

Owning A Home Still Key To The American Dream

(NAPSA)—Despite the ups and downs of the housing market, homeowners and nonowners alike consider owning a home essential to the American Dream.

In fact, 85 percent of voters in a recent survey are convinced we should do more to improve the housing finance system because owning a home creates a stronger community and is a valued stable investment for their children's college education and their own retirement and well-being.

"The survey results show that Americans see beyond the immediate housing market to the enduring value of homeownership," said National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Chairman Bob Nielsen, a home builder from Reno, Nev. "An overwhelming 75 percent of the people who were polled said that owning a home is worth the risk of the fluctuations in the market, and 95 percent of the homeowners said they are happy with their decision to own a home."

The survey was conducted on behalf of NAHB by Public Opinion Strategies of Alexandria, Va., and Lake Research Partners of Washington, D.C. Other survey highlights include:

- Homeownership and a retirement savings program are considered by voters to be their best investments.

- Americans believe that owning their own home is as important as being successful at their job or being able to pay for a family member's education.

- Eighty percent of homeowners would advise a close friend or family member just starting out to buy a home.

- Saving for a down payment



According to a recent survey, saving for a down payment and closing costs is the biggest barrier to homeownership.

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Celinda Lake, president of Lake Research Partners, said, "People overwhelmingly believe that owning a home is an anchor to the American Dream. It's an anchor to your retirement, and it's an anchor to your personal economic well-being." Lake added, "Owning a home isn't just a policy to people. It isn't just a commodity. It is a core value."

"Homeownership is worth the risk, pure and simple," said Neil Newhouse, a partner and co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies.

"Even though the market is weak, people who don't own say they want to buy a house. Almost three-quarters of those who do not currently own a home, 73 percent, said owning a home is one of their goals. And among younger voters, who are most likely to be in the market for a home in the next few years, the percentages are even higher."

To learn more, visit www.nahb.org.