

CitizensAdvisor



OIR holds Citizens 2021 rate hearing

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Citizens Property Insurance Corporation brought its 2021 rate recommendations to the Office of Insurance Regulation on Monday in a public hearing during which the state-created insurer fielded questions on proposed rates that will go into effect beginning August 1.

Testifying on the need for higher rates, Citizens President, CEO and Executive Director Barry Gilway cited continued losses from high litigation rates, Hurricane Irma claims and subsequently higher reinsurance costs. Private companies are raising rates much higher than the 7.2 percent average increase in Citizens personal lines policies.

The growing gap between Citizens rates and those of private carriers means more customers are eligible for Citizens, which is expected grow by nearly 150,000 by the end of the year.

“The reality is the marketplace in Florida is shutting down,” Gilway said.

The state insurance regulator is required to hold a public hearing on Citizens rate recommendations under Florida law, which also caps annual Citizens rate increases at 10 percent. Citizens Board of Governors in January approved a pair of rate recommendations that make Citizens rates more competitive with private insurance company policies.

Board members on March 3 approved a statewide average increase of 7.2 percent for personal lines policyholders – homeowners, condominium unit owners, mobile homeowners, dwelling, and renters. Homeowner policies would increase by an average 6.1 percent. Condo owners would see an average 9.4 percent increase. Renters rates would increase 4 percent on average.

The board also recommended that new Citizens policyholders outside of Monroe County pay actuarially sound rates instead of benefiting from the same capped premiums that existing Citizens policyholders receive. If approved by OIR, the recommendation would increase rates for new business by an average of 21 percent.

Citizens policy count has risen from 443,000 to 552,000, a 19.7 percent increase over the past year. Following presentations by Gilway and Citizens actuaries, OIR staff posed several questions regarding the filing. The Q&A portion was followed by a public comment period in which a handful of speakers opposed various portions of Citizens request.

Citizens prepared a [2021 rate hearing kit](#), which provides detailed information behind the 2021 request. Citizens has also compiled [county-by-county estimates](#) for specific policy types.

March 18, 2021

Events

March 25 @ 10 a.m.
[Ad Hoc Committee](#)
[Zoom Webinar](#)

June 30 @ 1 p.m.
[Claims Committee](#)
[Zoom Webinar](#)

July 14 @ 9 a.m.
[Board of Governors](#)
[Zoom Webinar](#)

Spotlight



Brian Donovan

Vice President and Chief Actuary

Policies in Force

558,932

as of March 12, 2021

Citizens again seeks proof of Irma, Michael repairs

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Citizens is seeking proof of repairs for damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Michael following a year-long moratorium put in place in March 2020 in response to COVID-19.

Last month, Citizens began mailing notices to policyholders with Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Michael claims alerting them that proof of repairs for damaged caused by the storms will be needed to continue coverage following upcoming renewal dates after July 1.

Citizens temporarily paused the need for proof of repairs to protect policyholders and Citizens representatives during the pandemic.

If repairs have been completed, Citizens is requiring policyholders to provide supporting information to their insurance agent. Such information may include invoices, photographs, permits or inspection reports to verify that repairs have been made.

If home repairs have not been completed, policyholders will need to provide their insurance agent with supporting documentation outlining the delayed repairs and an expected completion date.

Citizens is sending at least two letters to policyholders with outstanding proof of repair requirements and has also alerted agents across the state.

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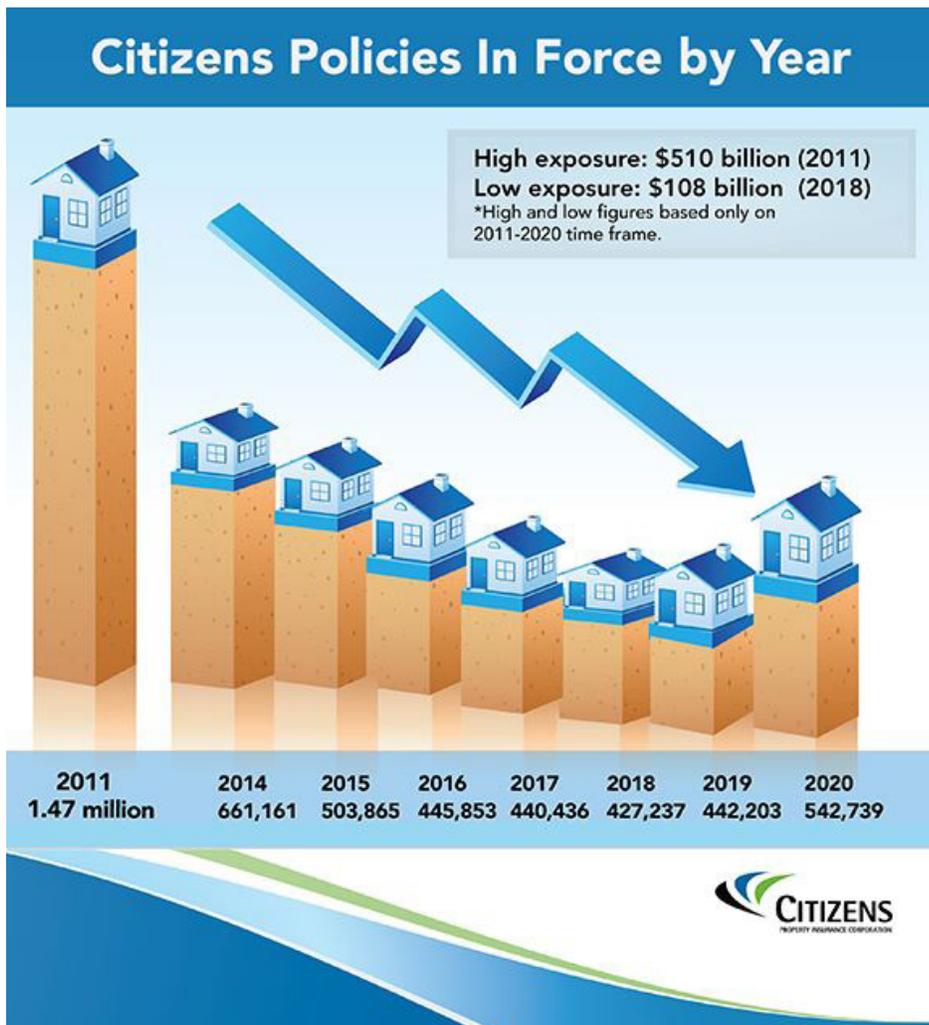
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News Links

[Citizens Property Insurance says Florida is becoming riskier. It wants a rate bump](#)
Miami Herald

[Regulators dig into proposed Citizens Insurance rate increase](#)
Pensacola News Journal (News Service of Florida)

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Orlando Sentinel

[EDITORIAL: Lawmakers' "fix" for insurance roof issue a loss for homeowners](#)
The News Herald

[Insurance Agents on the Front Line of Florida's Mounting Property Market Problems](#)
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[What Stakeholders Are Saying About the Florida Insurance Market](#)
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