



# Daytona Regional CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

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### *Insurance Rates on the Rise*

As most Floridians know, hurricanes are a part of our life. It's not if a big storm will hit us, but when it will hit us. As more and more insurance companies drop customers or leave Florida altogether, it is getting harder for Floridians to find affordable homeowner insurance. Citizens Property Insurance, a nonprofit entity created by the Florida state government, is there as a "last resort" for Floridians who couldn't find affordable insurance or find a company to insure them at all.

"The so-called Last resort's" insurer has topped 1.1 million policies or about 15% of Florida's market. Floridas' insurance industry is in crisis and has only worsened by Hurricane Ian. Before Hurricane Ian, Florida homeowners were paying the highest average premium in the U.S., with homeowners paying \$4,231, nearly triple the U.S. premium.

Since the impact of Hurricane Ian on Florida, homeowners are about to see an increase in premiums. Yet to know the total cost of loss in Florida after Ian, the Office of Insurance Regulations has agreed to an average rate increase of 6.4% for homeowners renewing their Citizen's policies. Some industry analysts predict the average homeowner will spend 40% more on property insurance next year because of the storm.

According to the state's insurance regulator, nearly 80% of all homeowners' insurance lawsuits in the U.S. come from Florida. By contrast, the state accounts for only 9% of all homeowner claims. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis called for a special session by the end of 2022 to address the Florida insurance crisis. Nearly 7,000 homes in Volusia County have been damaged due to Hurricane Ian, inflicting more than \$325 million in damage to properties throughout the county thus far.

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