

Record-high prices, low inventory frustrate potential homebuyers



WASHINGTON (TND) — A housing crisis is gripping the nation, as families on the hunt for the perfect starter home are now getting priced out. With record-high prices and record-low inventory, the American dream of owning a home is harder to come by these days.

The National Desk's Angela Brown takes a closer look at a housing crisis affecting future homebuyers. (Video: The National Desk){ }

“We're not struggling as much as we could be, but it's tight,” said Theresa Boyce from Palm Beach County, Florida.

Her family's move into their West Palm Beach apartment was only supposed to be temporary, but then the pandemic hit and home prices soared. Future homebuyers have a gloomy outlook, as more than 80% of millennials ages 18 to 34 think now is a bad time to buy, according to a survey by mortgage association Fannie Mae.

“They're frustrated and I get it,” said **Bonnie Heatzig**.

Heatzig has been in the real estate business for nearly 20 years. She says right now families on the hunt are getting priced out.

“Look, there is so little inventory to choose from, and with rising prices, a lot of these buyers were priced out of neighborhoods that they were focusing on pre-pandemic,” said **Heatzig**.

Across America, home prices have gone up 30% since the end of 2019, according to the National Association of Realtors. The average home costs roughly \$80,000 more.

The pandemic has unleashed a whole new wave in real estate across the country. I mean, we're seeing unprecedented demand,” said **Heatzig**.

That demand is threatening purchasing power, leaving families like the Boyces in a tough spot, not able to find an affordable home, and now dealing with rising rent. Rates in some cities are up more than 30%.

“There should be some legislation even, where they can cap a percentage,” said Boyce.

A new year brings new homes for potential homebuyers. Experts predict families might have better luck in 2022.

“Once that inventory loosens up, becomes more available, the sellers of starter homes will have a willingness to put their homes on the market,” said **Heatzig**. “Don't lose hope. There is still positive in our marketplace.”