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## SALT Cap Deal: A Crossroads for Real Estate and Municipal Bonds

The Republican SALT (State and Local Tax) deduction cap deal, now in its final legislative phase, presents a pivotal moment for investors in real estate and municipal bonds. With the House pushing to raise the deduction cap to \$40,000—a temporary five-year increase—and the Senate resisting any change, the outcome will reshape fiscal incentives in high-tax states, alter housing demand dynamics, and test the financial stability of local governments. This article examines the implications for investors and offers strategies to navigate the uncertainty.

## The SALT Cap's Impact on Real Estate Markets

The SALT deduction has long influenced where affluent taxpayers choose to live. Before the 2017 tax reforms, homeowners in high-tax states like New York, New Jersey, and California could fully deduct state and local taxes, including property taxes. The \$10,000 cap imposed in 2017 reduced this benefit, dampening demand for high-end housing in these states. For example, , as buyers in high-income brackets sought more SALT-friendly states like Texas or Florida.

If the Senate's current stance prevails, maintaining the \$10,000 cap, this trend would likely continue. However, a House compromise—raising the cap to \$40,000—could reverse it. Wealthy buyers in high-tax states would regain a financial incentive to purchase expensive homes, boosting demand in affluent neighborhoods. illustrates how tax policies have skewed migration patterns.

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