



## QUALITY OF LIFE PRINCIPLES

REALTORS® recognize the need to sustain and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by Montana’s citizens. We believe we can build better communities by supporting quality growth and seeking economic and housing opportunities that embrace the environmental qualities we value, while protecting property owners.

### PROTECTING PROPERTY OWNERS

REALTORS® believe that private property rights are fundamental to our free-market system and are a cornerstone upon which this nation was founded. The United States and Montana Constitutions recognize and protect the right to own property. A strong economy depends upon preserving the right to freely own, use, and transfer real property.

### ENSURING ECONOMIC VITALITY

REALTORS® believe a strong economy with full employment for our citizens throughout the state remains the single biggest key to our quality of life. A healthy economy sustains vibrant communities for living and working. Commercial and residential growth, in turn, sustains a healthy economy. Economic development brings new opportunity and improved quality of life for Montanans by increasing jobs, tax base, purchasing power, diversity, availability of goods and services and offering community revitalization and improvement. An increased tax base is crucial to government’s ability to deliver necessary public services and maintain infrastructure to serve the needs of the community.

### PROVIDING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICE

REALTORS® believe home ownership is the cornerstone of the American Dream and deserves a preferred place in our system of values. Home ownership contributes to community responsibility; civic, economic, business and employment stability; and family security and well being. Every citizen should have the opportunity to own safe, decent, and affordable housing near where they work, shop, and play. That choice is critical to increasing home ownership. Furthermore, these objectives should be met through market-driven approaches that foster a wide range of urban and rural housing choices at all price levels. Accommodating growth relieves pressure on housing prices and provides increased opportunities for home ownership.





## PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

REALTORS® recognize the incredible gift that Montana's natural environment offers to our state's citizens. Furthermore, we recognize the importance of parks, open space, and the environment to our quality of life and therefore the marketability of surrounding property. To maintain our state's quality of life, REALTORS® support policies that encourage good stewardship and responsible use of natural resources, as well as appropriate management of our public lands and unique natural environment. In order to protect the environment, REALTORS® believe government must accommodate quality commercial, industrial, and residential growth using innovative planning techniques and incentives, while recognizing the importance of local decision making, private property rights, the value of a healthy economic sector, and attainable home ownership opportunities.

## BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

REALTORS® believe communities flourish best when they offer a high quality of life at a reasonable cost. Livable communities offer a variety of affordable housing choices, nearby employment opportunities, a viable business sector, good schools, safe neighborhoods, quality public services, ample recreation and park areas, open space, efficient transportation systems, and the infrastructure that provides the framework for the quality of life we enjoy in our communities. Governments should encourage quality growth through policies that sufficiently fund infrastructure needs such as roads and water and sewer that lay the essential groundwork for growth in all sectors of our local economies.