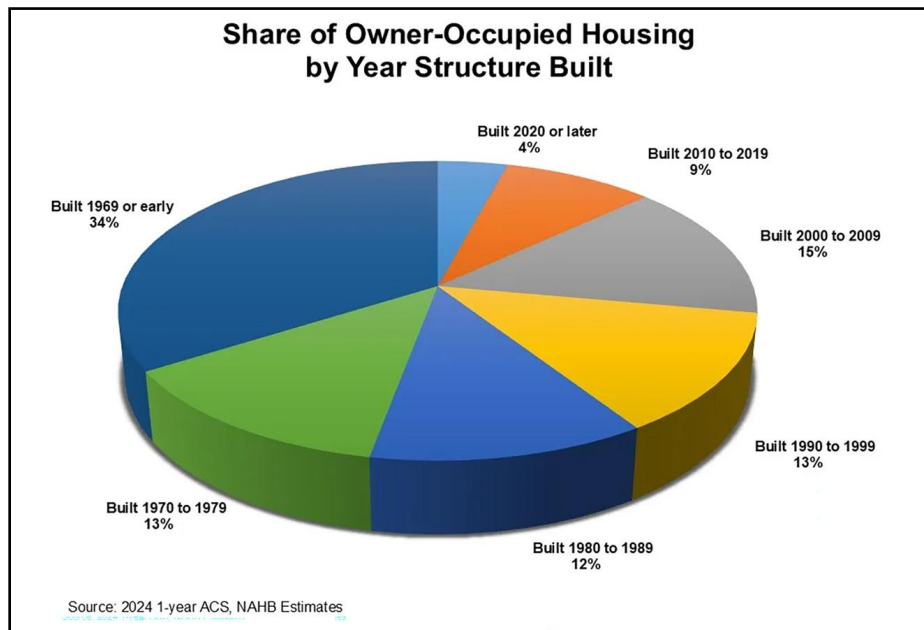
NAHB members who were unable to attend the leadership meetings during the recent Builders' Show in Orlando can [watch selected meeting elements](#) on nahb.org.

Highlights include: NAHB Chief Economist Dr. Robert Dietz' economic outlook, an update from NAHB's advocacy team on key legislative initiatives and a look at CEO Jim Tobin's goals for the Federation.

How Old Is Today's Owner-Occupied Housing?

From 2020 to 2024, new construction added nearly 3.6 million owner-occupied homes, accounting for only 4% of total owner-occupied housing stock as of 2024. [Relatively newer homes](#) built between 2010 and 2019 made up around 9% of the stock, while 15% were constructed between 2000 and 2009.

Roughly 47% of owner-occupied homes were built before 1980, including 34% built before 1970. The median age of owner-occupied homes climbed to 42



years old in 2024, up from 31 in 2005 according to the latest data from the American Community Survey.

Indiana Builders Get Big Win

During the most recent Indiana legislative session, the Indiana BA (IBA) played a pivotal role in passing [legislation to lower housing costs](#). Governor Mike Braun signed the House Enrolled Act 1001 into law, a comprehensive bill to expand Indiana's housing supply and drive down the costs of homeownership by rolling back costly regulatory barriers to housing development.

The bill aims to limit impact fees, streamline approvals for single-family homes, duplexes and ADUs, and cap building permit fee increases. HB 1001 also phases in new reporting requirements for local governments to track housing approvals and denials.

NAHB Roofing Safety Resources

Roofing is an inherently dangerous job, with workers exposed to the elements at height on a pitched surface. It's up to home building and remodeling business owners to equip workers with the necessary resources and to instill a culture of safety in roof work.

Falls are the most obvious danger in roofing, with the angle of the roof causing the most concern and the height of the fall doing the most damage. But there are other roofing-related safety concerns. Using power tools on an uneven surface, contacting power-lines, and exposure to extreme temperatures and severe weather can also cause injury.

NAHB has produced a [roofing safety video](#) and an accompanying handout as part of its toolbox talks series.

