

Homeownership is a Good Financial Decision



Jennifer Valerien
2017 President
Spokane Association of REALTORS®



OPINION

Good news: Eighty-four percent of Americans believe that purchasing a home is a good financial decision - the highest number in 10 years (National Association of REALTORS® 2017 National Housing Pulse Survey).

The survey ([www.nar.realtor/reports/housing-pulse-surveys](#)) measures consumers’ attitudes and concerns about housing issues in the nation’s 25 largest metropolitan statistical areas.

“This survey makes it clear that a strong majority still believe in homeownership and aspire to own a home of their own. Building equity, wanting a stable and safe environment, and having the freedom to choose their neighborhood remain the top reasons to own a home,” says NAR president William E. Brown – himself a second-generation REALTOR® in California.

While most view home ownership is a good financial decision, can most Americans afford a home? The survey shows 60 percent of Americans say they are concerned about affordability and the rising cost of buying a home or renting in their area - an 11-percent increase from last year’s survey.

While Spokane is not the real estate hot bed of the country, we can see it from here. Seattle had the largest price gain over the past year with a 13.4 percent increase year-over-year. Given that survey respondents are in the top 25 densest markets, it is not surprising to see that more

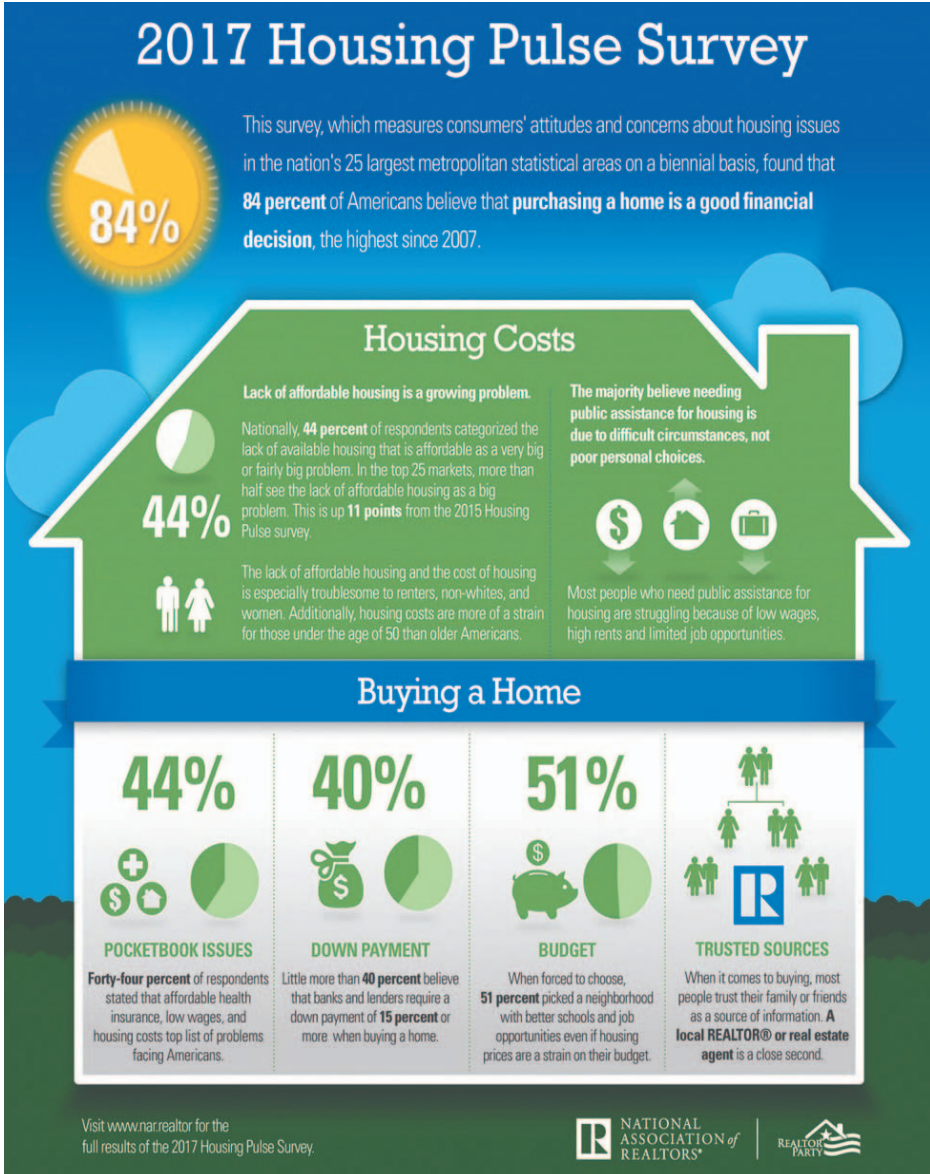
than half of our fellow citizens say they are concerned about affordability and the rising cost of buying a home or renting in their area.

