



Housing in Rhode Island

Rhode Islanders are facing tough choices when it comes to finding and affording a place to live. Through a focused survey of RI Voices panel participants, this report captures how people across the state perceive housing affordability, stability, and access to safe, quality homes.

51%

Of respondents are spending more than 30% of their incomes on rent or mortgage

10% of respondents are spending more than 50% of their incomes on rent or mortgage

Respondents who rent worry about...



46%

MAKING RENT



20%

HAVING TO MOVE



20%

BEING EVICTED



62%

NEVER OWNING A HOME

Problems with current housing



59%

IDENTIFIED WITH AT LEAST ONE PROBLEM WITH THE PLACE WHERE THEY CURRENTLY LIVE



23%

POOR STRUCTURAL CONDITIONS



19%

MOLD OR DAMPNESS



19%

PESTS (such as roaches, mice, or rats)

Build more housing, and build all kinds of housing. Different people have different wants and needs.

Responding to "In your opinion, what should the top priority be for the state of Rhode Island with regard to quality affordable housing?"

Affordability



64%

EXPECT TO LIVE IN RI IN 5 YEARS

56%

under 50

72%

50 & over



86%

SAY HOMEOWNERSHIP ISN'T AFFORDABLE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

ABOUT

30%

SACRIFICED THE FOLLOWING IN THE LAST 3 YEARS TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE :



ADDED CREDIT CARD DEBT



CUT BACK ON HEALTHY FOODS



STOPPED SAVING FOR RETIREMENT

Unable to afford living expenses, food and other expenses. I don't see it changing anytime soon... To me it's not worth living in Rhode Island anymore when you can live somewhere else for half the cost. What I pay for rent here I could own my own house!

Responding to "Why do you think you may not be living in Rhode Island in 5 years?"

Adults under 50



35%

NEED TO WORK EXTRA TO PAY RENT OR MORTGAGE



76%

PERCENTAGE OF RENTERS UNDER 50 WHO ASPIRE TO OWN A HOME



54%

LACK MONEY FOR DOWN PAYMENT



43%

DON'T UNDERSTAND MORTGAGE PROCESS



42%

HAVE TOO MUCH DEBT TO BUY A HOME

Start with affordable housing projects in the cities and remove the regulations that are barriers to doing so. There's too much talking, planning and spending money about "building" vs. just getting it done!

Responding to "In your opinion, what should the top priority be for the state of Rhode Island with regard to quality affordable housing?"

Adults 50 and over



25%

CURRENT HOME LACKS AGE-IN-PLACE FEATURES



66%

SAY STAYING IN THEIR HOME AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IS IMPORTANT



26%

HAVE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED NEEDED HOME MODIFICATIONS TO AGE IN PLACE

Increasing stock of housing that suits our population so people that are under and over housed have more opportunities to find housing that suits them in terms of need. Location, cost, accessibility.

Responding to "In your opinion, what should the top priority be for the state of Rhode Island with regard to quality affordable housing?"

Rhode Island Involvement



71%

BELIEVE RI CAN IMPROVE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY A FAIR AMOUNT OR A GREAT DEAL



70%

SAY LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS AREN'T DOING ENOUGH TO ENSURE AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HOUSING

TOP HOUSING PRIORITIES:



NEW CONSTRUCTION



RENT CONTROLS/STABILIZATION



ZONING CHANGES



REPURPOSING UNUSED BUILDINGS