



# WASHINGTON REALTORS®

Governor Inslee,

First, we want to thank you for your strong leadership as you steer the state through the COVID-19 crisis. Your actions will help bring this crisis to a better end than we might have otherwise faced. We acknowledge that the current focus is—correctly—on our health care response. While that is appropriate, we would like to propose the following ideas to help homeowners, renters, small businesses, and the economy during this emergency.

1. Penalty-free delay on property taxes due April 30, 2020. A penalty-free delay will ease the burden on homeowners and small businesses, which will benefit renters as well.
2. Directing the Department of Financial Institutions to work with lenders to allow for delayed mortgage payments and implement other measures to prevent foreclosures.
3. RCW 42.45.280 allows remote (electronic) notarization of documents in real estate financing and transactions, but this law is not effective until October 1, 2020. Accelerating the effective date of this legislation would assist transactions, while increasing social distancing. We would ask that you by emergency rule put this legislation into effect immediately.
4. Directing the Department of Licensing (DOL) to extend real estate licenses for all licensees who have not completed the required number of continuing education clock hours. Many REALTORS rely on in-person learning which typically occurs in large groups. Those classes are currently banned under Executive Order, so the Real Estate Commission within DOL should address this situation.
5. While some local government functions can be delayed with minimal economic impacts, the role of counties in recording real estate transactions is critical to ensure economic activity and tax collection. The State should assist counties with necessary funding to ensure this essential economic and consumer function can continue.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposals above. We know with your leadership and working together we will emerge on the other side of this crisis stronger than we went in. Please contact our organization if we can be of any assistance on these proposals, or on any other ideas to help Washington State and its citizens during this difficult time.

Warm Regards,

Kitty Wallace

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