



**Week Four Begins
Monday is Day 21 -
39 Days Remaining**



The Briefing for January 28, 2024

The last Briefing was January 26, 2024

[Tallahassee, FL 10-Day Weather Forecast - The Weather Channel | Weather.com](#)

Congratulations to Robert Bender

Gov. **Ron DeSantis** has appointed Escambia Commissioner **Robert Bender** to be Escambia county's new Supervisor of Elections. Bender replaces **David Stafford**, who **resigned from the post** for a job as a federal election security adviser. Bender has served more than six years on the five-seat County Commission, two of which as Chair.

Status of Bills Being Tracked

The following bill reports provided a brief narrative of the bill along with the current location of the bill. The bill numbers are active links to bill information.

[Local Government Bills Tracked Status - Jan 28.docx](#)
[Status of Education Related Bills Being Tracked - Jan 28.docx](#)

Legislative Calendars for this Week

[Senate Calendar for Monday](#)
[House Calendar for Monday](#)

House and Senate Release Proposed Budgets for 24-25

The Florida House and Senate on Friday released proposed budgets for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The Senate proposal (SB 2500) totaled \$115.9 billion, while the House proposal (PCB APC 24-01) came in just under \$115.55 billion.

[SB 2500 - Senate Proposed General Appropriations Bill](#)
[House Appropriations Committee Proposal - ACP 1](#)

The links below are word searchable - use the ctrl F function and then type in a recognizable word - like your county name.

Tools to follow the Legislature

Links to House and Senate Home Pages

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/>

Link to watch Legislative Committees

<https://thefloridachannel.org/>

Local Government Financial Information Handbook – 2023 Edition

Here is the [Local Government Financial Information Handbook - 2023 Edition.](#)

The *Handbook*'s discussion of local government revenue sources is organized as follows:

- **Part One: Revenue Source Authorized by the Constitution**
- **Part Two: Revenue Sources Based on Home Rule Authority**
- **Part Three: Revenue Sources Authorized by the Legislature**

On The Docket This Week

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024

Legislature:

- **HEMP PRODUCTS** - Monday, 11:30 a.m. - The House Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 1613), filed by Rep. Tommy Gregory, R-Lakewood Ranch, that would make a series of changes in hemp laws, including expanding types of hemp products that are - “attractive to children” and, as a result, are prohibited. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES** - Monday, 11:30 a.m. - The House Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 1061), filed by Rep. Fiona McFarland, R-Sarasota, that would make a series of changes related to community-based care lead agencies in the child-welfare system. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **AI IN POLITICAL ADS** - Monday, 11:30 a.m. - The House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 919), filed by Rep. Alex Rizo, R-Hialeah, that would require disclaimers on political ads created by using artificial intelligence. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **INSURANCE CHANGES** - Monday, 1:30 p.m. - The Senate Banking and Insurance Committee will consider a bill (SB 1716), filed by Chairman Jim Boyd, R-Bradenton, that would make a series of changes related to the state’s Citizens Property Insurance Corp. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS** - Monday, 1:30 p.m. - The Senate Community Affairs Committee will take up a proposal (SB 1530), filed by Sen. Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, that seeks to restrict sleeping on public property. - 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **FLAG DISPLAYS** - Monday, 1:30 p.m. - The Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee will take up a bill (SB 1120), filed by Sen. Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, that would prevent local governments, schools and colleges from flying flags that represent “a political viewpoint,” including flags related to “sexual orientation and gender” or race. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **HIGHER AMENDMENT THRESHOLD** - Monday, 3 p.m. - The House Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee will consider a proposed constitutional amendment (HJR 335), filed by Rep. Rick Roth, R-West Palm Beach, that would require approval of 66.67 percent of voters to amend the state Constitution, up from the current 60 percent. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **HEALTH DEPARTMENT CHANGES** - Monday, 3 p.m. - The House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 1441), filed by Rep. Adam Anderson, R-Palm Harbor, that would make a series of changes related to the Florida Department of Health. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **BEACH WATER QUALITY** - Monday, 3 p.m. - The House Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 165), filed by Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman, R-Highland Beach, and Rep. Lindsay Cross, D-St. Petersburg, about sampling water quality at beaches and closing access to the water if health threats are found. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

- MATCHING FUNDS - Monday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Judiciary Committee will consider a proposed constitutional amendment (SJR 1114), filed by Sen. Travis Hutson, R-St. Augustine, that seeks to eliminate a matching-funds program for candidates for statewide political offices. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CHIEF - Monday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will take up a bill (SB 1262), filed by Sen. Jay Collins, R-Tampa, that would require the director of the state Division of Emergency Management to meet training and education qualifications. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- NUCLEAR REACTORS - Monday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Regulated Industries will consider an energy bill (SB 1548), filed by Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, that would include directing the Public Service Commission to study the feasibility of using “small modular nuclear reactors” in the state. - 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- POLK STATE TRUSTEES MEET - Monday, 4 p.m. - The Polk State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Polk State College, Winter Haven Campus, 999 Avenue H N.E., Winter Haven.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024

