



The Briefing for April 1, 2024

The last Briefing was March 25, 2024

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

The Quick

General Revenue Collections Continue to Exceed Projections

State general-revenue tax collections were more than 6 percent higher than anticipated in February. General revenue in February totaled nearly \$3.538 billion, which was \$217.6 million more than projected in a forecast released in January. Sales-tax collections, which are the biggest part of general revenue, came in at almost \$2.844 billion, which was \$93.7 million more than anticipated for the month. But the report noted the sales-tax figure could be deceiving. In addition to sales taxes, revenue from corporate income taxes topped projections by \$42.5 million in February, and earnings on investments were \$25.1 million over projections.

Recreational Pot Proposal Headed for the November Ballot

The Florida Supreme Court has approved placing on the November ballot a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at allowing recreational use of marijuana. In a 5-2 decision, the Court found that the proposal met the requirements under the court's limited review. The recreational proposal will require support from 60 percent of voters to pass.

Supreme Court Upholds State Abortion Ban but Approves Ballot Initiative

The Florida Supreme Court has upheld the state's ban on abortion at 15 weeks of pregnancy but also ruled that a ballot initiative seeking to protect the procedure can go before voters in November. In announcing its decisions, the high court upheld the state's bans on abortion while also giving voters a say in protecting the procedure in November.

Important Calendar Dates for Small Counties and Small School Districts

 **[Calendar of Key Meetings, Legislative Calendar and Election Dates for 2024-2025.docx](#)**

ATTENTION – GET YOURSELF REGISTERED AND ROOMS RESERVED ASAP

FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference - June 5 – 7

[Link to Conference Registration](#)

[Link to tentative agenda](#)

**Annual Small District Breakfast meeting will be held on Thursday June 6th at 7:30am
in the Skylark Room – 14th Floor**

Florida Association of Counties Annual Summer Conference

[Link to Conference Registration](#)

[Link to Tentative Agenda - June 25-28 .docx](#)

**The Small County Coalition will hold its Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday
7:00-8:30AM in Room - BC 10-11**

Headlines Around the State

[*NBC News: They came for Florida's sun and sand. They got soaring costs and a culture war.*](#)

[*FlaPol: Cost of watering lawns in Florida? Not so bad compared to other states*](#)

[*WUSF: Florida gambling helpline is seeing a surge of calls after the launch of a sports betting app*](#)

[*FlaPol: Email insights: Dean Black blasts Joe Biden for observing 'transgender day of visibility' on Sunday*](#)

[*Post: State doubles arts funding, but bulk set aside for lawmaker projects*](#)

[*Axios: Where Tampa Bay homes face flood risk in next 30 years*](#)

[*WLRN: Sen. Rick Scott returns from Israel after meeting with PM Netanyahu*](#)

[*Herald: Miami commissioner had 'carte blanche' over brother's campaign tied to corruption case*](#)

[*Times: St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch says he'll run for reelection in 2026*](#)

[*Times: Hillsborough Democrat Pat Kemp to challenge Laurel Lee for Congress*](#)

[*Times: Does Florida's hit-and-run law need to change? Grieving Manatee family seeks justice*](#)

[*TCPalm: SLC highway named 'Kyle Lee Patterson Memorial Way' for FWC officer killed in 2022 crash*](#)

[*News Herald: Panama City tables decision to install speed detection systems in local school zones*](#)

[*Politico: Biden campaign announces leadership team for Florida*](#)

[*Sentinel: Biden taps Central Florida's Burney-Clark as state campaign director*](#)

[*AP: Some state lawmakers want school chaplains as part of a 'rescue mission' for public education*](#)

[*Sentinel: Orlando's Regina Hill likely to be suspended from office in coming days*](#)

[*Times: Will Hillsborough's half-cent tax survive politics to get on the ballot?*](#)

[*Semafor: How stopping squatters became a hot conservative crusade*](#)

[*FlaPol: Easter Weekend is brought to you by these lobbyists and political associations*](#)

