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The Briefing for Thursday – February 2 – 2023

The last Briefing was Monday – January 30 – 2023

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Governor Releases Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Year FY23 - 24.

The Budget Recommendations released by the Governor's Office for SFY 2023-24 total approximately \$114.8 billion. That increase represents a 2.39% increase from the 2022-23 General Appropriations Act. Proposed general revenue expenditures for SFY 2022-23 equal approximately \$42.4 billion and trust fund expenditures total approximately \$72.3 billion.

Governor funds significant programs and recommends major changes in rural development programs.

Fiscally Constrained programs are funded; Special Facility Construction Projects are funded; but, SCOP and SCRAP funding is reduced from prior year!

The following link provides a Word Searchable document for inquires:

[Link to Governor DeSantis' Proposed General Appropriations Act](#)

Here is a link associated with all of the information and reports associated with the Governors Budget including the Florida Retirement System.

<http://www.floridaleadsbudget.com/content/Current/rptMain.htm>

Budget Highlights relating to K-12 School Districts

Education Funding – FEFP Funding – District by District Report

- Millage Rates – no change from current year.
- Base Student Allocation (BSA)- \$4,708.73 and Increase of \$121;
- Sparsity Funding – \$63,312,242 an increase of over \$1 million;
- Compression of .748 millage to the Statewide Average included;
- Compression of Per Student funding – Not Included;
- Student Transportation - increase of \$20 million, for a total of \$535 million.
- Mental Health funding - increase of \$20 million, for a total of \$160 million;
- Teacher Salaries - an increase of \$200 million, for a total of \$1 billion for salary increases - each Florida school district will be provided the flexibility to utilize their allocation of the additional \$200 million in funding to provide salary increases to eligible teachers and instructional personnel in the manner that best fits the school district's needs;
- Safe School Initiatives - increase of \$40 million, for a total of \$250;
- Regional Education Consortia – Fully funded at \$1,750,000; and,
- Special Facility Construction Account Program – funded at 105,056,979

- Glades County - Moore Haven Elementary School project (full amount of project)..... 34,291,421
- Gadsden County - Gadsden County PreK-8 School project (first year of project)..... 35,483,086
- Putnam County - Crescent City Jr Sr High School project (first year of project)..... 35,282,472

Budget Highlights Related to Counties

- Fiscally Constrained County Funding: \$58.3 million.
- Emergency Distributions: \$31.2 million in emergency distribution revenue sharing for small counties.
- Small County Outreach Program (SCOP): \$94 million recommended; a \$5.6 million decrease over the current year funding.
- Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP): \$28.5 million recommended; a nearly \$2.9 million decrease over the current year funding.
- Rural Infrastructure Fund: \$30 million to support local rural infrastructure projects such as broadband, roads, storm and wastewater systems, and telecommunications facilities.
- Library Grants and Library Cooperatives: \$21.5 million recommended.
- Cybersecurity: \$45 million local government cybersecurity technical assistance grants
- Broadband: \$100 million for Florida’s Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program (BEAD), which funds broadband Internet planning, deployment, mapping, equity, and adoption activities with a goal of providing high-speed, reliable broadband Internet service access to all Florida communities.
- Digital Equity Grant Programs: \$12.9 million for the Digital Capacity grant to help support Local Technology Planning Teams for broadband Internet and public awareness for digital literacy efforts.
- Affordable Housing - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program: Recommending \$281 million.
- Affordable Housing -State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL): Recommending approximately \$121.7 million.
- Affordable Housing - Hometown Heroes Housing Program: \$100 million makes homeownership affordable for eligible frontline community workers such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, educators, healthcare professionals, childcare employees, and active military or veterans
- Job Growth Grant Fund: Recommends \$100 million to support workforce and infrastructure projects across the state.
- Visit Florida: \$100 million recommended.
- Septic-to-Sewer Improvements: \$200 million provided wastewater grant program for projects to construct, upgrade or expand wastewater facilities, to provide advanced wastewater treatment and to convert from septic to sewer, as established in section 403.0673, F.S.
- \$65 million to improve water quality and combat the effects and impacts of harmful algal blooms, including blue-green algae and red tide.
- Springs Restoration: \$50 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for springs restoration projects and land acquisitions to protect springs.
- Alternative Water Supply Grant Program \$50 million to help communities plan for and implement vital conservation, reuse and other alternative water supply projects.
- Florida Forever: \$75 million recommended for land acquisition, \$15 million for Florida Communities Trust, and \$10 million for Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grants.
- Beach Funding - \$50 million for grants and aids to local governments and non-state entities for beach management assistance.

- Beach Funding - \$106 million for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole beach erosion recovery projects to fully fund DEP's Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Recovery Plan for Florida's Beach and Dune Systems
- Resilient Florida Program: \$406 million for resiliency, including \$350 million for implementation of statewide resilience projects for the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan, years one through three and \$56 million for resiliency planning and coral reef protection.
- Mosquito Control Programs: \$2.66 million, which is equal to the current year funding level.

