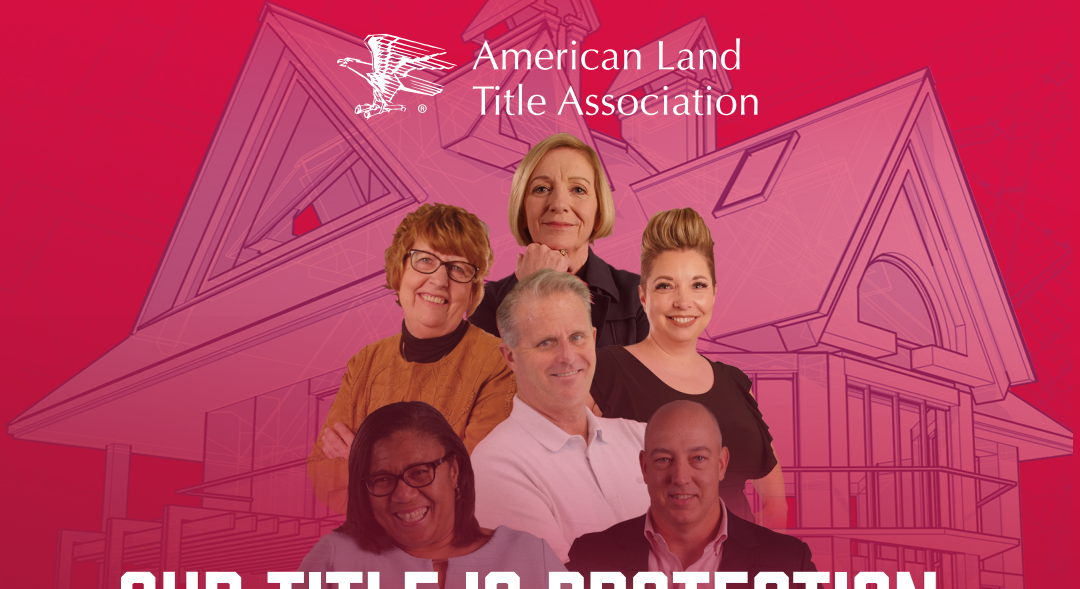
American Land Title Association



OUR TITLE IS PROTECTION

ALTA is the national trade association representing title insurance companies, title and settlement agents, independent abstracters, title searchers, and real estate attorneys. The title insurance industry employs over 140,000 professionals across the country, located in every county nationwide. ALTA members conduct title searches, examinations, closings, and issue title insurance that helps protect the property rights of millions of Americans.



TITLE INSURANCE PROTECTS BUYERS AND SELLERS

The title insurance industry has protected the property rights of consumers for more than 125 years.

As experts in real estate and property law, title insurance professionals fix problems that real estate agents, mortgage lenders, local county recorders, or others, cannot solve.

THE LAND TITLE INDUSTRY PROTECTS PROPERTY OWNERS FROM:

- Judgements against the property
- Previous owner's unpaid taxes, alimony, and child support
- Errors in public records
- Fraudulent deeds
- Forged documents
- Boundary or survey disputes
- Undisclosed heirs



The entire cost of title insurance is covered by a one-time premium, approximately 0.5% - 1% of the cost of the property's purchase price. Consumers never pay a deductible or an annual premium. Title insurance is regulated by state insurance departments and real estate settlement is overseen by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

The closing process is also typically managed by title or settlement agents, or real estate attorneys depending on the state, to finalize the sale of a property. Broadly, closing includes:

- Proper disbursement of funds to the appropriate parties (called escrow)
- Accurate collection and validation of all necessary signatures on key documents (called notary)
- Prompt recording of the deed to enforce property rights and lien position
- Education on the risks of real estate wire fraud

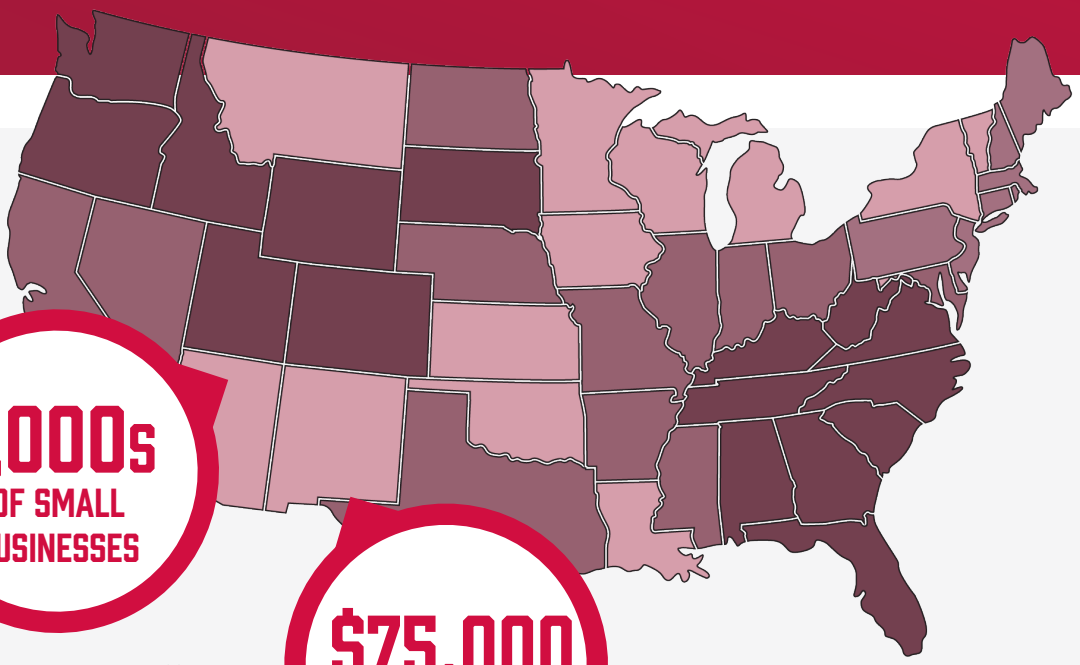
alta.org | advocacy@alta.org

PROTECTING PROPERTY OWNERS IN EVERY CITY, COUNTY, & STATE IN AMERICA

With over 6,400 members, ALTA is represented in every community in the United States.

70% WOMEN

Nearly three-quarters of employees in the land title industry are women.



1,000s OF SMALL BUSINESSES

The industry is powered by thousands of family-owned and operated small businesses.

$75,000 ANNUALLY

Many industry roles do not require a college degree and the average annual industry salary is over $75,000.



THE TITLE INDUSTRY IN ILLINOIS

The land title industry employs approximately 4,650 professionals across Illinois, many are small businesses with average weekly employee wages of $1,470. Title agents work hard to ensure homebuyers and sellers are protected when purchasing a home, they also serve the communities where they live and work.

ALTA GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION IMPACT

The ALTA Good Deeds Foundation, established in 2020, supports the charitable efforts of title professionals nationwide. The foundation has provided one grant totaling $6,000 to meet the housing and other community-related needs across Illinois.