

Local Unlock the Door for Affordable Homeownership Campaign

City Talking Points

- Snohomish County will benefit from increased opportunities for affordable homeownership.
 - Homeowners have a stake in their communities, their property value is incentive to stay abreast of local activities and government actions.
 - Affordable and stable housing increases individual and family well-being, including better physical and mental health, improved school performance for children, and greater opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, as well as creating equitable access to services, ability for all to prosper regardless of socioeconomic background, and an improved racial and economic integration.
- REALTORS® are also supportive of the efforts of the Housing Affordability Regional Taskforce (HART).
- REALTORS® are fostering community conversations about density and what the definition of affordable housing is, as well as advocate for affordable homeownership: www.unlockthedoorsnoco.org.
- REALTORS® would like to see an increase in a diversity of housing inventory.
- REALTORS® believe changes to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and local community comprehensive plans are necessary to ensure adequate housing choices for all income levels in local communities. To REALTORS®, these changes must include:
 - Ensuring buildable land supply for housing,
 - Increasing the densities of the urban growth areas,
 - Increasing the amount of land capacity available for development,
 - Considering expansion of the UGA boundary,
 - Ensuring county compliance with the GMA's housing goals & local community comprehensive plans' housing requirements,
 - Removing barriers by reducing construction costs & delay,
 - Expediting the permit process, &
 - Revising local zoning to encourage attached & detached dwelling units (ADUs & DADUs).
- REALTORS® oppose most point of sales mandates. Point of sales mandates can lead to significant housing costs, which then in turns make housing less affordable.
- REALTORS® support the implementation of a local level multi-family property tax exemption (MFTE) program.

