



Rural County Day at the Capitol

The Briefing for Wednesday – April 26 - 2023

Day 51 of the 60 day Legislative Session – 9 days til Sine Die!

The last Briefing was Tuesday – April 25 - 2023

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

You can watch Legislative Meetings on [The Florida Channel](#)

Rural County Day At the Capitol



Rep. Payne (Founder of Rural County Days) presented with Legislative Appreciation from Commissioner Terry Burroughs Chairman of the Small County Coalition at opening reception.

The 2023 Rural County Days kicked off last evening with a reception last evening at the DoubleTree Hotel. Over 350 rural advocates are registered.

Today over 27 counties will put on displays in the courtyard between the old and new Capitol.

Here's the Agenda for the day-

10:00 a.m. - County Networking Event

11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. - Rural Counties Day Fish Fry - Luncheon Provided by Posey's Restaurant

12:00 p.m. - Welcome Remarks/Press Event/Group Photo (Old Capitol Steps) - The Honorable Bobby Payne - Florida House of Representatives, District 20

Both the House and Senate will be in a floor session beginning at 10:00am through 6:00pm.

Budget Conference Continues Through Day 2

The House and Senate Conference Committees continued to meet throughout the day yesterday in an effort to arrive at a budget for the FY23-24 School Year. Both chambers must resolve any differences by May 2 to end the legislative session on May 5 as scheduled. If the Budget Subcommittees are not able to resolve an issue it will be bumped up to the Appropriations Chairs and then to the Speake and President to

resolve. The budget for the current fiscal year totaled \$109.9 billion, and Senate and House proposals are significantly higher for 2023–2024 but not quite to the \$114.8 billion recommended by DeSantis in his Framework for Freedom budget announced in February.

Temporary Fix on Graduation Requirements
If passed it will allow potentially thousands of Seniors to receive diplomas.

The Florida House has approved [an amendment](#) that would ease graduation standards for high-school seniors. The House added the change to education bill (HB 1537). The House could pass the bill Wednesday. The proposal responds to concerns throughout the state about many students not being able to graduate. The changes would apply to students in the 2022-2023 graduating class and students who entered ninth grade in the 2020-2021 academic year — many of whom would be in the 2023-2024 graduating class. The proposal would provide alternative ways to meet graduation standards. As an example, students who are in the 2022-2023 class and have not earned passing scores on a standardized English Language Arts test would be able to “qualify for a high school diploma by earning a concordant passing score on the respective section of the SAT or ACT,” the bill says. The changes would expire in 2025.

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)
[Link the Florida House of Representatives](#)
[The Florida Channel](#)

House and Senate Calendars for Week Eight

[House Calendar](#)

[Senate Calendar](#)

On the Docket for Week Eight

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023

Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Wednesday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET: Wednesday, 15 minutes after Senate floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor.

Also

- WATER QUALITY AT ISSUE: Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Biscayne Bay Commission will meet. Location: : Cutler Bay Town Hall, 10720 Caribbean Blvd., Cutler Bay.
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. Location: Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 175899214
- PAROLE ISSUES: Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Location: Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- NEW COLLEGE BOARD: Wednesday, 2 p.m. The New College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. Location: New College of Florida, Sudakoff Conference Center, 5845 General Dougher Place, Sarasota. <https://www.youtube.com/@NewCollegeofFL>

- REFUGEE ISSUES: Wednesday, 4 p.m. The Southwest Florida Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Location: Information at <http://www.myflfamilies.com/news-and-events/public-events-meetings>

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Thursday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Thursday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET: Thursday, 15 minutes after Senate floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor.

