



## *The Briefing for Tuesday – February 28 – 2023*

*The last Briefing was Monday – February 27 - 2023*

*How's your weather - <https://weather.com/>*

### ***Broadband Funding***

#### ***DEO opens Application Period for \$247 million in Broadband Infrastructure Funding***

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has announced the application period for applicants to access more than \$247 million in funding is available for broadband infrastructure expansion through the Broadband Infrastructure Program. The application period opens today - February 28, 2023 and closes on April 14, 2023. Eligible sub-recipients, including municipalities, county governments, non-profits, or private entities (such as Internet Service Providers), co-operatives, and electric utilities can find resources to prepare an application at [www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband).

#### ***DEO will hold Technical Assistance Webinar this Thursday***

DEO is hosting a [Technical Assistance Webinar](#) on Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. to provide communities with information on the timeline, scoring criteria, and funding and eligibility requirements for the Broadband Infrastructure Program. be available to provide support throughout the application process.

### ***Some of the Big Issues that will form the Dynamics for the Session***

Florida lawmakers next week will start the annual 60-day legislative session. Here are several issues that will influence and possibly dominate the dynamic of the 2023 Session –

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** providing incentives for investments in affordable housing and encouraging mixed-use developments in struggling commercial areas.
- **BUDGET:** The Governor has proposed a \$114.8 billion budget for the fiscal year that will start July 1. Among other things, the proposal includes money for increasing teacher salaries, \$1.1 billion for Everglades restoration and water-quality issues, 5 percent across-the-board pay hikes for state workers and additional money for targeted jobs such as correctional officers.
- **TAXES:** The Governor has proposed a series of tax breaks that include tax “holidays” and permanently eliminating sales taxes on such things as cribs, strollers, clothes, shoes and diapers for infants and toddlers. Among other things, DeSantis proposed two school-related tax holidays on clothes, school supplies and electronics.
- **EDUCATION** - lawmakers want to amend the state Constitution to change school-board races from non-partisan to partisan. Lawmakers are considering eight-year term limits for school-board members, down from the current 12 years. In addition, lawmakers are considering making every Florida student eligible for taxpayer-funded vouchers that could be used for private-school tuition and other expenses. The proposal would nix income requirements for vouchers and also make vouchers available to home-schooled students.

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT – lawmakers will consider bills dealing with Financial Disclosure; Recall of County Commissioners; Local Ordinance Challenges; Sovereign Immunity Changes; Terms Limits for County Commissioners and more.
- LAWSUIT LIMITS: lawmakers are considering TORT Reform that would help shield businesses and insurance companies from costly lawsuits.
- DEATH PENALTY: House and Senate bills would allow death sentences based on the recommendations of eight of 12 jurors and also give judges more authority.
- GUNS: lawmakers have started moving forward with a proposal to allow people to carry concealed weapons without obtaining state licenses, an idea that supporters call “constitutional carry.”
- IMMIGRATION: lawmakers will consider a number of proposals involving undocumented immigrants – including expanding the use of the E-Verify system, which is used to verify the employment status of workers, and barring out-of-state tuition waivers for undocumented students.

### **Here are some of the Key Bills We Are Tracking**

#### **Local Government Related**

- HB 0037**      **Financial Disclosures for Local Officers** by Roach
- SB 0120**      **Homestead Assessments** by Avila
- HB 0131**      **Recall of County Officers and Commissioners** by Rudman
- SB 0170**      **Local Ordinances** by Trumbull
- HB 0401**      **Sovereign Immunity** by Beltran
- HB 0413**      **Financial Assistance for Rural Areas of Opportunity** by Abbott
- HB 0525**      **Pub. Rec./Current and Former County and City Attorneys** by Arrington
- SB 0696**      **Local Officials** by Ingoglia
- SB 0698**      **Local Tax Referenda Requirements** by Ingoglia
- SB 0740**      **Statewide Blue Ribbon Task Force on County Realignment** by Brodeur
- SB 1110**      **Term Limits** by Ingoglia

#### **Education Related**

- HB 0001**      **School Choice** by Tuck
- HB 0031**      **Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards** by Roach
- SB 0088**      **Task Force on Workforce Housing for Teachers and Expansion of Schools** by Jones
- SB 0094**      **Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards** by Gruters
- SB 0178**      **Upgrades to Education Facilities as Emergency Shelters** by Berman
- SB 0202**      **K-12 Education** by Simon
- SB 0212**      **Emergency Response Mapping Data** by Collins
- SB 0342**      **Minimum Base Salary for Full-time Classroom Teachers** by Berman
- HB 0401**      **Sovereign Immunity** by Beltran
- HB 0457**      **Construction of Educational Plant Space** by Abbott
- HB 0477**      **Term Limits for District School Board Members** by Rizo
- HB 0589**      **Task Force on Workforce Housing for Teachers and Expansion of Schools** by Woodson

### **Headlines Around the State**

*Times: DeSantis book is part memoir, part policy paper, part airing of grievances*

*The Hill: Trump targets Fox News for 'promoting' DeSantis 'so hard and so much'*

