



The Log Jam of Legislation begins to move down legislative river!

The Briefing for Feb 22, 2024

The last Briefing was Feb 18, 2024

Tallahassee, FL 10-Day Weather Forecast - The Weather Channel | Weather.com

Day 45 – 15 Days Left

Term Limit Debate Continues

SB 438 Term-Limits – Temporarily Passed for the Second Time

Will be considered next Monday on the Rules Committee at 2:00pm in 412 Knott

The following document can and should be shared with your local media outlet.

 [My View - Leave Term Limits to the Local Voters .docx](#)

The Florida Legislature is contemplating bills that would enforce uniform term limits for county commissioners across all 67 counties, a move that not only encroaches on constitutional safeguards but also undermines local governance autonomy. Currently, the Florida Constitution empowers counties to set their own commissioner term limits through a Charter County designation, fostering local control and flexibility in government structure. This should not change!

The proposals treat counties differently! The House proposal HJR 57 implements eight year term limits effective in November of 2024. The Senate proposal SJR 438 creates a “hodge-podge” of five categories of counties created to implement the term limit mandate. None of the categories allows the local county the ability to determine whether term limits will exist.

You may wonder what’s wrong with the Legislature mandating term limits for county commissioners?

- The proposal Undermines Local Autonomy: The legislation strips local communities of their right to decide on the structure of their local government, including term limits. This top-down approach disregards the nuances and specific needs of individual counties.
- The proposal Lacks Justification: There is no clear rationale for this statewide mandate. Local elections already facilitate turnover, and the constitution provides a process for counties to establish term limits if desired. The bill seems to solve a problem that does not exist.
- One-Size-Fits-All Solution: The diversity among Florida's counties in terms of population, geography, and challenges is significant. A uniform term limit policy fails to acknowledge these differences and could hinder effective local.

Of the 67 counties – 20 already have established themselves as a Charter County.

- 11 of the 20 Charter Counties have established county commissioner term limits.
- 8 of the 11 Charter Counties have chosen to establish eight year limits.
- 3 of the 11 Charter Counties have 12 year limits – 3 four year terms.

The current Senate proposal

Here's what the Senate legislation does:

- *Non- Charter Counties with population greater than 25,000 shall have 8 year term limits for county commissioners imposed beginning November 3, 2026.*
- *Charter Counties that do not have county commissioner term-limits will not be allowed to consider whether to have commissioner term limits as part of the county charter. An eight year term requirement will be mandated beginning Nov. 3, 2026.*
- *The eight Charter Counties with county commissioner term limits equal to eight years will have to adhere to the current timeline of the county charter. Their constitutional authority will be preempted.*
- *The three Charter Counties with a term limit greater than eight years will be required to hold a referendum on the General election ballot in November of 2024, to determine if county voters wish to reduce the 12 year term to an 8 year term. No other option will be authorized.*
- *The Non-Charter County with a population less than 25,000 will impose the 8 year term limit beginning on November 7, 2028.*

The solution is simple: The voters should be allowed to continue determining if term limits should be established in their local community and for how long.

Legislative Calendars

House Calendar - Feb 22 for next three days

Senate Calendar - February 22 - Agendas for next few days

The Legislature will begin the Conference Process next week as early as Monday

Bills Passing and Moving toward Passage

- ***Social Media Restriction Legislation Passed - [Text of Social Media Legislation that Passed this afternoon](#)***
- ***Bear Bill Moves to Final Adoption - [Link to final version of Taking of Bears Legislation](#)***

Postured to Pass

- ***Emergency Manager Credentials- SB1262/HB 1567***
- ***Regional Rural Grants - HB 141/SB196***
- ***Rural Hospitals -HB 309 and SB 644***
- ***School Chaplains - HB 931 – SB 1044***

Education Bills Postured for Continued Consideration - Feb 22

Ordered by Bill Number

<u>SB 0046</u>	Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program by Stewart
<u>HB 0057</u>	County Commissioner Term Limits by Salzman
<u>HB 0151</u>	Florida Retirement System by Busatta Cabrera
<u>SB 0240</u>	International Baccalaureate Teacher Bonuses by Burton
<u>HB 0321</u>	Release of Balloons by Chaney
<u>SB 0438</u>	Term Limits by Ingoglia
<u>SB 0472</u>	Suits Against the Government by Brodeur
<u>HB 0523</u>	Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program by Canady
<u>HB 0537</u>	Student Achievement by Valdes
<u>SB 0742</u>	Public Works Projects by Grall
<u>HB 0765</u>	Leave of Absence to Officials and Employees by Daley
<u>SB 0818</u>	Military Leave by Avila
<u>SB 0830</u>	Student Cardiac and Medical Emergencies by Collins
<u>HB 0917</u>	Career and Technical Education by Snyder
<u>HB 0931</u>	School Chaplains by McClain
<u>SB 0958</u>	Local Government Employees by Martin (Increase of School Supt Salaries included)
<u>SB 0962</u>	Student Health by Hooper
<u>HB 1141</u>	Referendums to Increase Millage by Garrison
<u>SB 1356</u>	School Safety by Calatayud
<u>SB 1372</u>	Educator Preparation Programs by Ingoglia
<u>HB 1377</u>	Pub. Rec./Investigations by the Department of Legal Affairs by Sirois
<u>HB 1403</u>	School Choice by Tomkow
<u>HB 1429</u>	District and School Advisory Councils by Bell
<u>HB 1473</u>	School Safety by Trabulsy
<u>SB 1492</u>	Employment Regulations by Trumbull
<u>HB 1547</u>	Local Government Actions by McClure