Also:

- UNF TRUSTEES: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The University of North Florida Board of Trustees will meet. Location: Information at <https://www.unf.edu/trustees/meetings.html#>
- FIU TRUSTEES: Thursday, committees start at 9 a.m., with full board at 11 a.m. The Florida International University Board of Trustees will hold committeeings and a full boarding. Location: Florida International University, Graham University Center, 11200 S.W. Eighth St., Miami.
- MASSAGE THERAPY ISSUES: Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. Location: Holiday Inn Tallahassee East Capitol-University, 2003 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee.
- TRANSPORTATION ISSUES: Thursday, 10 a.m. The Florida Transportation Commission will meet. Location: Call-in number: 850-739-5589. Code: 344775703
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS: Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- SPACE FLORIDA BOARD: Thursday, 1:30 p.m. The Space Florida Board of Directors will and is expected to get a briefing from Frank DiBello, the agency's long president and CEO who is stepping down June 30. Location: Cabinetng room, the Capitol.
- FLORIDA POLY TRUSTEES: Thursday, 3 p.m. The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees will hold an Academic and Student Affairs Committeeing, followed by a regular boarding. Location: Call-in number: 1-415-655-0001. Code: 24229439051
- POINCIANA PARKWAY: Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold a public hearing about a project-development and environment study for a Poinciana Parkway extension. Location: AdventHealth Nicholson Center, 404 Celebration Place, Celebration.
- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL: Thursday, 7 p.m. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. Location: Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Blvd., Lake City. <https://meet.goto.com/812900621>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 812900621

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Friday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Friday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: House chamber, the Capitol.
- RULES COMMITTEE: Friday, 15 minutes after House floor session. The House Rules Committee will meet. Location: 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

- SPECIAL ORDER SET: Friday, 15 minutes after Senate floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor.

Also:

- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE: Friday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. Location: 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- MASSAGE THERAPY: Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. Location: Holiday Inn Tallahassee East Capitol-University, 2003 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee.
- PRISON MEDICAL ISSUES: Friday, 9 a.m. The Correctional Medical Authority board is scheduled to. Location: Wakulla Correctional Institution, 110 Melaleuca Dr., Crawfordville. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 344085830
- HEARING AID BOARD: Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists will meet. Location: <https://meet.goto.com/485403965>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 485403965

Headlines Around The State

Democrat: With DeSantis away, could Trump come to prey? Allies urge him to visit Tallahassee

FlaPol: 'Never in town': Donald Trump campaign slams Ron DeSantis' political travel

Democrat: A presidential prelude playbook: Why DeSantis is driving Florida hard right

AP: DeSantis talks trade with South Korean officials

News4Jax: Florida GOP set to remove hurdle to DeSantis White House bid

The Capitolist: Senate set to amend resign-to-run law, allow DeSantis to run for President without stepping down

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis calls for cease fire in Ukraine

FlaPol: Donors' qualms emerge about Ron DeSantis

City & State FL: DeSantis, Trump both favor revival of federal political patronage system

My News 13: Florida members of Congress react to Biden's reelection announcement

FlaPol: Joe Biden launch video takes shot at Ron DeSantis, Donald Trump

AP: Sen. Scott bill would fund armed officers in all US schools

Herald: Gaetz threatens to vote against debt limit bill without work requirement changes

FlaPol: Mike Pence applauds Florida's 6-week abortion ban

Herald: Few complained of 'woke' classes at Florida universities. Still, DeSantis pushed new bans

CBS Miami: Federal bill reintroduced to gather data on school shootings

Politico: DeSantis had beef with the College Board. Now Florida wants its own tests.

WLRN: Black history class to undergo changes, College Board says

PNJ: Death row inmates in Florida have a choice for method of execution. Here's how it works

WUSF: Will the TikTok ban on Florida universities affect athletes' profits?

WLRN: As politics loom large, FAU seeks a president 'committed to academic freedom' and diversity

WUSF: Florida's Capital City glows purple in observance of Crime Victims' Rights Week

The Capitolist: As lawmakers consider tax holidays, Florida drivers paying 12th highest fuel taxes in nation

CBS Miami: Report: Florida ranks 48th in nation in teacher pay

Herald: Miami-Dade becomes nation's third-largest school district, surpassing Chicago

CBS Miami: Venezuelan opposition leader Guaidó in Miami, not seeking political asylum

Sun-Sentinel: Broward's historic flooding caused more than \$100 million in losses, major damage to 1,095 homes, and job layoffs

DBNJ: Attorney suggests DeSantis signed death penalty law in time for Xbox trial

NBC Miami: Judge Drops Ex-Broward Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie's Perjury Case

