

Why High-Net-Worth Families Are Moving to Florida

Tax advantages, estate planning benefits, and asset protection drive wealthy families to relocate to Florida for long-term wealth preservation.



Florida has long attracted retirees, business owners, executives, and wealthy families seeking sunshine, championship golf courses, and a year-round outdoor lifestyle. Beyond the beaches and warm weather, Florida also offers meaningful financial and estate planning advantages that can help preserve wealth across generations.

For many families relocating from high-tax states like New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, becoming a Florida resident can create opportunities for income tax savings, estate tax reduction, and stronger creditor protection. From Palm Beach to Naples and Boca Raton to Jupiter, Florida continues to be one of the most attractive states for wealth management and retirement planning. good news is that you do not need to become a financial expert overnight.

Key takeaways

- Florida offers significant tax advantages: No state income tax and no estate tax can enhance wealth preservation for high-net-worth families
- Asset protection is a key differentiator: Strong homestead laws and creditor protections support long-term financial security
- Proper domicile planning is critical: Establishing Florida residency requires careful planning and coordination

Why Florida continues to attract high-net-worth families

Whether it's enjoying a morning tee time in Naples, boating in Jupiter, or spending winter months in Palm Beach, Florida offers more than lifestyle appeal. The state's tax-friendly environment has made it one of the leading destinations for affluent individuals and retirees looking to optimize their financial plans.

Florida's no state income tax benefits for families

Florida is one of only a handful of states with no personal state income tax. For high-income earners, business owners, and retirees, this can create substantial annual savings compared to states in the Northeast. Many seasonal residents who split their time between Florida and states like New York should carefully track residency rules, often referred to as the '183-day rule,' to avoid dual residency taxation.



Comparison of Top State Income Tax Rates

State	Top State Income Tax Rate
Florida	0%
New York	10.9%
New Jersey	10.75%
Massachusetts	5% (up to 9% for certain high-income earners)

Florida does not impose a separate state estate or inheritance tax

Florida does not impose a separate state estate tax or inheritance tax. This is especially important for wealthy families focused on preserving generational wealth. In contrast, some states, including several in the northeast, impose estate taxes at much lower exemption thresholds than the current federal exemption thresholds (\$15 million per individual).

Comparison of State Estate Taxes

State	State Estate Tax Rate	State Estate Tax Exemption (Individual)
Florida	None	N/A
New York	Up to 16%	~\$7.35M (subject to "Cliff Tax")
New Jersey	None however, imposes an inheritance tax on certain non-exempt beneficiaries.	N/A
Massachusetts	Up to 16%	\$2M

Florida homestead benefits: tax savings

Florida's homestead laws can provide significant benefits for homeowners with primary residence. Eligible residents may receive up to a \$50,722 homestead exemption on property taxes in 2026 (the limit that used to be capped at \$50,000 is now adjusted annually for inflation), along with protection from substantial annual increases in assessed value through the Save Our Homes cap. For retirees and affluent families purchasing luxury homes near golf communities, waterfront neighborhoods, or private clubs, these protections can create long-term savings.

Florida creditor protection for high-net-worth families

Florida is widely recognized for having some of the strongest asset protection laws in the country. The Florida Constitution provides broad homestead protection for primary residences, and many retirement accounts, annuities, and life insurance policies also receive creditor protection. This can be an important consideration for physicians, entrepreneurs, executives, and business owners.

Comparison of Statutory Creditor Protections

Asset Type	Florida	New York	New Jersey	Massachusetts
Primary Residence (Homestead)	Unlimited homestead protection for qualifying primary residences	Limited homestead exemption	Limited protection	Homestead cap applies
IRA Protection	Protected	Protected with limits	Protected with limits	Protected with limits
Life Insurance Cash Value	Protected	Limited	Limited	Limited
Annuities	Protected	Partial	Partial	Partial
Tenants by Entireties Protection	Strong protection	Limited	Limited	Limited

Establishing Florida residency for tax purposes

For individuals relocating from high-tax states, properly establishing Florida domicile is critical. States such as New York are increasingly aggressive when auditing residency claims. Steps often include filing a Declaration of Domicile, obtaining a Florida driver’s license, registering to vote, moving banking relationships, and updating estate planning documents with Florida counsel.

For affluent families seeking tax efficiency, retirement flexibility, and long-term wealth preservation, Florida remains one of the most attractive states in the country. Whether you are relocating permanently or establishing a second residence near Florida’s renowned golf communities and coastal cities, a coordinated wealth management, tax, and estate planning strategy is essential.

A coordinated approach across wealth management, tax, and estate planning is essential.



To help put these considerations into action, we encourage you to view the **domicile planning checklist**

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