

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JESSICA R. LYNCH

President, Housing Finance
Association of Home Builders



1. Name

Jessica R. Lynch

2. Hometown

Southampton, NY

3. Fun Fact

4. Employer and Position

National Association of Home Builders, Vice President, Housing Finance

5. Describe your journey in the financial services industry and how your career has evolved to your current position.

Soon after arriving in Washington, D.C., I was lucky to get a job as a Staff Assistant for a member of Congress from New York. My boss at the time was on what is now called the House Financial Services Committee and housing policy was one of his main areas of focus. During my four years on Capitol Hill, I held several positions and worked on policy initiatives related to housing and financial services. I joined NAHB after leaving the Hill. I've been with NAHB for over twenty years and have held several positions over the years. I currently lead the Housing Finance policy team. We focus on policies that impact builder and consumer financing, the financial services system, affordable housing programs, the secondary mortgage market, and many other issues.

NAHB has been a great place to learn about all aspects of housing and finance policy and to grow professionally. It has been an eventful two decades -- the Great Recession, shifting Congressional majorities, four presidential administrations and the coronavirus pandemic (just to name a few events!) I'm always learning something new.

6. What do you love most about what you do?

Housing is such an important issue for this country. Having a safe place to live is a fundamental need and can be the center of someone's life. Talking about NAHB's commitment to house America's families and working on issues that facilitate the availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing is gratifying and motivates me.

7. Hobbies?

I have started to ride my bike to work when weather permits. Getting fresh air and exercise at the beginning and end of the workday helps me recharge.

8. How long have you been a member of WHF?

I have been a member of WHF for 10 years. When I started focusing on housing finance issues at NAHB, a colleague suggested to me that I join WHF for the networking and educational opportunities. My colleague was right! I have learned so much from the brown-bag lunches and have met so many great contacts over the years. Housing and financial policy issues can be complicated and WHF is a great resource.

9. What have you gained from being a member?

A good portion of my job is focused on how new banking and housing finance regulations will impact home builders and home buyers. WHF always has expert and knowledgeable speakers discussing timely subjects that help me understand and address issues important to NAHB's members and home buyers.

10. How do you make the best use of your day?

I maintain a "priorities list" for our department. We always have several projects happening at any given time, so this helps us to remember due dates, track emerging issues and keep each other informed. Additionally, I keep a "to-do" list of my own priorities that keeps me focused day-to-day.

11. Who or what inspires you?

Most NAHB members are small business entrepreneurs. I am always impressed with how they navigate a complex web of federal, state and local regulations; engage with local residents and governing bodies; work with their customers; create jobs and provide quality housing across the country.

12. What is the best advice you have ever received?

"Be the most prepared person at every meeting" and "always try to find a way to contribute during a meeting." (I spend a lot of time in meetings, and it is important to make the best use of this time by being prepared and engaged.)