Herald: Two years later, former Broward schools superintendent free from perjury charge

WLRN: Attorneys for Joe Carollo allege juror tampering in federal trial

WUSF: Better internet should be coming soon to rural areas of Hillsborough and Pasco counties

The Capitolist: Florida Blue, VitalMD reach contract agreement ahead of deadline

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate, House agree on \$375K Greater Miami Chamber set-aside for biz retention

FlaPol: Budget conference: Chambers remain \$1.5M off on Farm Share, Feeding Florida

Times: USF fires employee, recommends more training and body cams after protest

FlaPol: Potential \$25M for Apalachicola Bay heads to full Senate

FlaPol: Budget conference: FHP driving range kicked to the curb

FlaPol: Budget conference: Inverness Airport business park gets \$9M

FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate \$30M apart on Cultural and Museum Grants Program

FlaPol: U.S. News & World Report gives accolades to UCF graduate programs in latest rankings

Times: Ron DeSantis' Tampa Bay hometown has evolved. Does it still claim him?

WUSF: Florida lawmakers continue debating a bill targeting illegal immigration

FlaPol: Bills cracking down on illegal immigration headed to the floors of both chambers

My News 13: Florida bill would make it a felony to transport people who are living in the country illegally

My News 13: Protection of Children Act heads to DeSantis; LGBTQ advocates head toward Tallahassee

Democrat: Drag queen march: Hundreds of LGBTQ community members and supporters rally at Capitol

WUSF: The Florida Senate backs a bathroom bill as drag queens protest

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate skeptical of Gov. DeSantis' speed lane for road projects

Bradenton Herald: Thousands of workers could see cut in pay under Florida House plan for uniform wages

Herald: As Florida seniors struggle to graduate, lawmakers eye a 'temporary fix'

FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate health care budgets target a dozen providers for rate increases

FlaPol: Budget conference: House agrees to boost in higher education funds

Herald: Florida lawmakers push alternatives to SAT tests, AP courses with millions in budget

FlaPol: Senate panel OKs plan for state inspectors to check Disney World monorail

FlaPol: Four Senate Democrats endorse Carlos Guillermo Smith for Senate

FlaPol: Bill that directs more local districts taxes to charter schools headed for final House passage

FlaPol: Budget conference: House agrees to \$350M for voucher safety net for school districts

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate, House answer siren call from Florida fire districts

Today: Palm Bay Republican hoping to succeed Randy Fine in District 33 faces DUI charge

FlaPol: Senate saltwater intrusion study bill flows out of final committee

Herald: UM 'can't wait until we're the targets': Faculty speak out against Florida higher ed bills

FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate halfway aligned on SLERS funding

WUSF: Karla Luzardo's dream of becoming a lawyer could be crushed by Florida immigration bill

Times: Pinellas group to teach Black history as Florida limits lessons on race

DBNJ: Daytona State College has a new strategy to produce more nurses: Improve student success

Post: Palm Beach County GOP chair Michael Barnett resigns, will seek to keep commission seat

FlaPol: Processing fee change would hand Walmart, Disney millions while pinching small business

WUSF: Tampa council runoff shows Charlie Miranda hanging on; Janet Cruz is out

City & State FL: Tampa elections: Lynn Hurtak swamps Janet Cruz in City Council runoff

Sentinel: Seminole to ask state to purchase hundreds of acres for conservation

Times-Union: Fate of Duval schools superintendent sparks debate before meeting

Today: Brevard superintendent finalist drops out after teacher incident in Hernando County

Herald: As Florida Legislature looks to gut historic preservation, Ocean Drive demolition possible

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senators agree to \$1M for Nassau County's Piney Island resiliency project

USA Today: Florida woman pleads guilty in 'killer clown' case, more than 30 years after murder

FlaPol: Budget conference: Lawmakers swing \$1.5M for Babcock Ranch playground

FlaPol: Budget conference: Legislature agrees on \$100K for Cutler Bay plan to build over regional mall

FlaPol: Budget conference: Building boost for North Florida special ed school

FlaPol: Budget conference: Funds found for Lake City Public Safety Building HVAC, generator

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

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button.

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