

Home > Georgia > Cobb County > Smyrna

# Smyrna, GA eviction risk: Elevated

Cobb County · Population 56,633 · Ranked #70 of 673 in Georgia · Nationally in the 94th percentile

**Smyrna, GA** scores **6.4/10** on the Eviction Risk Score — the elevated tier. The score blends nine independent sub-scores covering local, regional, and state political climate; economic stress; supply constraint; rent-control risk; eviction-process difficulty; tenant-organizing strength; and housing-court bias. Every input is sourced from public data — Census ACS, MIT Election Lab, BLS, and the state landlord-tenant statute — with no synthetic estimates.

EVICTIION RISK SCORE · 2026
POLITICAL LEAN

# 6.4 / 10

ELEVATED

Dem  
+14.9% margin

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Timeline</b><br><span style="color: red;">39d</span><br>filing → judgment | <b>Cost range</b><br><span style="color: red;">\$1.5-3.6k</span><br>legal + lost rent | <b>Average rent</b><br>\$1,739<br>31% stretched on rent | <b>Renters</b><br>41%<br>of households |
|--|---|---|--|

## The score in one paragraph

Smyrna is in the **elevated** tier at **6.4/10**. The legal framework has meaningful tenant protections but the courts are not actively hostile to landlords. Standard professional practices — rigorous screening, prompt rent-day communication, precise statutory notice, documented service — keep exposure manageable. Watch for local rent-control proposals; the political baseline supports near-term action in cities at this tier.

## 9-axis sub-score breakdown Higher = more tenant-protective conditions

| SUB-SCORE                   | VALUE | DISTRIBUTION |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Local political climate     | 7.6   |              |
| Regional political climate  | 7.6   |              |
| State political climate     | 2.0   |              |
| Economic stress             | 5.4   |              |
| Supply constraint           | 8.6   |              |
| Rent-control risk           | 6.0   |              |
| Eviction-process difficulty | 1.6   |              |
| Tenant-organizing strength  | 8.5   |              |
| Housing-court bias          | 5.5   |              |
| Primary Eviction Risk Score | 6.4   | 9-axis mean  |

## How Smyrna compares

Smyrna, GA **6.4**

Cobb County **5.7**

Georgia average **5.5**

US national average **5.3**

**Smyrna scores 6.4/10** — that's 1.1 points **above** the US national average (5.3) and ranks **#70 of 673** covered places in Georgia. Nationally, 93.7% of cities score lower than this one.

## Demographics & economic context

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Population                      | 56,633          |
| Renter share of households      | 40.7%           |
| Average gross rent              | \$1,739 / month |
| Average household income        | \$96,780 / year |
| Share of income spent on rent   | 30.9%           |
| Poverty rate                    | 9.6%            |
| Unemployment rate               | 3.9%            |
| 2024 county presidential margin | +14.9%          |

Of every 100 households in Smyrna, roughly **41** rent. The typical renter household earns \$96,780 a year and pays \$1,739 a month in rent — equivalent to **31%** of average household income. HUD classifies any household spending more than 30% of income on housing as "cost-burdened" and more than 50% as "severely cost-burdened" — Smyrna sits **above the cost-burdened threshold**.

## Eviction cost & timeline detail

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Estimated all-in eviction cost (low)                   | <b>\$1,483</b>     |
| Estimated all-in eviction cost (high)                  | <b>\$3,607</b>     |
| Lost-rent share of total (typical)                     | ~60-75%            |
| Court filing + summons service fees                    | \$385 - \$610      |
| Sheriff lockout fee                                    | \$145 - \$200      |
| Attorney fees (contested cases)                        | \$1,500 - \$5,000+ |
| Typical timeline (filing → judgment)                   | <b>39 days</b>     |
| Post-eviction turnover (cleaning, repairs, re-leasing) | +30-60 days        |
| Tenant-prevailing outcome rate                         | 26.0%              |

In a typical eviction in Smyrna, **lost rent is the dominant cost driver** — accounting for 60-75% of total expense. At the city's average rent of \$1,739/month ( $\approx$  \$58/day), every day of vacancy during the eviction process costs the landlord roughly \$58. A 39-day filing-to-judgment timeline followed by a 30-day turnover means 69 days of vacancy — \$2,261 in lost rent alone, before any other cost.

