

Best States For Working From Home In 2026

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses shifted to remote work in order to continue operating. Although daily life has returned to normal, a significant number of employers have maintained flexible arrangements. In fact, 12% of full-time employees work fully remote, while another 27% follow a hybrid schedule that splits time between home and the office.

As remote opportunities become more common, not everyone has an ideal setup for working from home. Strong remote-work conditions typically include affordable living costs, a comfortable home environment, and reliable security.

Where you live can play a big role in how easy it is to work remotely. To determine which states offer the best work-from-home conditions, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia using 12 key metrics. The analysis looks at factors such as the percentage of people working remotely, internet costs, and cybersecurity, along with home size and household crowding.

“Working from home can save people a lot of money on transportation expenses, as well as make their work environment a lot more comfortable and their hours more flexible. However, things like energy costs, internet speed, home sizes and how many people live together can greatly impact people’s savings and productivity. While work-from-home jobs can be done anywhere, certain states make the practice much better than others.”

Chip Lupo, WalletHub Analyst

Best States For Working From Home	
State	Score
1. Utah	70.07
2. Delaware	67.25
3. Connecticut	66.64
4. Maryland	65.65
5. Massachusetts	65.65
6. New Jersey	65.31
7. Rhode Island	64.92
8. Washington	63.99
9. Virginia	63.24
10. North Carolina	62.84
11. Minnesota	62.40
12. Tennessee	62.19
13. Georgia	61.18
14. New Hampshire	61.14
15. Pennsylvania	60.83
30. Illinois	56.70
Worst States For Working From Home	
37. South Dakota	53.51
38. North Dakota	53.35
39. Idaho	53.14
40. Maine	52.88
41. Vermont	50.99
42. New Mexico	50.96
43. Oklahoma	50.94
44. Iowa	49.39
45. Mississippi	49.22
46. Arkansas	49.16
47. Wyoming	49.15
48. Hawaii	48.24
49. West Virginia	45.86
50. Montana	35.03
51. Alaska	22.45

Key Stats

♦ The District of Columbia has the highest share of the labor force working from home, which is 5.6 times higher than in Mississippi,

the state with the lowest.

♦ Connecticut has the highest share of households with access to broadband speeds over 25 Mbps, which is 1.5 times higher than in Mississippi, the state with the lowest.

♦ Alaska has the lowest amount

lost per victim as a result of internet crime, which is 19.5 times lower than in the District of Columbia, the state with the highest.

♦ North Dakota has the lowest residential retail price of electricity, which is 3.4 times lower than in Hawaii, the state with the highest.

Millionaire’s Tax Proposal Draws Mixed Reviews As Deadline Approaches

By Jim Talamonti | *The Center Square*
Supporters of a 3% surcharge on income more than \$1 million have less than a month to move a resolution through the General Assembly in time to get the proposal before voters in November.

House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 26 calls for a binding referendum to be placed on the general election ballot.

Former Gov. Pat Quinn joined state Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, at a news conference in Chicago last week to urge support for the surcharge.

Quinn said people with home-stead exemptions should be getting rebates from the state’s property tax relief fund.

“The problem is there’s no money in the fund right now. That’s why passing the millionaire’s surcharge only on millionaires can get the money, \$4.5 billion to fund annual property tax rebates,” Quinn said.

Quinn said the resolution has a deadline of May 3 to be approved by three-fifths of the General Assembly in order for it to be on the Election Day ballot this year.

Although Quinn said the millionaire’s surcharge would generate \$4.5 billion, current Gov. J.B. Pritzker said only about \$2 billion would go likely go to property tax relief.

“It takes a lot of things, just like

in dealing with pensions, you have to go at it from three or four or five or six angles in order to try to reduce the burden of local property taxes,” Pritzker said.

The governor said just keeping property taxes from going up would be a huge benefit to people.

The proposed amendment would permit income over \$1 million to be taxed at 7.95% instead of 4.95%.

Illinois House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said the millionaire’s tax would drive people out of the state.

