
McAllen Least Costly in US for Retirees

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McAllen has long done its best, and has been quite successful, at attracting Winter Texans to the City of Palms. But now we're learning that McAllen has been ranked the most affordable place to retire in the United States. Therefore, we suggest that retirees give us another look and perhaps consider living here year-round.

The website analysis by SmartAssets stated that a nest egg of just \$369,857 would be sufficient to enjoy a comfortable retirement here, based on the cost of living and current local tax rates. It cited tropical climates, lots of sunshine, low-cost living and lower taxes as making this a wonderful place for seniors to locate permanently.

Compared to Honolulu — which also has great scenery and tropical weather — McAllen is much more affordable. The website says to retire comfortably in Hawaii, a senior needs \$1.6 million in savings. Likewise, it dubbed McAllen the "Texas Tropics," and stated: "Unlike Hawaii, however, you don't need to be a millionaire to retire in the Texas Tropics."

The only other Texas cities to make the Top 10 include:

- >> No. 6 Amarillo, which requires a \$402,436 nest egg.
- >> No. 7 San Marcos, with \$402,598 in savings needed.
- >> No. 10 Sherman, with \$408,116 in savings needed.

“It’s good to know that we’re recognized nationally for being affordable and price conscious for retirees,” McAllen City Manager Roy Rodriguez said in a statement.

Rodriguez listed the many public parks, miles of hike and bike trails and free events and concerts that also help attract seniors to our area.

And don’t forget the World Birding Center, which is a big draw during the winters, but also features spectacular and rare feathered friends all year round.

In addition to all of these listed amenities, McAllen also is a clean and beautiful city, according to Keep McAllen Beautiful, which this week announced that McAllen scored the highest possible on a recent community appearance assessment. The city was rated a 1, meaning it has minimal or no litter, based on an assessment of 60 city areas surveyed by the organization, which is affiliated with Keep America Beautiful Inc.

In 2015, local volunteers and citizens helped to collect over 160 tons of trash and bulk waste in McAllen during neighborhood cleanup events.

We’re grateful to all who take pride in our city and who help to keep it clean and attractive for Winter Texans who enjoy coming here every year. And we hope that in the next few months as these seniors settle back in to our area, they’ll take a good hard look around and perhaps consider staying here a few months longer.