SB 1560 Ad Valorem Taxation Exemptions by Collins

SB 1688 Career-themed Courses by Osgood

SB 1746 Public Employees by Ingoglia

SB 2500 Appropriations by Appropriations

SB 2502 Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act by Appropriations

HB 5001 General Appropriations Act by Appropriations Committee

HB 5003 Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act by Appropriations Committee

HB 5101 Education by PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

SB 7000 Deregulation of Public Schools/Instructional, Administrative, and Support Personnel by Education Pre-K - 12

SB 7002 Deregulation of Public Schools/School District Finance and Budgets, Facilities, and Administration and Oversight by Education Pre-K - 12

SB 7004 Deregulation of Public Schools/Assessment and Accountability, Instruction, and Education Choice by Education Pre-K - 12

SB 7014 Ethics by Ethics and Elections

SB 7016 Health Care by Health Policy

HB 7019 Exemption of Homesteads by Ways & Means Committee

SB 7024 Employer Contributions to Fund Retiree Benefits by Governmental Oversight and Accountability

HB 7025 Education by Education Quality Subcommittee

HB 7039 Education by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

HB 7051 Education by Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee

Local Government Bills Still Alive

HB 0047 Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates by Robinson (F)

HB 0049 Employment and Curfew of Minors by Chaney

HB 0057 County Commissioner Term Limits by Salzman

HB 0075 Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders by Rizo

SB 0084 Transportation Facility Designations/Jimmy Buffett Highway by Book

HB 0087 Taking of Bears by Shoaf

HB 0103 Pub. Rec./County and City Attorneys by Arrington

SB 0104 Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates by Jones

HB 0107 Impact of Electric Vehicles and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles on State Revenues and State Trust Funds by Esposito

HB 0141 Economic Development by Abbott

HB 0149 Continuing Contracts by Alvarez

HB 0151 Florida Retirement System by Busatta Cabrera

HB 0165 Sampling of Beach Waters and Public Bathing Spaces by Gossett-Seidman

SB 0184 Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders by Avila

SB 0196 Economic Development by Simon

HB 0267 Building Regulations by Esposito

SB 0280 Vacation Rentals by DiCeglie

HB 0433 Employment Regulations by Esposito

HB 0455 Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan by Casello

HB 0463 Lights Displayed on Fire Department Vehicles by Bartleman

SB 0472 Suits Against the Government by Brodeur

HB 0503 Limitation on Local Fees for Virtual Offices by Fabricio

SB 0576 Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers by Ingoglia

HB 0601 Complaints Against Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers by Duggan

HB 0609 Local Business Taxes by Botana

HB 0619 Sovereign Immunity for Professional Firms by Tuck

SB 0632 Taking of Bears by Simon

SB 0644 Rural Emergency Hospitals by Simon

SB 0656 Continuing Contracts by DiCeglie

HB 0665 Expedited Approval of Residential Building Permits by McClain

SB 0674 United States-produced Iron and Steel in Public Works Projects by Boyd

SB 0684 Residential Building Permits by DiCeglie

HB 0735 Government Accountability by Andrade

HB 0765 Leave of Absence to Officials and Employees by Daley

HB 0779 United States-produced Iron and Steel in Public Works Projects by Griffiths Jr.

