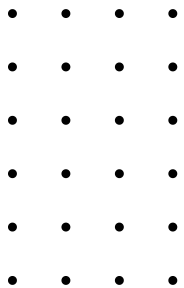


# YOUR BUYER'S GUIDE



GASSENSMITH  
GROUP

COMPASS

McHenry County & the surrounding areas are one of the most desirable real estate markets, and we know that navigating the buying process can seem challenging. However, with our expertise, breadth of knowledge, and national network, you are in dedicated and trustworthy hands. We will guide and advise you during every step of the buying process.

How we support buyers:

- Provide real-time market insights
- Use our knowledge of on and off market listings to find homes that meet your criteria
- Share local expertise and tours of the area
- Help build your "buyers team" by connecting you with trusted financing organizations, vendors, etc
- In a competitive market, we can help get your offer accepted

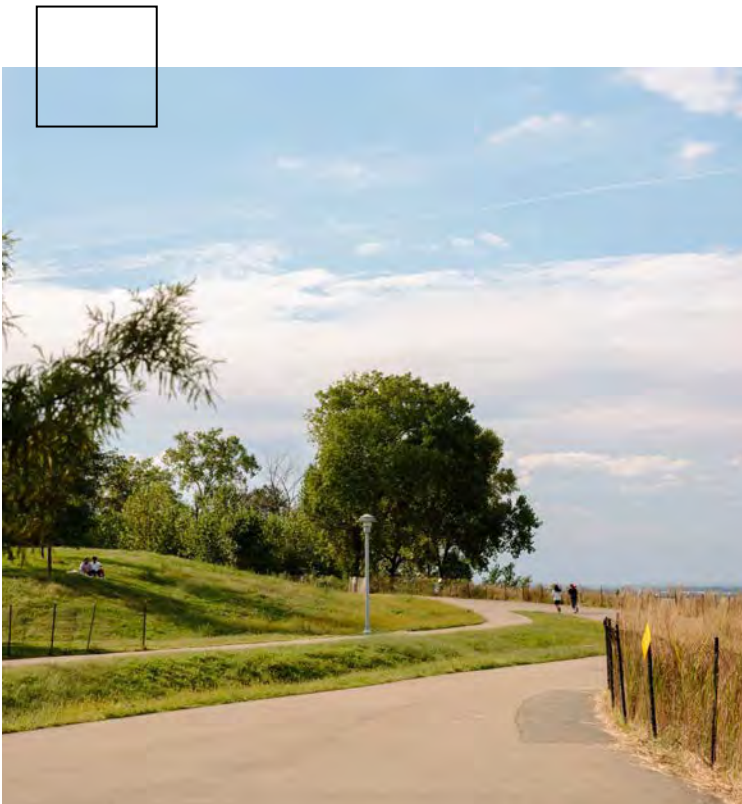
Let us show you why we are the right agent for you.



### OUR PROVEN SUCCESS

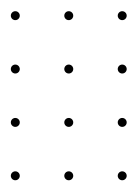
- 102 transactions thus far in 2022
- \$24 million in real estate sold
- #5 Top Producing Agent in McHenry County

# GREATER MCHENRY COUNTY AREAS



### AREAS SERVICED

- McHenry County
- Lake County
- Kane County
- DuPage County
- Cook County



\*Source/disclaimer for agent and market report stats



# THE PROCESS

## 01

### Find an Agent

Set up a time to sit down with me to discuss the neighborhoods you're considering and how I can help guide your search.

## 02

### Get Pre-Qualified

Before beginning your search, your first step is to get pre-approved for a mortgage loan (unless you will be paying the full price of your home in cash). I can recommend mortgage brokers. Based on your income and credit history, the mortgage broker will determine how much a bank will lend you, which will help determine the price range for your search.

## 03

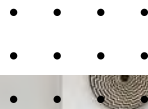
### Visit Properties

Now is the time to consider your ideal home's location and amenities. You will attend viewings and open houses spanning a range of areas and property types. Additionally, I will activate notifications for exclusive Coming Soon and Off-Market properties as they hit the market.

## 04

### Submit an Offer and Negotiate

Once you identify a home you like, you can put in an offer, which is an agreement to pay a certain price for the home. This offer is packaged with a Proof of Funds (POF) and Pre-Approval Letter. Note: if your offer is lower than the list price or with terms not acceptable to the seller, the seller can return with a counter-offer price or acceptable terms, which you can accept, reject, or make another counter offer. I will provide advice throughout.



# 05

## Attorney Review

Your attorney's job is vital to protecting your interests, and to review paperwork on your behalf. You will want to select an attorney who is familiar with these transactions. I can provide you with a recommended list of well regarded attorneys in the area.