Governor Proposes Changes in Rural Development Programs

In addition to the proposed General Appropriations Act the Governor is recommending several conforming bills that will make changes in state law. One of the bills deals with Rural Development programs. The [Proposed Conforming Bill on Rural Development](#) includes the following changes:

- Removes the 25% grant match requirement for the Regional Rural Development Grants Program from regional economic development organizations.
- Removes requirement for demonstration of local government financial aid or in-kind commitment to regional organizations
- Removes local match requirements for the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund
- Increases Rural Infrastructure Fund grant awards to 100% of the total cost of the project if located within a rural community as defined in s. 288.0656(2)(e) or a rural area of opportunity as defined in s. 288.0656(2)(d), and is also located in a fiscally constrained county as defined in s. 218.67(1), or grant awards to 75% from 50% of the total infrastructure cost.
- Increases Rural Infrastructure grant awards for feasibility studies, design and engineering activities, or other infrastructure planning and preparation activities to \$300,000
- Removes local match requirements for Rural Infrastructure Fund projects

Headlines Around the State

FlaPol: Donald Trump continues attacks on 'RINO globalist' Ron DeSantis

Politico: DeSantis builds conservative resume with new \$114B-plus budget

WLRN: DeSantis says his \$114.8 billion budget is a 'framework for freedom'

News4Jax: Gov. DeSantis lays out \$114B budget recommendations on tax breaks, education and environment

City & State FL: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' budget debut hits political pressure points

Times: DeSantis proposes nearly \$115 billion state budget, a record

FlaPol: Proposed budget includes \$1B in funding to boost teacher pay

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis proposed budget boosts pediatric care, cancer research, Office of Medical Marijuana Use

FlaPol: Budget plan details teacher apprenticeship reducing college requirements

Democrat: DeSantis wants to add more money to controversial migrant relocation program

FlaPol: Safety gelt: Gov. DeSantis proposes \$18M for Jewish school security, education services

The Floridian: Scott Questions Why Leader McConnell Removed him From Top Senate Committee

The Floridian: Rick Scott Introduces Bill to Create Bicameral Committee to Investigate Afghanistan Withdrawal

The Floridian: Rubio Reintroduces Bills to Fight Against China in 2023

FlaPol: Jared Moskowitz calls for probe of billions in errant COVID spending under Donald Trump

Sun-Sentinel: After Sun Sentinel investigation, Florida's Democrats in Congress call on state leaders to protect children from sex trafficking

City & State FL: How Florida is looking to build the 'nation's first AI university'

FlaPol: Florida roads are getting deadlier; USDOT commits \$67M to help reverse that trend

TCPalm: As Florida fentanyl deaths surge, a divide on how to attack the problem

Axios: Florida's citrus crisis drives up orange juice prices

Star-Banner: Ocala press conference: Local, state, federal officials tout crime fighting success

The Capitolist: UF and FIU make Top 10 in national rankings for student return on investment

News-Press: Environmental groups want Fish and Wildlife Service to list rare ghost orchid

WLRN: 2022 ranks as Florida's 5th warmest year on record

Herald: DeSantis claims executive privilege, but its not in Florida Constitution or law

NBC Miami: African American Studies Course Revised After Criticism From DeSantis, Others

My News 13: College Board hands down new curriculum for AP African American Studies

Sentinel: African American class drops topics DeSantis hated, but creator denies 'political pressure'

News4Jax: College Board drops sections on BLM movement, reparations from AP African American studies course

Times: Black leaders blast College Board's changes to AP African American Studies course

Herald: Miami Black Affairs board vows to fight DeSantis. One member: 'Our governor is racist'

Democrat: After calling it 'trash,' Florida commissioner pushes DeSantis to craft true African American curriculum

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis seeks to bolster support costs for Florida KidCare families impacted by Hurricane Ian

Sentinel: DeSantis says bill is being written for state takeover of Disney's Reedy Creek

Herald Tribune: New College faculty express worries after new trustees take action

Herald Tribune: What makes New College different? 7 things to know

The Hill: Judge orders Florida health agency to hand over documents on gender-affirming care

News4Jax: UNF professor says DeSantis's move to defund DEI programs a political stunt, no evidence of indoctrination

WUSF: FSU's Institute of Politics is in DeSantis' higher education reform plans

WLRN: 'Florida is at an inflection point': FAU faculty defends DEI as governor pledges to ban it

The Capitolist: State CFO encourages lawmakers to ban social media platforms in K-12 schools

FlaPol: Jim Boyd not interested in Congress, will pursue leadership in Florida Senate

Bradenton Herald: DeSantis plan for Florida infrastructure includes \$53M to widen a major road in Manatee

WUSF: USF students rally against a state request for transgender health records

Bradenton Herald: 5 things to know about a Confederate monuments possible return to Bradenton, Florida

On The Docket This Week

- Call-in number: 1-872-240-3212. Code: 176854197

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating the potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol. - <https://meet.goto.com/157374045>. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 157374045
- HISTORICAL PANELS - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Historical Commission will. - <https://dos-myflorida.zoom.us/j/89706638603?pwd=Q0JLYXlvS2tnYkoyTnNDWWZiZDM4UT09>.ing ID: 89706638603. Passcode: 094020

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

The Briefing is compiled **2-3 times a week** to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email – cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

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