Legislature:

- YOUTH WORK RULES - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee will take up a bill (SB 1596), filed by Sen. Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills, that would loosen restrictions on the hours that 16- and 17-year-old youths can work. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- PENALTIES IN MIGRANT CRIMES - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Criminal Justice Committee will consider a proposal (SB 1036), filed by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, R-Spring Hill, that would increase criminal penalties for immigrants who are arrested for felonies after illegally re-entering the U.S. following deportation for earlier crimes. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- INSULIN REFILLS - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Health Policy Committee will take up a bill (SB 516), filed by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez, R-Doral, that would allow pharmacists to dispense emergency refills of insulin to diabetes patients up to three times a year. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- STATE COULD RECOGNIZE TRIBE - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The House Commerce Committee will consider a proposal (HB 675), filed by Rep. Michelle Salzman, R-Pensacola, that would lead to the state formally recognizing the Santa Rosa Band of the Lower Muscogee Indian tribe. - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- BEAR THREATS - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The House Infrastructure Strategies Committee will take up a bill (HB 87), filed by Rep. Jason Shoaf, R-Port St. Joe, that would allow people to kill bears on their property without permits when they feel threatened or think it is necessary for protection. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL CHAPLAINS - Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. - The House Education & Employment Committee will take up a bill (HB 931), filed by Rep. Stan McClain, R-Ocala, that would allow school districts and charter schools to have volunteer school chaplains. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- DNA SAMPLES - Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. - The House Judiciary Committee will take up a bill (HB 533), filed by Rep. Tom Fabricio, R-Miami Lakes, that would require collection of DNA

samples from all state prison inmates who have not previously provided samples. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

- **MARKERS, MONUMENTS** - Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. - The House State Affairs Committee will take up a bill (HB 395), filed by Rep. Dean Black, R-Jacksonville, and Rep. Webster Barnaby, R-Deltona, that seeks to prevent the removal of historical markers and monuments. - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **SENIOR SCAMS** - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee will consider a proposal (SB 556), filed by Sen. Darryl Rouson, D-St. Petersburg, that would allow banks and credit unions to delay transactions if they believe seniors are being scammed. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **SCHOOL VOUCHERS** - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee will consider a bill (SPB 7048) that would make a series of changes in school-voucher programs. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **BUILDING DEMOLITION** - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee will take up a proposal (SB 1526), filed by Sen. Bryan Avila, R-Miami Springs, that would limit the ability of local governments to prevent demolition of certain structures and would require authorization of “replacement” structures. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **SPACEPORT TERRITORY** - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Transportation Committee will consider a proposal (SB 968), filed by Sen. Alexis Calatayud, R-Miami, that would broaden a spaceport definition to include property in Miami-Dade and Bay counties. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS** - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The House Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 1291), filed by Rep. John Snyder, R-Stuart, that would place restrictions on teacher-preparation programs, including barring them from including a curriculum that “teaches identity politics ... or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.” - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **GUN PURCHASE AGE** - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The House Criminal Justice Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 1223), filed by Rep. Bobby Payne, R-Palatka, and Rep. Tyler Sirois, R-Merritt Island, that would lower the minimum age from 21 to 18 for people to buy rifles and other long guns in Florida. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS COSTS** - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The House Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 683), filed by Rep. Brad Yeager, R-New Port Richey, that would allow utilities to recoup costs from customers for renewable natural-gas projects. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **SUICIDE RECORDS EXEMPTION** - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Rules Committee will take up a bill (SB 474), filed by Sen. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, that would create a public-records exemption for photos and recordings of people committing suicide. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **SPECIAL ORDER SET** - Tuesday, 15 minutes after Senate committee meetings. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **Also:**

- PUERTO RICO DAY AT THE CAPITOL - A series of events will be held as part of Puerto Rico Day at the Capitol.
- BIDEN TRAVELS TO FLORIDA - President Joe Biden will travel to South Florida on Tuesday as part of his re-election campaign. A news release from the White House said he will take part in two “campaign receptions” in the Palm Beach and Miami areas. It did not provide additional details, such as the locations or times.
- WATER QUALITY - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force will meet. <https://www.youtube.com/fwcresearch>
- FAU TRUSTEES MEET - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees will meet. - Florida Atlantic University, Administration Building, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. <https://www.fau.edu/bot/>
- KEYS COLLEGE BOARD MEETS - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - The Board of Trustees of The College of the Florida Keys will meet. - The College of the Florida Keys, Upper Keys Center, 106040 Overseas Highway, Key Largo.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

Legislature:

