

Why Florida Is Becoming Less Affordable for Working Families and Retirees

For decades, Florida has been a destination for opportunity, economic growth and retirement living. Today, however, the rising cost of living in Florida is forcing many families, seniors and workers to reconsider whether they can afford to stay.

The Florida affordability crisis has become one of the most pressing challenges facing our communities. From soaring home prices and rising rents to skyrocketing homeowners' insurance premiums and healthcare costs, residents across the state are feeling the financial strain.

According to recent U.S. Census Bureau data, Florida's population growth from domestic migration has slowed dramatically, reflecting growing concerns about affordability. Surveys show that inflation and housing costs remain top concerns for Florida residents, underscoring the need for meaningful solutions.

Why Housing Has Become Unaffordable in Florida

Housing affordability in Florida has deteriorated rapidly over the past several years. Home prices and rental rates surged during and after the pandemic, while wages failed to keep pace.

On the Treasure Coast, the challenge is especially evident. In Martin County and St. Lucie County, median home prices remain far beyond what many working families can comfortably afford. In many cases, residents must spend nearly half of their income on housing costs, leaving less money available for healthcare, transportation, education and retirement savings.

The shortage of affordable housing has also made it more difficult for local businesses to recruit and retain workers, creating economic challenges that affect entire communities.

The Impact on Seniors and Working Families

The affordability crisis affects everyone, but seniors, veterans and working families often feel the greatest burden.

Many retirees who moved to communities such as Port St. Lucie and Stuart seeking financial security are now facing rising costs they never anticipated. Higher utility

bills, grocery prices, prescription drug costs and healthcare expenses continue to erode household budgets.

At the same time, many younger families are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase a home, build savings or establish long-term financial stability.

Rising Homeowners Insurance Costs Continue to Burden Floridians

One of the biggest contributors to Florida's affordability crisis is the dramatic increase in homeowners' insurance premiums.

Condominium owners have been particularly affected. Following the Surfside condominium collapse, new safety and reserve funding requirements have resulted in significant HOA fee increases and special assessments in many older buildings. While these measures improve safety, they have also created financial hardship for many residents living on fixed incomes.

As a result, the total cost of homeownership in Florida now extends far beyond a mortgage payment.

Four Solutions to Improve Affordability in Florida

Addressing Florida's affordability crisis requires bold action and a commitment to putting people first.

1. Expand Housing Affordability

We must prioritize homeownership opportunities for working families, seniors and veterans. That includes addressing the growing influence of large corporate investors and hedge funds that purchase residential properties in bulk, reducing opportunities for local homebuyers.

2. Make Healthcare More Affordable

Healthcare costs continue to place significant financial pressure on Florida families. We need policies that expand access to affordable healthcare, preventive services, telehealth and mental health resources while reducing out-of-pocket expenses.

3. Lower Everyday Costs

Families should not have to choose between paying for groceries, filling their gas tanks or covering healthcare expenses. Reducing the financial pressures that contribute to inflation and higher consumer costs must remain a priority.

4. Strengthen Economic Opportunity

Creating good-paying jobs, investing in education and supporting workforce development are critical to building stronger communities. Economic growth should create opportunities that allow Floridians to thrive, not simply keep up with rising costs.

It's Time for a New Direction

Florida's affordability crisis did not happen overnight, and it will not be solved overnight. But we can take meaningful steps to make housing, healthcare and everyday necessities more affordable for families across the Treasure Coast and throughout our state.

I am running for office because I believe government should focus on delivering results that improve people's lives. Together, we can build a future where working families, seniors and veterans can afford to live, work and retire in the communities they call home.

Join our campaign by [getting involved](#) or [donating](#) and help us create a more affordable Florida for everyone. *It's Up to Us!*