## Georgia statute snapshot

|                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Governing statute                   | O.C.G.A. § 44-7 (Landlord and Tenant) |
| Just-cause eviction required        | No (statewide; local rules may apply) |
| Typical uncontested timeline (high) | 30 days                               |
| Typical contested timeline (high)   | 90 days                               |

## Per-axis detail — what each sub-score actually measures

The Eviction Risk Score is an arithmetic mean of nine independent 0-10 sub-scores. Each is measuring something different about the local landlord-side legal and political environment. Below is what each one is and what Smyrna's value reflects.

### Local political climate

7.6

2024 county presidential margin (MIT Election Lab, 2020 fallback). Reflects the local electorate's lean — strong-Dem counties tend to support stronger tenant ordinances; strong-Rep counties tend to favor faster, landlord-neutral eviction processes.

### Regional political climate

7.6

Population-weighted average of surrounding counties in the same metro area. Local rent-control fights almost always cluster regionally — adjacent counties with the same political lean produce coordinated policy waves.

### State political climate

2.0

Statewide presidential margin + legislative chamber composition. The state legislature controls preemption (whether cities CAN pass rent control), eviction notice periods, and just-cause requirements.

### Economic stress

5.4

Census ACS poverty rate combined with BLS LAUS unemployment. High economic stress correlates with higher eviction filing rates because rent-payment problems track joblessness more reliably than any other single signal.

### Supply constraint

8.6

Renter share × average gross rent. Constrained markets (low vacancy, high rent) produce both higher rent-burden and more aggressive tenant organizing, both of which raise eviction risk.

### Rent-control risk

6.0

National percentile of rent burden. Cities at the top of the rent-burden distribution are the most likely targets of new rent-stabilization ordinances within 1-2 legislative cycles.

### Eviction-process difficulty

1.6

Coded reading of state landlord-tenant statute: notice periods, response window, available defenses, just-cause coverage, mandatory mediation. Higher = longer, more procedural, more dismissal-prone.

### Tenant-organizing strength

8.5

Renter share weighted by political lean. Cities with majority-renter populations and tenant-friendly politics produce active tenant unions that escalate individual disputes and lobby for stronger protections.

### Housing-court bias

5.5

State-weighted disposition data + appellate posture. Some state housing courts apply procedural rules strictly against landlords (dismissals for minor notice defects); others apply them strictly against tenants.

## Quick answers

What is the eviction risk score for Smyrna?

**6.4/10** — Elevated tier. The score is the arithmetic mean of nine sub-axes covering political climate (local, regional, state), economic stress, supply constraint, rent-control risk, eviction-process difficulty, tenant-organizing strength, and housing-court bias. Inputs are public ACS 2023 5-year data, 2024 county presidential margins (MIT Election Lab; 2020 fallback), BLS LAUS unemployment, and a coded reading of the Georgia landlord-tenant statute.

How long does an eviction take in Smyrna?

Filing to judgment runs roughly **39 days** for a standard case. All-in cost runs **\$1,483-\$3,607** per case — that's legal fees, lost rent, sheriff lockout, plus post-eviction turnover. Contested cases (where the tenant files an Answer) add another 30-60 days. Cases where a tenant raises a habitability defense or files an appeal can run 4-6 months total.

What share of Smyrna households rent?

**40.7%** of households are renter-occupied (ACS 2023 5-year, table B25008). About **31%** of average household income goes to rent at the city's average gross rent of **\$1,739/month** (ACS table B25064).

Is Smyrna a landlord-friendly market?

Elevated tier (**6.4/10**). Documented notices and proactive screening matter. Tenant defenses are common but not universal — landlords with clean procedural records win most contested cases.

What does "stretched on rent" mean?

HUD defines a household as "cost-burdened" if it spends more than 30% of income on housing, and "severely cost-burdened" above 50%. Smyrna's value of **30.9%** measures the city-wide average from Census ACS 2023 5-year table B25071 (gross rent as a percentage of household income). The higher this number, the more financially fragile the average renter household, and the more likely a missed paycheck cascades into a rent default.

Who is this report for?

