



14 New Jersey Cities Ranked in U.S. News 'Best Places to Live' List

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In its 2025-2026 rankings, [U.S. News & World Report](#) listed 14 New Jersey locations among the nation's best places to live. After studying 859 metropolitan areas, Vineland came in right behind Clifton as the state's top pick. The study weighed living costs, work prospects, and daily life standards.

"While quality of life remains the top priority for many Americans, and has the heaviest weight in determining the Best Places to Live rankings, U.S. News slightly adjusted its weights to increase priority for a location's job market amid heightened economic uncertainty," said Erika Giovanetti to [NJBIZ](#).

The New Jersey cities ranked in order are:

- Clifton
- Vineland
- Jersey City
- Bayonne
- Elizabeth
- Passaic
- Union City
- New Brunswick
- East Orange
- Paterson
- Newark

- Trenton
- Camden
- Atlantic City

“Being recognized by U.S News and World Report as one New Jersey’s top places to live is a testament to the rich tapestry of life that Vineland offers,” said Mayor Anthony Fanucci.

“Vineland is not just a place, it’s a community where people are friendly and caring where the legacy of history, culture, and quality of life come together. It’s a great place to do business and raise a family. I am so proud of what we have accomplished.”

U.S. News researchers used a public survey of thousands of U.S. citizens to find what qualities they consider important in a place to live. The methodology also factored in data from U.S. News’ internal resources on the economy and local infrastructure; along with the data firm Applied Geographic Solutions, and U.S. government agencies including the Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, Federal Reserve, and the Bureau for Economic Analysis. This data was categorized into the five indexes including Quality of Life, Value, Desirability, Job Market, and Net Migration, and evaluated using a methodology determined by Americans' preferences.