

## 2001 Legislative Priorities Support Quality of Life Principles

REALTORS®, working to sustain and enhance the quality of life for Washington citizens, will focus on four primary [priorities](#) during the 2001 legislative session in Olympia:

- [Building Better Communities](#)
- [Ensuring Economic Vitality](#)
- [Providing Housing Opportunities](#)
- [Preserving Our Environment](#)



These four essential objectives encapsulate the REALTORS® Quality of Life program. Legislative Steering Committee Chair Mike Flynn stressed: "Our research shows we are on solid ground when we speak of what Washington citizens see as essential tools—such as businesses, homes, schools, safe neighborhoods, roads, parks, water and sewer— needed to build a better community."

Economic growth is considered elemental to the vitality of a community and there must be sufficient, affordable housing for the workers drawn by that growth. "People go where jobs are, and communities condense around jobs... the people in those jobs needs home to go to at night," Flynn said. "As communities grow and become more than a collection of buildings, infrastructure problems develop and solutions are needed.

"Throughout Washington we have communities that experience growth they aren't prepared for, and we also have communities that seek growth and can't get it," he continued. "REALTORS® are advocating the addition of an economic development element to the ten-year-old Growth Management Act—so local governments look to the future for growth they see and want, and then have a plan of action to meet this anticipated growth. Considering economic sources of growth helps anticipate needs for infrastructure and housing."

Advocacy of sound land-use policy is at the core of the Quality of Life campaign, Flynn said. REALTORS® represent the needs and interests of citizens across the state, and have pooled their knowledge and resources to come up with recommendations for workable solutions. "We have made available a wealth of information for state and local decision-makers—REALTORS® are a tremendous resource," he said. "And our Quality of Life program has been well-received by people thirsty for answers as they review their communities' comprehensive plans. We are providing a balanced approach that is appreciated at all levels of government. Quality of Life is a program that is meant to help state and local decision-makers attain the communities they want within existing guidelines like the Growth Management Act. It is a durable tool, and our legislative priorities for 2001 underscore that."

For more about the Quality of Life Programs see [www.warealtor.com/qualityhomepage2.htm](http://www.warealtor.com/qualityhomepage2.htm) or contact WA R. Director of Government Affairs [Bryan Wahl](#) Posted 2/14/01 Archived 3/27/01, 4/18/01