# 06

## Home Inspections

It is the buyer's duty to select all desired inspections and determine the overall condition of the property within the agreed timeline and contractual contingencies. You will also review the disclosures and preliminary title report. You may approve or negotiate credits/repairs. Prior to closing, remember to schedule a final walk-thru of the property to verify property is still in acceptable condition and any negotiated repairs were done.

# 07

## Loan and Appraisal

Organize an appraisal with your bank. Your completed mortgage application with all supporting documentation should be submitted to your chosen lender upon receipt of the fully signed Purchase Agreement. The bank then issues loan approval. Consequently, you'll wire the closing funds with the homeowner's insurance in place, and then the loan will be funded with clearance to close.

# 08

## Final Walkthrough

A final walkthrough of the property is scheduled and completed just before closing. The walkthrough confirms that no damage has been done to the home since the time of inspection and that the major systems and appliances are in working order.

# 09

## Closing

Once all the conditions of the contract have been satisfied, the closing is held. The closing documents are signed, payment is exchanged, and you receive the keys to your new home!

# 10

## Welcome Home!

Congratulations!  
You are now a homeowner.

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- • • •
- • • •



# KEY TERMS

Get a better understanding of common real estate language and practices.

## Appraisal

Assessment of the property's market value, for the purpose of obtaining a mortgage and performed by a licensed appraiser.

## Assessed Value

Value placed upon property for property tax purposes by the tax collector.

## Closing Costs

Expenses incidental to a sale of real estate, such as loan fees, appraisal fees, and title insurance.

## Contingency

Certain criteria that have to be met in order to finalize the sale.

## Debt-to-income ratio

The percentage of an individual's monthly gross income relative to the amount of debt owed.

## Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)

A good faith deposit the buyer makes with an offer to show that you are serious about buying the property. In exchange, the seller agrees to stop marketing the property.

## Final Walkthrough

The buyer reviews the house just before closing to make sure everything is in the same condition and that all home inspection items are fixed.

## Inspection

An expert conducts a formal review of the property to find visible issues that need to be repaired. Buyers typically make their offers contingent on an inspection, but sellers can conduct a pre-offer inspection to appeal to buyers. The buyer may choose to do additional inspections like radon and a sewer scope.

## Lien Search

A background check on the property and the seller to ensure there are no outstanding debts or claims upon the property.

## Pre-Approved

Advanced approval from a bank or other lending institution for a home mortgage.

## Pre-Qualified

Potential buyers provide an overall financial picture and mortgage brokers provide an estimate of what level of loan you will likely be pre-approved for.

## Title Insurance

Insurance to protect the buyer and lender against losses arising from disputes over the ownership of a property.

## Recording Fees

A fee paid to the local government to officially report a sale of a home; usually paid by the buyer.

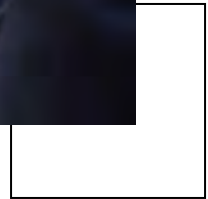




# OUR COMPASS TOOLS AND PROGRAMS HELP YOU FIND YOUR NEXT HOME

## Collections

Collections lets you compare multiple properties—their size, neighborhood, amenities—within a central visual workspace. I can monitor market activity in real time, stay in constant contact, and invite collaborators to join in on our search discussions.



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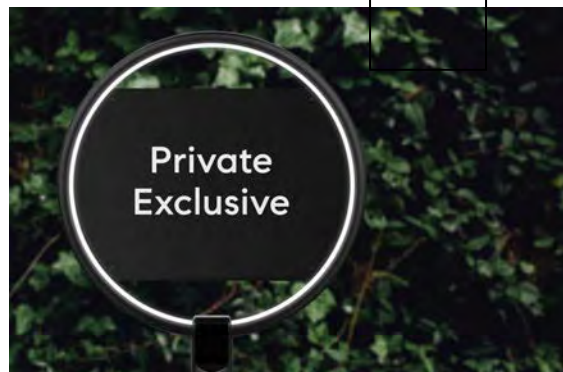
## Search

Compass Search can sort by a wide range of features and amenities to pinpoint the perfect home. Plus, discover exclusive Compass listings you won't find anywhere else and receive real-time notifications of new homes with customized Saved Searches!

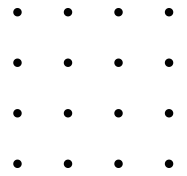


## Coming Soon and Private Exclusives

What buyer isn't looking for an edge over the competition? Browse unique properties that are only viewable on Compass.com and discover your future home before it even hits the market.

