

Survey taps homeowners' views

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A new survey finds 61 percent of Tampa Bay area homeowners think the value of their homes will continue to rise over the coming year, despite indications that the state's unprecedented five-year housing boom is waning.

The annual survey, commissioned by Orlando-based [Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund's](#) Consumer Education Campaign, polled more than 1,000 homeowners statewide between May and June. Results were tallied for specific markets allowing for comparisons between seven metropolitan areas including Broward County, Fort Myers-Naples, Miami-Dade County, Orlando, Sarasota County, Tampa and West Palm Beach.

The survey released Thursday also suggests that despite affordability continuing to be the biggest obstacle to purchasing a home (70 percent), Tampa homeowners are cautious about the state's housing market. Views are nearly split about whether now is a good time (42 percent) or bad time (45 percent) to buy a home.

Hurricanes were still on the mind of Tampa homeowners, however, with half of all respondents (50 percent) saying they were concerned about being hit by a storm. Only 13 percent of homeowners cite the impact of a housing bubble as their biggest concern.

Floridians are split in their views about whether now is a good or a bad time to buy a home (each 42 percent), but residents in select regions such as Orlando (43 percent), Sarasota (53 percent) and West Palm Beach (49 percent) are slightly more likely to believe that now is a good time to buy a home.

Among Florida homeowners, 41 percent find understanding real estate laws as the most confusing part of purchasing a home, while 24 percent cited the sizeable volume of paperwork involved in the closing process as being confusing.