



The Briefing for Tuesday - February 14, 2023

The last Briefing was Monday - February 13 – 2023

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The Quick

House Committee moves bills impacting School Board elections

The House Choice and Innovation committee approved HB 477 and HJR 31. HB 477 proposed to reduce School Board terms limits from a maximum of 12 years to 8 years. HJR 31 proposed a constitutional amendment to change School Board elections from non-partisan to partisan. The proposals were approved based on party-line. Because both of these proposals impact the school board members of the SSDCC – I am attaching the video of the meeting.

[Video of Presentation and Debate on School Board Term Limits and Partisan Elections](#)

Senate Community Affairs Committee will consider Bills Impacting Local Ad Valorem Revenues

The Senate Community Affairs committee will consider [SB 120](#) (CA) by Senator Avila—Homestead Assessments; [SJR 122](#) (CA) by Senator Avila—Revised Limitation on Increases of Homestead Property Tax Assessments; SB 124 (CA) by Senator Avila—Homestead Exemptions for Persons Age 65 and Older; and, SJR 126 (CA) by Senator Avila—Homestead Tax Exemption for Certain Senior, Low-income, Long-term Residents.

SJR 122 proposed to roll back the Save Our Homes cap from 3% to 2% a change that will reduce ad valorem revenues statewide by \$146 million. The proposal which if approved will be considered by the voters in November of 2024 would reduce revenues to schools by \$53 million and non-school taxing authorities by \$93 million. In the past, when a constitutional amendment impacting revenue was considered the implementing bill would be amended to include a protection for fiscally constrained counties. That language has not been offered at this point.

House Committee to Consider legislation Proposing Recall of County Commissioners

The House Local Administration, Federal Affairs, & Special Districts Subcommittee will meet tomorrow. On the agenda are [HJR 131](#) and [HB 209](#) – both deal with the Recall of County Commissioners.

Other Bills Of Note

SB 696 and 729 - Local Officials - Providing that the employment contract for a **county administrator** is not to be renewed, extended, or renegotiated during a specified timeframe; providing that the employment contract for a **county attorney** is not to be renewed, extended, or renegotiated during a specified timeframe; providing that the employment contracts for a **chief executive officer of a municipality and a municipal attorney** are not to be renewed, extended, or renegotiated during a specified timeframe; providing that a **district school superintendent's** employment contract with the district school board is not to be renewed, extended, or renegotiated during a specified timeframe; providing that the employment contract of an attorney employed by a district school board is not to be renewed, extended, or renegotiated during a specified timeframe, etc.

SB 740 - Statewide Blue Ribbon Task Force on County Realignment; Creating the Statewide Blue Ribbon Task Force on County Realignment within the Department of Economic Opportunity; requiring the task force to evaluate

and consider specified items; requiring the department to provide administrative and technical support; requiring the task force to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a certain date

Legislative Calendars

[Senate Calendar for this weeks committee meetings](#)

[House Calendar for this weeks committee meetings](#)

Watch Committee meetings -
The Florida Channel

Find a committee or a bill –
<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>
<https://www.flsenate.gov/>

Headlines Around the State

News4Jax: Gov. DeSantis ratchets up fight with College Board, hints at getting rid of AP courses in Florida

Sentinel: DeSantis ponders ending AP classes for Florida students

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis says Florida will 're-evaluate' College Board products

Herald: DeSantis says maybe Florida can do without College Board, AP classes and SAT test

NYTimes: The College Board's Rocky Path, Through Florida, to the A.P. Black Studies Course

NBC News: College Board says it erred in not quickly pushing back on 'slander' by Florida over AP history course

FlaPol: Donald Trump denies workshoping 'Meatball Ron' name for Gov. DeSantis

News4Jax: Former adjutant general of Florida, NORAD pilot weighs in after US jets down 4 objects in 8 days

The Floridian: Moskowitz Demands Transparency on UFOs Shot Down in Canada

NYTimes: 'There's No Spring Break Here': Florida's Gulf Coast Fights to Rebound After Hurricane Ian

CBS News: Arrest of Nikolas Cruz after Parkland massacre changed police officer's path

City & State FL: Parkland shooting 'feels like five minutes ago' for survivors, parents

Sun-Sentinel: 'The silent toll.' Five years after the Parkland shootings, trauma still rocks the community 'every single day'