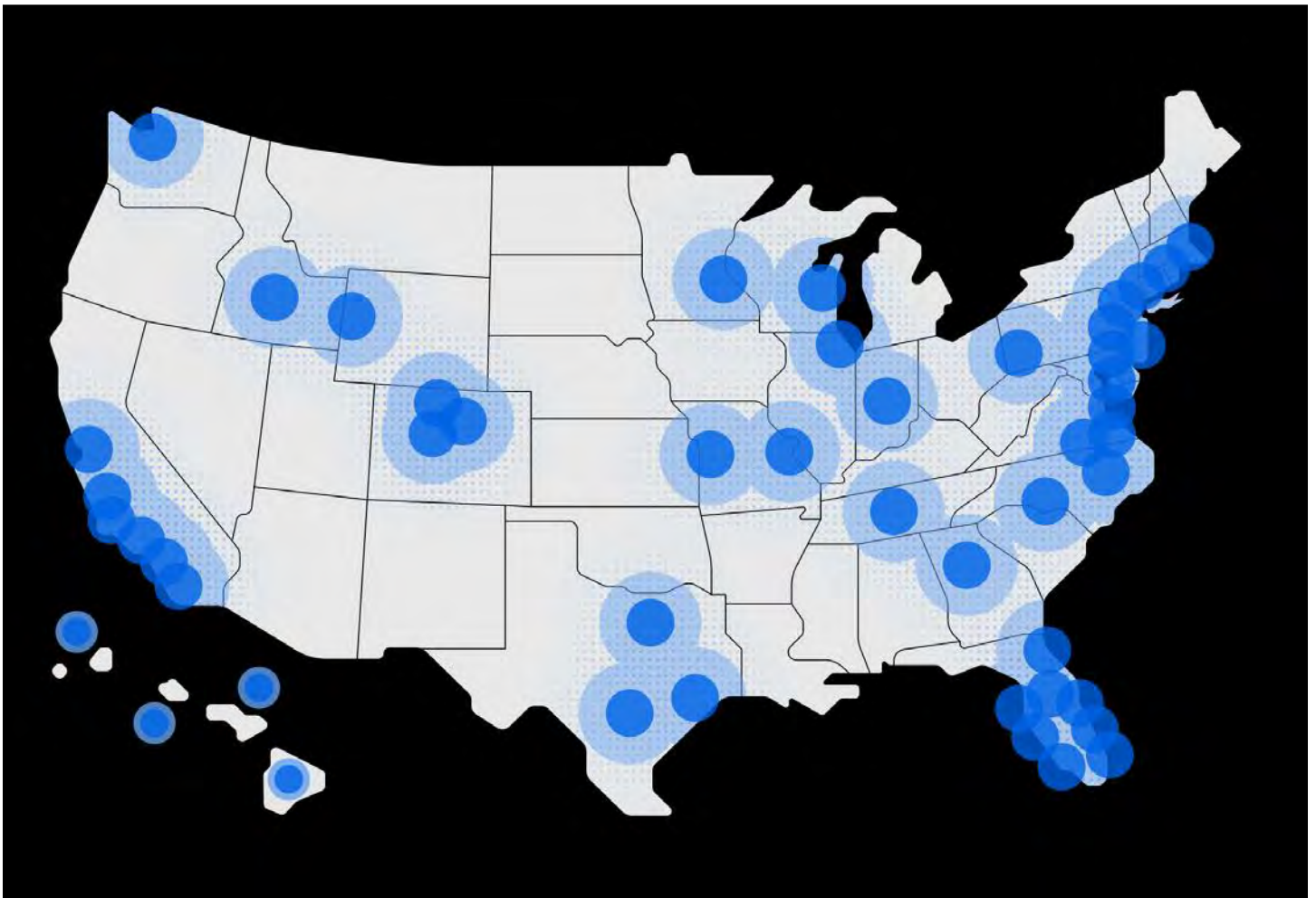


# FIND YOUR DREAM HOME WITH COMPASS



No matter where your move may take you, my national Compass network can help!

In real estate, relationships are everything. My national network of agents covers **45%** of the country's population, making Compass a coast-to-coast network of collaborative, hardworking agents. When you're looking to move to a new area, I leverage these local and national connections to make your dream home *yours*.



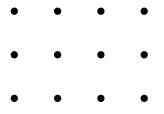
**#1**  
brokerage based on  
Closed Sales Volume\*

**69**  
markets

**26,000+**  
agents

\*Source: RealTrends article published 3/16/2022, based on Closed Sales Volume for 2021. This information is based on Compass' 2021 public earnings report. Definitions: Closed Sales Volume – the total sales price of all the closed units. Listings Taken – number of properties that were listed for sale with a real estate agent. Listings Taken Volume – the total price of the listings that were placed on the market.

# WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU



*[Insert your personal note to the buyer, 3-4 sentences for example...]*

I go above and beyond to help my clients search for their perfect home, providing guidance and advice throughout every step of the buying process. Together, we'll collaborate closely to find homes that fit your needs, budget, and lifestyle. Working with me means you'll have a seamless experience and be well positioned to make your dream home yours when you find it. I make sure my clients cross the home closing finish line with confidence and ease.



**GASSENSMITH GROUP  
COMPASS REAL ESTATE  
108 N Walkup Ave  
Crystal Lake IL**

