

# HOUSING SUPPLY LEGISLATION & GMA COMP PLAN UPDATES

## EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY LOCAL REALTORS® ASSOCIATIONS

**In recent years, the Washington Legislature has passed legislation and provided funding requiring cities to adopt ordinances and/or development regulations that increase the supply of housing.**

Local REALTORS® Associations have an important role to play to ensure that cities comply with these new laws and take actions addressing local housing market needs. Funding for local associations is available from both the National Association of REALTORS® and Washington REALTORS® for local advocacy efforts.

*Examples of actions by local associations could include:*

### **IDENTIFY KEY JURISDICTIONS AND PLANNING DEADLINES**

Identify key cities in your area to focus housing advocacy efforts. Some Associations have several cities and may need to prioritize the jurisdictions to target their efforts. Determine the planning deadlines for the comprehensive plan and regulation updates, and identify key dates for workshops, and Planning Commission meetings, and City Council and County Council meetings.

### **COMMUNICATE WITH THE COUNCIL/PLANNING STAFF**

Develop mechanisms to keep communication flowing between the Association and the City Councilmembers or County Commissioners and staff in key departments.

### **LOCAL ANALYSIS & ADVOCACY**

Understand the requirements of the recent housing legislation. Identify housing barriers Association has have observed. Review the proposed comprehensive plans and development requirements to ensure the legislation is being properly implemented and housing barriers are eliminated. Look for opportunities to provide written and oral testimony before Planning Commissions, City Councils, and/or County Council meetings.

### **HOLD A COMMUNITY HOUSING FORUM**

Hold a community housing forum and invite elected officials, city staff, and leaders from the community organizations with interests in housing. The purpose is to discuss the local housing market and feasible housing actions that help address housing needs in the community and add to the overall community housing supply. (Note: This an ideal use of WR Issue Fund monies and/or NAR REALTOR® Party Grants.)

### **DEVELOP A HOUSING COALITION**

Find organizations interested in adding more housing supply in the community. Work with coalition members to identify housing types, permitting reform and other actions to promote with elected officials; research possible draft ordinance language; and determine communication strategies to carry messages to elected officials and the community.

### **CONDUCT A HOUSING MARKET STUDY**

A housing market study may be needed to support the Association's challenge of a jurisdiction's housing assumptions, proposed policies, and/or development regulations. The study can help determine appropriate housing types, location(s), and actions that implement the state housing legislation and support an actual increase of housing supply.

For assistance with local programs to implement housing legislation and funding support, please contact:

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