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Florida Isn't Futile For Phil Mickelson

When I saw the Wall Street Journal's headline that '[Florida Means Futility for Phil Mickelson](#),' I naturally thought the article was about taxes. After all, [Mickelson](#) has become a kind of poster-child for picking state residency with an eye on the tax law. That's curious, considering that Mickelson still calls high-tax-California his home.

Mickelson landed himself in hot water when he dared to suggest his taxes were high and that he had to look at alternatives. He even suggested that taxes were one of the reasons he withdrew from buying San Diego's Padres. "There are going to be some drastic changes for me because I happen to be in that zone that has been targeted both federally and by the state and, you know, it doesn't work for me right now," [Mickelson said](#) after his T37 finish at the [Humana](#) Challenge in Palm Springs.

When Mickelson's tame tax remarks provoked an outcry, he apologized. Even his apology provoked outrage from observers who liked the fact that he was talking of high taxes. See [The Mickelson Vote: Lefty Offends the Lefties](#). Mickelson would be better off moving outright rather than just talking about it. He might well become more like Tiger Woods, who moved to Florida in the



Phil Mickelson at Muirfield Village
(Photo credit: Ed
(supergolfdude))

1990s in part due to California's already high taxes. See [Tiger Woods admits he left California because of tax rates](#).

There's new debate about how large an impact taxes have on moves even by high income taxpayers. See [The Myth of the Rich Who Flee From Taxes](#). This report claims that jobs, housing costs, family ties and climate are more important than taxes. Even wealthy taxpayers generally don't move for tax reasons, the report states. See [Trends in New Jersey Migration: Housing, Employment, and Taxation](#). See also [Tax Flight Is a Myth](#).

If it's true that Mickelson's golf game in Florida is anemic, it's also true that [Mickelson Is Not Alone In Fleeing Taxes](#). Whether Mickelson talks about taxes again or keeps quiet, I'm betting he's in for a rude awakening when he sees the size of the California taxes he'll pay when he files his 2012 returns. It would hardly be futile for him to double down on Florida or perhaps Texas for a new home.

In fact, maybe it would change his Florida golf stats too. Futile? Not hardly.

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