*FlaPol: Donald Trump rips Ron DeSantis as Jeb Bush redux*

*Politico: Jeb Bush: 'I was praising, not endorsing' DeSantis*

*Times: National organizations condemn Florida bill that would bring major higher ed changes*

*AP: Latino Republicans push back on party's immigration agenda*

*Post: Sunshine State is primed for an electric vehicle revolution. Are the right pieces of the puzzle in place?*

*Sentinel: Study: Back-to-back hurricanes likely to come more often*

*WLRN: New film centers on the history and impact of Black Miami*

*My News 13: DeSantis signs Reedy Creek bill: 'The corporate kingdom comes to an end'*

*Politico: DeSantis appoints political backers to new Disney oversight board*

*Herald: Makeover of Disney's special district is complete as DeSantis appoints new board*

*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis floats 'open market' competing with College Board's Advanced Placement offerings*

*FlaPol: Most School Board members targeted for ouster voted for student mask mandates*

*FlaPol: Democratic lawmakers file abortion rights legislation*

*Democrat: 'Disaster for free speech': Florida defamation, libel bill alarms advocates*

*CBS Miami: Florida lawmakers seek billions for local projects*

*News-Press: Hurricane repairs top list as Florida lawmakers seek billions for local projects*

*FlaPol: Bruce Antone files bill to study salaries of lawmakers, Cabinet members*

*WLRN: Senate proposals aim to help in future storm recovery*

*WLRN: Lawmakers seek to limit use of electric vehicles during evacuations*

*Axios: Experts cautiously optimistic on manatee recovery*

*Democrat: 'Kids are really struggling': Baker Acts continue to rise among Leon County's children*

*TCPalm: Mental Health Courts in Martin, Indian River counties bracing to lose state grant money*

*Herald Tribune: Red tide: High risk of respiratory irritation forecast for some Sarasota County beaches*

*News-Press: Red tide numbers strong as fish kills reported throughout Naples-Collier area*

*News-Press: UF starts telemetry program to search for large Burmese pythons*

### ***On the Docket!***

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023**

- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. - 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 175899214
- EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION MONEY - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to the Public Education Capital Outlay, or PECO, program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- TRANSPORTATION MONEY - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss transportation revenues. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- CITIZENS PANEL - Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. - The Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Consumer Services Committee will meet. - [https://citizensfla.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wSEDciZnSvGkibno-KGiUQ](https://citizensfla.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wSEDciZnSvGkibno-KGiUQ). Call-in number: 1-786-635-1003. Code: 97781432199
- MEDICAID EXPENDITURES - Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to Medicaid expenditures and managed-care rates. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- DESANTIS APPEARS IN PALM BEACH - Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Gov. Ron DeSantis is scheduled to appear at an event hosted by the Palm Beach Republican Club. - Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023**

- ‘SANCTUARY CITIES’ FIGHT - Thursday, 9 a.m. - A panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in a battle about a 2019 Florida law that banned so-called sanctuary cities. The state appealed to the Atlanta-based appeals court in 2021 after U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom struck down key parts of the law. Bloom ruled that two parts of the law violated constitutional equal-protection rights, issuing a permanent injunction against them. The law was a priority of Gov. Ron DeSantis and was touted as a way to improve safety in communities. - James Lawrence King Federal Justice Building, 99 N.E. Fourth St., Miami.
- VALENCIA COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Valencia College Board of Trustees will meet. - Valencia College, West Campus, 1800 South Kirkman Road, Orlando. [#success](https://valenciacollege.zoom.us/j/95703457472?pwd=K1YrZkcxS2p5MFZlcXlpT2xVcHFiQT09#success)
- UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will take up a forecast for the unemployment compensation trust fund. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- EDUCATION BUDGET - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The State Board of Education will meet to approve an amended budget request for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. - Information at <https://www.fldoe.org/policy/state-board-of-edu/meetings/2023/2023-03-02/>
- NORTHEAST FLORIDA PANEL - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet. - Northeast Florida Regional Council, 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville. <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>. Meeting ID: 87499770491
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023**

- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Self-Insurance Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to the state employee health-insurance program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- OPTICIAN ISSUES - Friday, 2 p.m. - The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. - <https://meet.goto.com/451101221>. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 451101221
- FINANCE REPORTS DUE - Candidates in a special Republican primary election in Marion County’s state House District 24 face a Friday deadline for filing campaign-finance reports. Five Republicans are seeking to replace former Rep. Joe Harding, who resigned from the House after being indicted on federal charges of wire fraud, money laundering and making false statements. The winner of the GOP special primary on March 7 will face write-in candidate Robert “Foxy” Fox in the May 16 general election. No Democrats qualified for the race.

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023**

- EARLY VOTING ENDS IN SPECIAL ELECTION -Early voting will end March 4 in a special Republican primary election in Marion County’s state House District 24. Five Republicans are seeking to replace former Rep. Joe Harding, who resigned from the House after being indicted on federal charges of wire fraud, money laundering and making false statements. The winner of the GOP special primary on March 7 will face write-in

*About the Briefing!*

*The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin*

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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](mailto:cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

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