Herald: 'Part of the legacy': Memorial planned to honor 17 lives taken in Parkland shooting

Sun-Sentinel: Parkland victims' families create and expand foundations to keep memories of loved ones alive

WPBF: 5 years after Parkland, families cope through good works

City & State FL: Parkland victims to be honored by flags at half staff across Florida

Sentinel: Florida murderer asks for stay of his Feb. 23 execution

The Capitolist: Florida gas prices sink 10 cents, marking two-week decline

WLRN: 'Woke banking' policies targeted in legislation proposed by DeSantis

My News 13: DeSantis announces bill banning 'social credit scores'

CBS News: Nikki Fried launches bid to lead Florida Democrats

Times: As Florida Democrats discuss rebuilding, Nikki Fried announces run for party chairperson
NYTimes: Tiny Public College Known for 'Free Thinkers' Is Latest Target for DeSantis
NBC Miami: New College Gets Interim President Amid Conservative Push by Florida's Governor
WUSF: The New College Board of Trustees offers Richard Corcoran a nearly \$700,000 salary
Times: New College board more than doubles president's pay for Richard Corcoran
Sentinel: Orange County judge dismisses voter fraud case from DeSantis-touted arrests
NBC Miami: Parkland Jury Outcome Likely to Revamp Florida Death Penalty Law
My News 13: Deadline day for Florida colleges to submit diversity studies details
FlaPol: Giffords blasts Florida GOP for scheduling permitless gun carry hearing close to five-year mark of Parkland shooting
CBS News: Florida police chiefs group backs 'Constitutional Carry' bill pending before state lawmakers
WLRN: House Bill 269 seeks to curb rash of anti-Semitic incidents in Florida
Ledger: Neo-Nazi group distributes anti-Semitic material in Lakeland
FlaPol: State economists gather to review children's health insurance program enrollment
Sun-Sentinel: Big expectations for Broward's interim schools chief: She 'needs to get us back on track'
Sentinel: 12 rescued, rehabbed manatees released at Blue Spring; 'This is a really good day'
FlaPol: Mike Grieco campaign for Miami Beach Mayor cites strong polling, favorability
WLRN: Highly endangered Florida panther has more space in South Florida
WUSF: Lack of affordable homes means longer commute times for more people in the Tampa metro area

On The Docket for Next Week

Scan the docket for high impact issues

The Florida House and Senate will return to Tallahassee next week for the second of three consecutive weeks of committee meetings. Again – next weeks schedule includes a significant number of priority issues.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Legislature:

- SPACE FLORIDA- Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will receive a presentation about Space Florida. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- AUTOPSY REPORTS- Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The House Criminal Justice Subcommittee will consider a bill (HB 273), filed by Rep. Chuck Clemons, R-Newberry, that would create a public-records exemption for autopsy reports of minors whose deaths were related to domestic violence. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **BROADBAND** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The House Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee will receive an overview of the Florida Office of Broadband. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- DMS MAKES PRESENTATIONS - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The House State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee will receive presentations on a series of issues from the Department of Management Services. - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- **‘SAVE OUR HOMES’ CHANGE**- Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Community Affairs Committee will take up a constitutional amendment (SJR 122), filed by Sen. Bryan Avila, R-Miami Springs, that could give homeowners more savings under Florida’s “Save Our Homes” property-tax cap. - 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**- Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - The House Healthcare Regulatory Subcommittee will receive briefings on the state medical-marijuana program. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **SCHOOL FUNDING DETAILED** - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - The House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee will receive an overview of the Florida Education Finance Program, which is the main funding formula for public schools. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **RESILIENCE EFFORTS DESCRIBED** - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee will receive a presentation about the Department of Environmental Protection’s Resilient Florida Program. - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS** - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The House Education Quality Subcommittee will consider a bill (HB 225), filed by Rep. Fred Hawkins, R-St. Cloud, that could lead to schools joining associations other than the Florida High School Athletic Association. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **COUNTY COMMISSIONER RECALLS**- Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee will take up a constitutional amendment (HJR 131), filed by Rep. Joel Rudman, R-Navarre, that seeks to allow recalls of county commissioners and other county officers. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **BUDGET PANEL**- Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. - The Joint Legislative Budget Commission, which is made up of House and Senate members, will meet and consider issues such as providing \$15 million to New College of Florida for such things as hiring faculty and providing scholarships. - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- **INTEREST RATES ANALYZED** - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Economic Estimating Conference will analyze interest rates used for state appropriations. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **BISCAYNE BAY**- Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Biscayne Bay Commission will meet.
- - Florida International University, Biscayne Bay Campus, Wolfe University Center, 3000 N.E. 151st St., North Miami Beach.
- **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**- Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The state Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse will meet. - Call-in number: 1-412-912-1530. Code: 264241170
- **PAROLE CASES** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- **FLORIDA ECONOMY**- Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Economic Estimating Conference will analyze the Florida economy. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **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
- **CYBERSECURITY ISSUES** - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida Cybersecurity Advisory Council will meet. - Sadowski Building, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee.
- **RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES** - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Self-Insurance Estimating Conference will look at risk-management issues. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **THOMPSON HOLDS BLACK HISTORY EVENT** - Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Sen. Geraldine Thompson, D-Windermere, will host a Black History Month event titled, “Resistance and African American History 2023.” - The Challenger Learning Center, 200 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- **I-75 MASTER PLAN**- Wednesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation will hold an online meeting about a master plan for Interstate 75 in parts of Collier and Lee counties.
- - Information at <https://www.swflinterstates.com/i75-south-corridor/>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Legislature:

- MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE- Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee will receive an update about mental-health and substance-abuse funding. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- TRANSPORTATION BUDGET- Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will receive a presentation about Gov. Ron DeSantis' budget proposals for several agencies, including the Department of Transportation. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- TECHNOLOGY ADDICTION- Thursday, 9 a.m. - The House Education & Employment Committee will receive a presentation about how addiction to technology affects student behavior and outcomes. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET- Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee will receive presentations about Gov. Ron DeSantis' budget proposals for several agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **PRISONS BUDGET** - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will receive presentations about Gov. Ron DeSantis' budget proposals for several agencies, including the Department of Corrections. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **EDUCATION BUDGET**- Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Education Appropriations Committee will receive presentations about Gov. Ron DeSantis' budget proposals for the Department of Education and the state university system's Board of Governors. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- LONG-TERM CARE- Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The House Health & Human Services Committee will hold a panel discussion on long-term care and efforts to help people avoid going into nursing homes. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES- Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The House Infrastructure Strategies Committee will receive a presentation from the Department of Transportation about environmental policies. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **PRIVATE PRISONS** - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The Joint Legislative Auditing Committee will receive a presentation about an audit of the Department of Management Services' oversight of private correctional facilities. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSING ASSISTANCE - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The House Select Committee on Hurricane Resiliency & Recovery will receive a presentation from the Florida Housing Finance Corp. about hurricane-assistance programs. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- FAMU TRUSTEES - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida A&M University Board of Trustees will meet after a meeting of the Audit and Compliance Committee. - Florida A&M University, Grand Ballroom, Tallahassee.
- FLORIDA POLY TRUSTEES - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees will meet. - Florida Polytechnic University, Applied Research Center, 4700 Research Way, Lakeland. Call-in number: 1-415-655-0001. Code: 24256998125
- DEFENSE ISSUES- Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Defense Support Task Force will meet.
- - Information at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/event/florida-defense-support-task-force-fdstf-meeting-111-via-zoom/>
- PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM- Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference will analyze the state's voluntary pre-kindergarten program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- COLLEGE ENROLLMENT - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will analyze enrollment in the Florida college system. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- EDUCATION PRIORITIES- Thursday, 3 p.m. - The Consortium of Florida Education Foundations and the Florida Philanthropic Network will hold a webinar about education priorities for the 2023 legislative session. - Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7478789459431637596>

- I-75 MASTER PLAN- Thursday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting about a master plan for Interstate 75 in parts of Collier and Lee counties. - North Collier Regional Park, Exhibition Hall, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

- HURRICANE LOSS PANEL- Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology will meet. - 1801 Hermitage Blvd., Tallahassee. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7309563625773076827>. Call-in number: 1-562-247-8422. Code: 781187747.
- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE- Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves analyzing potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- MEDICAL EXAMINERS- Friday, 10 a.m. - The state Medical Examiners Commission will meet. - Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, 1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary.
- FINANCIAL AID- Friday, 2 p.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will analyze student financial aid. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

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

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