- SENATE BUDGET - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Appropriations Committee will take up a budget proposal (SPB 2500) and related bills for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The proposal is a step toward the Senate negotiating a final spending plan with the House. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSING ISSUES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Fiscal Policy Committee will take up a bill (SB 328), filed by Sen. Alexis Calatayud, R-Miami, that would make a series of changes to a major affordable-housing plan that lawmakers approved in 2023. That plan, known as the Live Local Act, was a priority of Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Wednesday, 15 minutes after Senate committee meetings end. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. - 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- House Appropriations Committee (9 a.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Ways & Means Committee (9 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee (2 p.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Education Quality Subcommittee (2 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building.)
- House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee (Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Transportation & Modals Subcommittee (2 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

Also:

- PORT ISSUES - Port directors from across the state and the Florida Ports Council will host Seaports Day at the Capitol.
- KEISER UNIVERSITY AT CAPITOL - Keiser University faculty, staff and alumni are expected to take part in Keiser University Day at the Florida Capitol.
- 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

- PORT ISSUES - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council is scheduled to meet. - Hotel Indigo, 826 West Gaines St., Tallahassee.
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. - Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Code: 261180880
- CAREERSOURCE BOARD MEETS - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The CareerSource Florida Board of Directors will meet. - Information at www.careersourceflorida.com/boardroom
- MEDICAID ISSUES - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The state Medicaid Medical Care Advisory Committee will meet. - Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2727 Mahan Dr., Building 3, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-792-4898. Code: 324032061

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Legislature:

- SENATE EYES VACATION RENTALS - Thursday noon. - The Senate will hold a floor session and is scheduled to take up a bill (SB 280), filed by Sen. Nick DiCeglie, R-Indian Rocks Beach, that would revamp regulations about vacation-rental properties. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE TAKES UP TEEN WORKER ISSUE - Thursday, 3 p.m. - The House will hold a floor session and is scheduled to take up a bill (HB 49) that would loosen restrictions on the numbers of hours that 16- and 17-year-old youths can work. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Linda Chaney, R-St. Pete Beach, includes removing restrictions on 16- and 17-year-olds working more than eight hours in a day when school is scheduled the next day. It also would remove restrictions on them working more than 30 hours in a week when school is in session. - House floor, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- House Choice & Innovation Subcommittee (8 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Civil Justice Subcommittee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee (8 a.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee (8 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Appropriations Committee (9 a.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Fiscal Policy Committee (9 a.m., 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee (11:30 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee (11:30 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee (11:30 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee (11:30 a.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Rules Committee (15 minutes after House floor session, 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

Also:

- FSU TRUSTEES MEET - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida State University Board of Trustees will meet. - Augustus B. Turnbull III Florida State Conference Center, 555 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- GAMBLING ISSUES ON TABLE - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release weekly opinions.
- FSU DAY CELEBRATED - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - Florida State University President Richard McCullough is expected to take part in a pep rally that is part of FSU Day at the Capitol. - Capitol courtyard.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, noon. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. - House chamber, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- House Select Committee on Health Innovation (9 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)

Also:

- HOUSING ISSUES - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Augustus B. Turnbull III Florida State Conference Center, 555 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE HELD - 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.
- PANHANDLE COUNCIL MEETS - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Emerald Coast Regional Council Board of Directors will meet. - Hotel Effie, 1 Grand Sandestin Blvd., Miramar Beach.

Headlines Around the State

Politico: DeSantis returns to his comfort zone

Times: Was Ron DeSantis overrated?

FlaPol: Bill banning out-of-pocket charges for breast imaging could help thousands in Florida

FlaPol: House budget bill lets state gambling enforcers keep contraband, proceeds

The Hill: Scott hammers Democratic opponent as liar over abortion attack

News 4 Jax: New study shows child care costs are more than in-state college tuition in Florida

WUSF: Abortion access amendment is apparently on the 2024 Florida ballot

Post: A 'time capsule': Officials take emotional tour of Parkland school

WLRN: In move towards transparency, Broward's top prosecutor unveils criminal justice data dashboard

FlaPol: Blocked? Gov. DeSantis voices legal concerns with bill banning social media for minors.

Sentinel: DeSantis cautious about social media ban for kids, cites legal woes

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis appoints Robert Bender to Escambia Supervisor of Elections

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis touts semiconductor industry, \$35M in workforce grants

WUSF: DeSantis wants an appeals court to reconsider panel's ruling on Warren suspension

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis lashes out at Joe Biden over LNG export pause

FlaPol: Judge criticizes Gov. DeSantis, appointee for 'running their mouths' in effort to shut down pro-Palestinian college groups

Politico: Pro-Palestinian groups targeted by DeSantis urge Florida court to block punishments

FlaPol: Gavin Newsom says Ron DeSantis avoided getting 'trounced in his own state' by dropping out

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

The Briefing is compiled to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School Representing District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email _cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button