Leadership List

OFFICERS

President, Joe Irons

Vice-President, Johnny
Blankenship

Secretary/Treasurer,

Mason Tritt

Past President, Mike Lee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Blake Wilson

John Christian

Cynthia Hall

David Barnett

Sandra Harvey

Chuck Laster

LIFE DIRECTORS

Larry Boggs

Jeff Matthews

Robbie Robinson

Honorary: Cory Lord

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Greg Wallace

Calendar of Events

April 14, 2026

Board Of Directors Meeting

10:30am to 11:30am

General Membership Meeting

11:30am to 1pm

May 12, 2026

Board Of Directors Meeting

10:30am to 11:30am

General Membership Meeting

11:30am to 1pm

June 9, 2026

Board Of Directors Meeting

10:30am to 11:30am

General Membership Meeting

11:30am to 1pm

LOCATION:

Gabe's Restaurant

129 Main Street

Villa Rica, GA. 30180



Builders Identify Forces Shaping Housing Demand

Results from special questions included in the recent NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) reveal that home builders expect a mix of demographic, economic and technological forces to significantly influence the long-term health of the home building industry and housing demand over the next decade.

Builders were asked to assess the long-term impact of 14 major trends and forces. The three leading factors expected to have a strong- or somewhat-negative impact on

Forces Shaping Strength of the Housing Industry

Long-Term Risks

- Government debt levels: 82%**
- Declining fertility rate: 78%**
- Long-term inflation outlook: 70%**
- Declining marriage rate: 67%**
- Energy costs: 61%**

Positive Factors

- Aging housing stock: 73%**
- Work-from-home trends: 65%**
- Artificial intelligence: 52%**
- Modular and panelized construction: 45%**

Source: NAHB/Wells Fargo HMI survey

housing demand and industry conditions over the next 10 years were government debt levels (82%), declining fertility rate (78%) and the long-term inflation outlook (70%).

Builders were also asked to identify forces they expect to have a positive impact on the health of the home building industry and housing demand. The leading positive factors

were aging housing stock (73%), work-from-home trends (65%) and artificial intelligence (52%).

NAHB CONNECT | Share. Discuss. Learn.

<p>76,737</p> <p>ACTIVE USERS</p>	<p>33,821</p> <p>DISCUSSION POSTS</p>	<p>26,697</p> <p>REPLIES</p>
<p>5,558</p> <p>RESOURCES</p>	<p>52,021</p> <p>DOWNLOADS</p>	<p>POPULAR SEARCHES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost plus Escalation Clauses Software Contracts Lumber Book Recommendations

DO

BUSINESS

WITH AN

NAHB

MEMBER.

Members Save Millions

Start saving at nahb.org/savings

Remember:

All you have to do is "ASK"....

Invite 2 or more of your Subcontractors, Suppliers or Service Providers to become Members & attend the next WHBA General Membership Meeting. Who are your...

Accountants, Appraisers, Attorneys, Lumber Supplier, Cabinet Co., Plumbing Supplier, Concrete Co., Granite/Marble/Tile Supplier, Dry Wall Co., Framing Contractor, Electrical Contractor, Banker/Mortgage Broker, HVAC Co., Insulation Contractor, Landscaping Co., Masonry Contractor, Paint Co., Real Estate Company, Roofing Contractor, Security Systems Provider, Grading Co., Windows/Doors Supplier, Trim Carpenters, Decking Company.....



GOD Bless America!!!

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN WHBA?

Membership Benefits:

- **SAVE \$100 per house for DET/Blower Door Testing**
- **Health Care Program - Up to 60% more affordable than traditional health insurance**
- **All required Continuing Education Hours (CEU) can be obtained simply by attending membership meetings**
- **HBAG Member Rebate Program - Average SAVINGS of \$1,366/year**
- **Over 50 leading Manufacturer Rebate Programs**
- **NAHB Discount Programs from Lowe's, Office Depot, Dell, General Motors, GEICO, Hertz, UPS, Ram....just to name a few**

Go To www.westsidehba and click on "Member Benefits" to see all Programs and Savings.