

# South Florida Sun-Sentinel

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**Question:** What can be done to lower the cost of homeowner insurance?

**Answer:** Realtor Associations have lobbied hard for the Legislature to address excessive rate hikes for homeowners insurance. State lawmakers will meet next week in special session to consider what steps to take. Obviously, this is a complex issue and there are no simple answers. However, there are solutions if we're all willing to work toward them. National catastrophe insurance may be one answer, with the risk and expense for insuring against catastrophic damage spread out so coastal states don't bear excessive costs. Or, by lowering the cost of global reinsurance, the savings could be passed on to Florida's homeowners. Other options include allowing Citizens Property Insurance to write full policies instead of just windstorm coverage so the carrier isn't left to cover only the most risky policies; providing for home insurance tax deductions to help offset large price hikes; rating structures and offering discounts for older construction that has withstood previous storms; or even giving homeowners a choice whether or not to buy windstorm insurance. Homeownership is the dream of virtually every Floridian. No one should be stripped of that dream simply because of the cost of homeowners insurance. What can you do? Unite your voice with those of realtors by letting your legislators know how important it is for them to take action now.

Have a question?  
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