



The Briefing for April 4, 2024

The last Briefing was April 3, 2024

College Basketball Final Four Schedules

*Women's Final Four NCAA Basketball Tournament Schedule Friday and Sunday
Men's College Basketball Final Four Tournament Schedule – Saturday and Monday*

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

In Memoriam

John Passidomo, 72

A fit, loving father and husband!

April 3, 2024



*Picture of Mr. Passidomo, Daughter, and
President Passidomo at end of Legislative
Session*

Senate Presidents Husband dies after fall!

The death of John Passidomo is being received with tremendous sadness. It is an unmeasurable loss to President Passidomo, their family, the Senate Family and people who worked with them. How quickly life can change - this past Monday afternoon, while hiking with the President in Utah, the First Gentleman, Mr. John Passidomo, fell and suffered massive trauma to his head, among other very serious injuries. After extensive evaluation over the next 24 hours, the President was advised that Mr. Passidomo would not survive these severe injuries. President Passidomo and their three daughters were by his side when the First Gentleman passed away peacefully Wednesday at 3:21 p.m. EDT. Mr. Passidomo was very fit and active, with overall excellent health at age 72. He was an organ donor and matches for several of the First Gentleman's organs were identified. The President and her family are taking comfort in the fact their great loss has resulted in a life-saving gift for other families. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Passidomo family.

Status of Enrolled Bills that passed

Once a bill has presented to the Governor – he has 15 days to approve, veto, or let it become law without his signature.

The General Appropriation Act has not been sent to the Governor as of this moment.

Of the 325 bills passing the Legislature - 92 bills have been sent to the Governor for review:

- 57 Bills have been approved.
- 2 Bills have been vetoed.
- 33 bills have yet to be acted on by the Governor.

Another 222 bills, including the General Appropriations bill, have yet to be sent to the Governor.

Legislative Reports

You have been previously sent the following legislative reports from our office prepared for the Small School District Council Consortium and the Small County Coalition.

[SSDCC 2024 -Revised - Final Legislative Report -March 27 -2024](#)

[SCC - Revised - Legislative Report for the 2024 Regular Legislative Session - March 27 - 2024](#)

Here's another report from Florida TaxWatch on the Legislative Session

[2024 TaxWatch Legislative Report](#)

There are Six Proposed Constitutional Amendments on the Ballot in November

There are six proposed constitutional amendments that will appear on the November General Election ballot. Here are brief descriptions of the six issues:

- **ABORTION:** Voters will decide whether to enshrine abortion rights in the state Constitution. The proposed constitutional amendment, in part, says: "No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider."
- **CAMPAIGN MONEY:** Lawmakers approved placing the proposal on the ballot to try to repeal a program that offers state matching funds to gubernatorial and state Cabinet candidates. Voters approved the matching-funds program in 1998, and a repeal attempt failed in 2010.
- **FISHING AND HUNTING:** Voters in November will decide whether to enshrine a right to fish and hunt in the state Constitution. In part, the proposal says hunting and fishing "shall be preserved forever as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife."
- **MARIJUANA:** Voters will decide whether to give the go-ahead to recreational use of marijuana. The measure on the ballot would allow people ages 21 and older to "possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption."
- **PROPERTY TAXES:** Homeowners could receive slightly larger property-tax breaks if voters approve this proposal. The proposal would adjust part of the homestead property-tax exemption for inflation. Homeowners receive tax exemptions on the assessed values of their property up to \$25,000 and on the values between \$50,000 and \$75,000. The proposal would require adjusting for inflation the exempt portion currently between \$50,000 and \$75,000.
- **SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS:** Voters will decide whether to hold partisan school-board elections. In 1998, voters passed a constitutional amendment to make school board races non-partisan. This proposal would return to partisan races starting in 2026.

In order to become part of the Constitution – the proposal must secure a 60% majority of the voters.

The Jeb Bush Education Foundation Grades House and Senate Members

The Foundation for Florida's Futures issues Legislator Report Card

[Education Report Card - A Florida Promise](#)

The Foundation for Florida's Future is an education policy organization created under the leadership of former Governor Jeb Bush. The Foundation is active in the legislative process in support of choice, vouchers, charter schools, and other issues impacting public education. The Foundation has published its Annual Report Card grading House and Senate members that participated in the 2024 legislative session. The Lawmakers are graded on a scale of A-F based on their votes on the Foundations legislative priorities.

