

# Local Unlock the Door for Affordable Homeownership Campaign

## County Talking Points

- The 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 [Snohomish County's 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](http://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® are supportive of implementing multi-family property tax exemption (MFTE) programs at local & county levels.



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