“People will leave. They have the money to do so. They will find loopholes to avoid it. Rather than looking at ways to raise taxes, we need to be looking at ways to lower taxes,” McCombie said.

Brian Costin of Americans for Prosperity Illinois said the amendment does not have the right mechanisms to actually lower property taxes.

“What you need to do is you need to limit the spending or limit the taxing powers of those local governments. That’s why Indiana, compared to Illinois, they have done such a better job of turning their economy around, turning their competitiveness around,” Costin told *The Center Square*.

Costin said property taxes in Indiana are half what people pay in Illinois.

E-15 Gasoline

(From Lacon Front)

those opted-out states have had to deal with higher costs while waiting for an emergency waiver to come in every year.

Pritzker pointed to projected increases in the demand for ethanol, saying that expanded E15 access would significantly boost markets for corn growers.

“Projections indicate that year-round E15 could increase ethanol demand by 4.5 billion gallons between 2021 and 2035, resulting in an additional 1.5 billion bushels of corn demand,” he said. “At a time when farmers are still awaiting meaningful trade relief and facing elevated input costs, this kind of market expansion would provide tangible, short-term support and position Illinois as a national leader in renewable fuels.”

The governor also pointed to broader economic pressures on the agricultural sector, including the ongoing war in Iran, as a reason for already higher gas prices. According to AAA, gas prices eclipsed \$4 per gallon across the country this week for the first time since 2022.

The renewed push from Pritzker, who wrote to the Environmental Protection Agency in

early March about the same issue along with other governors, comes as the EPA issued yet another temporary emergency waiver to allow the sale of E15 during the summer.

“Without this action, E15 gasoline cannot be used by roughly half of the country this summer,” the EPA said in a statement announcing the issuance of the emergency waiver.

Pritzker’s letter comes as fuel retailers in Illinois and across the Midwest have warned that without a long-term fix past just the summer months, the region could face even higher gas prices since there would be different fuel standards across different states.

“Relying on administrative action does not provide the long-term certainty that farmers, producers, fuel retailers and consumers need,” Pritzker said. “We must work to remove this regulatory roadblock.”

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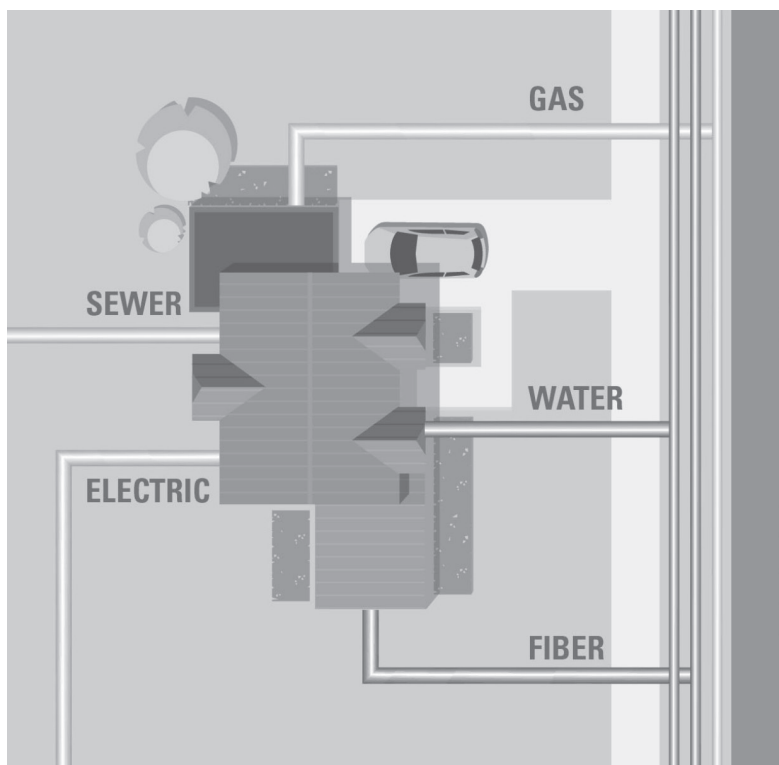
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