In Spokane, the median home price is up half of Seattle’s rate: 6.7 percent over last year, for a median home price of \$194,000 (half of all homes sold in the past year cost less than this, half more).

Embedded in the survey are responses that should concern all of us: low-income Americans, renters and young women most acutely feel the housing pinch. There is also greater concern about affordable housing among the working class (65 percent) than for public servants such as teachers, firefighters or police (55 percent).

The survey offers a wider snapshot of what Americans are thinking right now. It lists housing affordability among the top five issues of greatest concern to Americans today. The other issues are lack of affordable health care, low wages and debt making it hard to save, heroin and opioid drug abuse, and job layoffs and employment.

If home ownership appeals to you, I encourage you to visit with one of our members who can answer your questions and help figure out the best way to make your real estate goals a reality. There’s a lot to love about owning your own house – especially in Spokane. Talk with a REALTOR® today!



095 HOMES FOR SALE, AREA WIDE

4225 W. 29TH
Fantastic home w/acreage in the city. Main home has 4 bds/2 bth, heat pump/A/C. 2.27 acres. Cottage home/ shop has 1 bd/1 bth & full kit. Propane heat. Shop can be used as a gar or currently as craft headquarters. \$345,900.
Kelly Stewart, 993-4425
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

70 ACRES
Near Badger Lake High bank. \$175K Mike Graham, 993-4606.
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

098 HOMES FOR SALE, NORTHWEST

FIVE MILE PRAIRIE LOTS
Some of the last lots available on Five Mile Prairie. ½ - 3.5 acre lots in the city limits. Mead Schools, very private setting, partial views, city water and sewer, natural gas. Across the street from Austin Ravine Conservation area. Shops are permitted per CCR's. Bring your builder or use one of ours. Prices start \$69,900-\$139,900. North of Austin/ Quamish intersection. Phil Konyonenbelt, 991-7445.
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

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095 HOMES FOR SALE, AREA WIDE

6920 W. IROQUOIS DR.
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Call Vic Plese, 217-7889.
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

4533 SOUTH SUNNY CREEK CIRCLE
Triple wide manufactured home in a quiet gated park. 3BR, 2BA. Well kept home with private large deck off the living room. Main floor laundry with entrance to garage. \$119,900. Kelly Stewart, 993-4425.
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

098 HOMES FOR SALE, NORTHWEST

5 ACRE WATER & POWER
\$64,900 Rare 5 acre lot close to Suncrest. Ready to build your dream home on. NO WELL to drill, Water and Power ready to hookup at SE corner. Property at end of road/driveway. Lots of level ground to locate your house. Don Willard, 509-844-5081.
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

5 MILE HEIGHTS
North on 5 Mile Rd. to Alberta TR on Kammi. City water and sewer. Large lots, Mead Schools. We can help you build your dream home starting at \$325,000. 2409 W Aimee Ave 3 BR, 3 BA \$385,950.
Vic Plese, 217-7889
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

095 HOMES FOR SALE, AREA WIDE

2723 N. MARTIN ST
Huge Craftsman home with so much space, 4 bds/2 bths, lrg fam rm on mn fl, + fam rm in bsmt. Mn fl mst w/soaking tub, new roof, new carpet, new paint outside and most of inside. Mn fl laundry. \$169,900, Kelly Stewart, 993-4425
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

098 HOMES FOR SALE, NORTHWEST

AERIE RIDGE \$117,000
New neighborhood off Indian Trail Rd. Large 1-2.5 acre surrounded by trees and natural rock outcroppings. Shops allowed. City water and sewer. Priced from \$117,000 and up.
Call Phil Konynenbelt, 991-7445
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

CUSTOM HOME WITH MAGNIFICENT VIEW. 3 BR/3 BA 4,000 sf Lovely home in popular Woodridge View neighborhood. Gourmet kitchen, home gym, outdoor kitchen and large deck perfect for entertaining. Walk-in pantry, large laundry room, custom window treatments. For Sale by Owner, \$525,000 (509) 939-2544 [ksflatt@comcast.net](#)

PARK PLACE RIVERSIDE STATE PARK!
New built daylight rancher. 3 BR, 2BA, Huge kit, great rm, gas frplc, cov'd deck. 3 car. 1890 mn flr sq ft. 100% basement w/walk-out. 5110 W. Bismark. \$416,500.
Mike Graham, 993-4606
PLESE REALTY, LLC 489-2323

103 HOMES FOR SALE, NORTHEAST

2723 N. MARTIN ST
Huge Craftsman home with so much space, 4 bds/2 bths, lrg fam rm on mn fl, + fam rm in bsmt. Mn fl mst w/soaking tub, new roof, new carpet, new paint outside and most of inside. Mn fl laundry. \$169,900, Kelly Stewart, 993-4425
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