SB 0812 Expedited Approval of Residential Building Permits by Ingoglia

SB 0818 Military Leave by Avila

SB 0958 Local Government Employees by Martin

HB 1001 Taxation by Stevenson

HB 1051 Housing for Agricultural Workers by Tuck

SB 1082 Housing for Legally Verified Agricultural Workers by Collins

HB 1147 Broadband by Tomkow

SB 1158 Lights Displayed on Fire Department Vehicles by Bradley

HB 1161 Verification of Eligibility for Homestead Exemption by Arrington

SB 1174 Identification Documents by Ingoglia

SB 1218 Broadband by Burgess

HB 1221 Land Use and Development Regulations by McClain

SB 1262 Qualifications for County Emergency Management Directors by Collins

HB 1417 Funding for Environmental Resource Management by Buchanan

[HB 1547](#) **Local Government Actions** by McClure
[SB 1560](#) **Ad Valorem Taxation Exemptions** by Collins
[HB 1567](#) **Qualifications for County Emergency Management Directors** by Grant
[SB 1628](#) **Local Government Actions** by Collins
[SB 1638](#) **Funding for Environmental Resource Management** by Hutson
[SB 2500](#) **Appropriations** by Appropriations
[SB 2502](#) **Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act** by Appropriations
[HB 5001](#) **General Appropriations Act** by Appropriations Committee
[HB 5003](#) **Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act** by Appropriations Committee
[HB 7015](#) **Homestead Exemption Increase** by Ways & Means Committee
[HB 7017](#) **Annual Adjustment to Homestead Exemption Value** by Ways & Means Committee
[HB 7019](#) **Exemption of Homesteads** by Ways & Means Committee
[HB 7073](#) **Taxation** by Ways & Means Committee
[HB 7075](#) **Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemption** by Ways & Means Committee
[HB 7077](#) **Tangible Personal Property Taxation** by Ways & Means Committee

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/>

Headlines Around the State

[*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis tells delegates he's not ruling out 2028 run*](#)

[*Herald Tribune: DeSantis touts Trump, term limits in South Carolina, bashes Haley*](#)

[*NYTimes: DeSantis, in Private Call, Sounds Off on Trump and Conservative News Media*](#)

[*Bradenton Herald: Why DeSantis thinks Trump's strategy for picking a running mate is a 'mistake'*](#)

[*My News 13: DeSantis, Gabbard, Ramaswamy and more: Trump confirms 6 names on his VP shortlist*](#)

[*Democrat: Stephen Miller, longtime Trump adviser, comes out hard against Florida defamation bill*](#)

[*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis claims Joe Biden's dog was 'acting out' because he was 'window dressing'*](#)

[*NBC Miami: Florida surgeon general doesn't urge vaccinations amid measles outbreak*](#)

[*Herald Tribune: Technology allows disabled voters to cast ballots independently with Express Vote*](#)

[*Times: In Florida and beyond, youth sports has problems, and it's costing the kids*](#)

[*Bradenton Herald: Could sea rise weaken Florida's coastal buildings? New study will help answer question*](#)

WUSF: A sixth measles case was confirmed at a Broward school amid vaccination concerns

News4Jax: Measles: 'It's not a matter of whether we will have an outbreak in Northeast Florida, it's a matter of when'

FlaPol: Ripley's Believe It or Not gives out free books to Florida residents after school ban

FlaPol: Florida ranked second in the country for best small business state

WLRN: A colorful new hurricane cone of uncertainty is coming, Florida. Take a look

WLRN: This tiny butterfly was thought to be gone in Florida. Gardeners and naturalists brought it back

News4Jax: Florida Legislature passes bill to release state grand jury's Jeffrey Epstein investigation

WUSF: Florida Senate is poised to pass a social media plan

FlaPol: Parental permission still not allowed in Senate version of social media ban

Democrat: Group running ads against Fla. social media bill won't reveal donors

Sentinel: Florida defamation bill heads to House floor despite conservative opposition

WLRN: Cracks begin to emerge in an ongoing debate over Florida defamation laws

Herald: Suing media outlets might be easier soon in Florida. Conservatives are worried

FlaPol: House advances defamation bill as gun shop owner argues it will ease politically motivated lawsuits

The Capitolist: House committee temporarily postpones runoff election bill

WUSF: An 'unborn child' bill advances in the Florida House

FlaPol: House sparks 'personhood' debate as it advances liability for unborn child death

FlaPol: Senate passes 'Cassie Carli Law' spurred by woman's death

FlaPol: House bill co-sponsor denies kindergartners will learn about communism history

FlaPol: 2 more calls for constitutional conventions head to Senate floor

FlaPol: Will banning cultivated meat leave a bad taste in biotech investors mouths?

FlaPol: Change to union dues law for public sector unions ready for Senate vote

Times: Could Florida electric bills go up because of a fuel made from manure?

The Capitolist: House judiciary committee advances bill to modify firearm waiting period rules

FlaPol: Preemption of local government hiring preferences on public works projects advances in Senate

FlaPol: Against the claw: Legislature OKs looser bear-killing rules

FlaPol: House amends estoppel certificate measure in a compromise with HOAs

WUSF: Bill setting up a Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day soars through its final Senate committee

FlaPol: Senate bill forcing asbestos, silica claimants to divulge smoking history clears final committee

Democrat: With 5-2 vote, Leon County commissioners pass ordinance targeting solicitation

About the Briefing!

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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 District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email [*cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com*](mailto:cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go [*www.smallcountycoalition.org*](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org) or [*www.ssdcc.org*](http://www.ssdcc.org) and click on the red **Briefing** button

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