



News Release

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

For further information contact:

Rosetta Alcantra (907) 563-7133

Email: rosetta@alaskarealtors.com

Millennials Driving Desire for Bigger Homes, Outdoor Space in Alaska and Nationally *Realtor® survey also shows public demand for walkable communities persists despite pandemic*

Anchorage, Alaska (October 14, 2020) – Research produced by the Alaska REALTORS®, alongside the National Association of Realtors®, is illustrating how the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted migration trends and residential preferences of people across America.

In Alaska and across the country, we’ve seen changes happen as a result of COVID-19 that will shape our society for decades to come,” said Evelyn Arnott, President of the Alaska REALTORS®. “In the aftermath of this pandemic, the availability of data like this will give valuable insight to Alaska Realtors® and will help lawmakers make decisions about policies that can help our state account for these shifts.”

Although generally done every two years, Realtors® conducted a pair of Community and Transportation Preference Surveys in 2020 to accurately register the impacts of the coronavirus. The latest iteration shows younger Americans – particularly those with children – have been most affected, although those who live in walkable communities register a higher quality of life than those who live in less walkable areas.

According to the Realtors®’ study, Americans under 40 are mostly likely to say their overall quality of life has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, while noting a reduced need to reside near highways, public transit or their place of work.

Although COVID has dramatically changed people’s lives, this study shows a substantial demand for walkability persists for Americans of all ages.

Among other noteworthy finding of the July survey:

- Respondents who strongly agree there are “lots of places to walk nearby” show 8% increase in quality of life.
- Families with children in school show an increased desire for detached homes and larger yards.
 - In February, a majority of Americans preferred a smaller yard in a walkable community.
- The importance of nearby public transportation dropped 8% and easy access to a highway dropped 5% from pre-pandemic levels.
- Americans older than 55 and those with higher incomes show an increased interest in walkability.

The biannual NAR Community & Transportation Preferences Survey polls residents in the 50 largest metropolitan areas of the United States. The first 2020 survey was conducted in February, immediately before the impacts of COVID-19, and again at the end of July.

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