Landlords evaluating a market for an acquisition, property managers underwriting an existing portfolio, investors comparing submarkets, tenants researching their rights, and journalists/researchers covering local housing policy. Every number is reproducible from public sources cited at the back of this report. **No legal advice is provided** — consult a licensed attorney in Georgia for guidance specific to a particular property or dispute.

## Methodology

The primary Eviction Risk Score is computed as the arithmetic mean of nine sub-scores, each independently normalized to a 0-1 national percentile against the universe of 31,828 covered US cities, then multiplied by 10. Each sub-score is capped at [1.0, 10.0] before averaging to keep the headline number from being dragged to extremes by a single outlier axis.

$$\text{score} = (S_{\text{local}} + S_{\text{regional}} + S_{\text{state}} + S_{\text{economic}} + S_{\text{supply}} + S_{\text{rent-control}} + S_{\text{eviction-process}} + S_{\text{tenant-org}} + S_{\text{court-bias}}) \div 9$$

## REPRODUCIBILITY

Every input is sourced from a public dataset cited in the source registry below. To reproduce Smyrna's score from scratch, pull the city's ACS variables from [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov) (place GEOID), the county presidential margin from MIT Election Lab's CSV, and the state statute from the cited code section. The full computation lives at [evictionriskmap.com/methodology/](https://evictionriskmap.com/methodology/) and the per-city payload is available as JSON at [evictionriskmap.com/api/v1/cities/{id}.json](https://evictionriskmap.com/api/v1/cities/{id}.json).

## CONFIDENCE & UNCERTAINTY

ACS 5-year estimates for places with population under ~25,000 carry meaningful margins of error — we suppress the score entirely for places under 5,000 and add a wide confidence band for places 5,000–25,000. Presidential margins use county-level returns (the most granular level published consistently for every US county) so they uniformly under-represent within-county political variation in large metros. The eviction-process sub-score is a coded reading of statute text; it does not attempt to measure within-state judicial variation.

## Source registry

| SOURCE  | COVERAGE   | VINTAGE                    |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| US Census ACS 5-year (B17001, B19013, B25008, B25064, B25071) | Poverty, income, renter share, rent, rent burden | 2023                       |
| US Census Gazetteer   | Place + county geometry, FIPS codes              | 2024                       |
| MIT Election Lab  | County presidential margin                       | 2024 (2020 fallback)       |
| BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics                        | City-level unemployment rate                     | Latest available           |
| Georgia landlord-tenant statute                               | Notice periods, just-cause, rent caps, timelines | 2026 reading               |
| HUD cost-burden thresholds                                    | 30% / 50% income-on-rent benchmarks              | Codified                   |
| NGP-EvictStats scoring formula                                | 9-axis Eviction Risk Score                       | Current production version |

## Disclaimer

This report is informational only. The Eviction Risk Score is descriptive of measurable inputs (Census demographics, voting history, statute structure) — it is not a prediction for any individual property, tenant, or dispute. It does not constitute legal, financial, or investment advice. Eviction outcomes depend heavily on case-specific facts (notice service quality, tenant defenses, judicial assignment) that no aggregate score can capture. Before taking any action on a specific property or tenancy, consult a licensed Georgia attorney.

All public-source citations above are non-exclusive: anyone can reproduce the Eviction Risk Score by pulling the same source data and applying the methodology published at [evictionriskmap.com/methodology/](https://evictionriskmap.com/methodology/). NextGen Properties publishes EvictionRiskMap.com as a free research tool; we do not sell the underlying data and we do not warrant the score's fitness for any particular purpose.

## ABOUT NEXTGEN PROPERTIES

NextGen Properties is a licensed real estate brokerage and full-service property-management firm. We own and operate a portfolio of single-family rentals and small multifamily buildings across the West and South, and we publish **EvictionRiskMap.com** as a free research tool for landlords, tenants, and investors evaluating local rental markets. Our team blends 20+ years of operational landlord experience with original data work — we ingest, validate, and combine public datasets (US Census ACS, BEA, Princeton Eviction Lab, CDC SVI, FRED) so customers can underwrite a market in minutes rather than weeks.

### WHAT WE DO

Full-service property management for landlords (leasing, maintenance, accounting, legal coordination) · Pre-purchase market diligence reports for investors · Free public risk data and methodology at [evictionriskmap.com](https://evictionriskmap.com)

### REACH US

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