

Making Ends Meet: The search for affordable housing on the Suncoast



By Kate Flexter | Posted: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:14 am

SARASOTA, Fla.-- As the cost of living continues to grow and the minimum wage stays relatively the same, the struggle to make ends meet here on a minimum wage budget intensifies.

And so does the political debate over the topic. Massive protests are held regularly across the nation by those who are demanding a wage increase to \$15 an hour.

Right now, Florida's minimum wage is \$8.05 an hour. That's just over \$322 a month and \$13,790 a year after taxes, but what does that actually get you and is it enough?

The issue seeps into all sorts of industries, from construction workers, to cashiers, to housekeepers. In this first part of a series, we took a look at finding housing on a maximum budget of \$650 per month. That's more than 50 percent of our income as we figure out how to live on minimum wage for this story.

Our options were slim and were made even slimmer by long waiting lists and temporary leases: a struggle that's a reality for millions of people living on minimum wage.