On The Docket for this Week

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024

- ELECTIONS LAW
 - Time: Monday, 8:15 a.m.
 - Description: Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker will hold a trial in a challenge to a 2023 Florida elections law that placed restrictions on voter-registration organizations.
 - Location: Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building, 111 North Adams St., Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-888-684-8852. Access code: 8131706. Security code: 0628
- EDUCATION FUNDING
 - Time: Monday, noon.
 - Descriptions: Groups such as the Florida Education Association and the Florida Policy Institute will hold an online event about education funding.
 - Location: https://www.mobilize.us/strongflschools/event/614164/?mc_cid=3948680453&mc_eid=cc2384723f
- ABORTION, POT RULINGS EXPECTED
 - Time: Monday, 4 p.m.
 - Description: The Florida Supreme Court is expected to release opinions that will determine whether proposed constitutional amendments about abortion rights and allowing recreational marijuana will go on the November ballot.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

- PRIMARY RESULTS CERTIFIED
 - Time: Tuesday, 8 a.m.
 - Description: The state Elections Canvassing Commission will meet to certify the results of the March 19 presidential primary election.
 - Location: Cabinet meeting room, the Capitol.
- FPL BILLS
 - Time: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
 - Description: The state Public Service Commission will consider a proposal that would reduce Florida Power & Light customer bills in May because of lower-than-expected costs for natural gas used to fuel power plants.
 - Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- ‘WELL-BEING’ COUNCIL
 - Time: Tuesday, 10 a.m.
 - Description: The state Child and Family Well-Being Council will meet.
 - Location: Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/child-and-family-well-being-council-meeting-2>

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

- DEATH PENALTY CASE
 - Time: Wednesday, 9 a.m.
 - Description: The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in two cases, including an appeal by Death Row inmate Tyrone T. Johnson, who was convicted of killing his girlfriend, Stephanie Willis, and her 10-year-old son, Ricky, in 2018 in Hillsborough County. Johnson was sentenced to death in the child’s murder.
 - Location: Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- PAROLE CASES

- Time: Wednesday, 9 a.m.
- Description: The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet.
- Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- **GAMBLING ISSUES**
 - Time: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
 - Description: The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet.
 - Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- **UNEMPLOYMENT CASES**
 - Time: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
 - Description: 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. Code: 261180880
- **CHIROPRACTIC BOARD**
 - Time: Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.
 - Description: The Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine will meet.
 - Location: Information at <https://floridaschiropracticmedicine.gov/meeting-information/>
- **INSURANCE RATES EYED**
 - Time: Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.
 - Description: The state Office of Insurance Regulation will hold a hearing on a proposal by Cypress Property & Casualty Insurance Co. to raise homeowners' property-insurance rates.
 - Location: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3411429876695768> 668, Call-in number: 1-877-309-2074. Code: 702258306

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

- **SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS**
 - Time: Thursday, 11 a.m.
 - Description: The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release its weekly opinions.
- **NURSING BOARD MEETS**
 - Time: Thursday, 1:30 p.m.
 - Description: The Florida Board of Nursing will meet.
 - Location: St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. North, St. Petersburg.
- **WETLANDS PERMITTING**
 - Time: Thursday, 2:30 p.m.
 - Description: U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss will hold a conference in a legal battle about a decision in 2020 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to shift permitting authority to Florida for projects that affect wetlands. The conference comes after Moss in February sided with environmental groups and vacated the shift. Florida is seeking a stay of Moss' ruling.
 - Location: U.S. district court, Washington, D.C.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

- **BOARD OF MEDICINE MEETS**
 - Time: Friday, 8 a.m.
 - Description: The Florida Board of Medicine will meet.
 - Location: The Westshore Grand, 4860 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa.
- **NURSING BOARD MEETS**
 - Time: Friday, 8:30 a.m.

- Description: The Florida Board of Nursing will meet.
- Location: St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd. North, St. Petersburg.

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

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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

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