[SMALL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENTS UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING](#)

FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference | June 5 – 7

[Link to Conference Registration](#)

[Link to tentative agenda](#)

Activities specifically scheduled for Small Districts

- **Wednesday – 1:45-3:14 – Snowy Egrets – THIS MEETING IS AN FSBA SESSION FOR SMALL DISTRICTS** This session conversation is intended to build upon the foundation set by last year's *Meaningful Conversations and Collaboration* series. This time slot and meeting is scheduled for School Board Members from small districts to share innovative solutions, insights, and strategies for the challenges that Florida's small districts face. This session shifts the focus to the sharing of solutions and practical applications - Responding to your feedback from our surveys,
- **Thursday – 7:30am-8:30am – Annual Small District Breakfast meeting will be held on Thursday June 6th at 7:30am in the Skylark Room – 14th Floor – THIS EVENT IS A JOINT MEETING OF THE FSBA/SMALL DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSORTIUM.** This breakfast meeting is scheduled for School Board members and Superintendents from Small School Districts. The agenda will include organizational business items and reports. Information will be presented on the Legislative Session, the FEFP and other items related to Small District needs.

[SMALL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING](#)

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**

[Important Calendar Dates for Small Counties and Small School Districts](#)

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

[Headlines Around the State](#)

[Editorial Ticker](#)

The Hill: Florida ruling poses latest test to Trump's abortion strategy

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis swipes at 'problematic' Joe Biden migrant flight program bringing hundreds of thousands to Miami

Politico: Judge blocks request to depose top DeSantis aides in travel records lawsuit

News4Jax: US Sen. Rick Scott spends multiple millions on ads focused on Florida's Hispanic voters

The Hill: Democrats see abortion and marijuana juicing youth vote in Florida

NBC Miami: Who is behind the push to legalize recreational marijuana in Florida?

The Capitolist: Smart & Safe Florida brings in new donors, raises \$15M

Herald: What happens if Florida legalizes recreational marijuana? Where could you buy and smoke?

WUSF: Florida's stricter ban on abortions could put more pressure on clinics elsewhere

Times: Florida will ban abortion after 6 weeks. How many women does that cut out?

AP: Prosecutors in Trump's classified documents case sharply rebuke judges unusual and 'flawed' order

CBS Miami: South Florida US House representatives sound off on democracy in Western hemisphere

My News 13: Children among hundreds of thousands of Floridians who've lost Medicaid coverage

The Capitolist: Federal authorities schedule more depositions for Sentara executives; Medicaid contract winners still pending

FlaPol: 'A record of fighting for South Florida families': Shevrin Jones endorses Lucia Báez-Geller for Congress

Politico: 2 Florida men plead guilty to insider trading charges related to Trump media firm

WLRN: Pandemic slashes returns on Florida's tourism marketing campaign, report says

Times: The Florida State vs. ACC lawsuits, explained

Democrat: US Inspector General sends audit team to Tallahassee to investigate ongoing mail issues

Democrat: FAMU student affairs VP named finalist in Tennessee State University president search

PNJ: Escambia middle and high school students to undergo 'random screenings' for weapons

Post: These are 2024's richest Florida residents and how much they made. Here's a list

TCPalm: Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods among 2024 Forbes billionaires with Treasure Coast ties

Times-Union: Forbes ranks Jaguars owner Khan as 162nd richest person in the world

Politico: DeSantis just lost the judicial firewall he boasted about

WLRN: DeSantis urged to veto ethics bill lambasted 'anti-democratic'

Democrat: Naples attorney John Passidomo dies after hiking accident in Utah

FlaPol: John Passidomo, husband to Kathleen Passidomo, dies after Utah hiking accident

WLRN: The six issues going on the 2024 November ballot

WUSF: Florida targets challenges to a financial disclosure law

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs measure to hurry transportation projects, clamp down on 'activism' on roads

The Capitolist: DeSantis signs food delivery app regulations into law

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs bipartisan bill adding safeguards against moving company scams

FlaPol: Seal of Fine Arts legislation earns Gov. DeSantis signature

Sentinel: Governor, DOT tout coming \$2.5 billion overhaul of congested I-4 west of Orlando

Ledger: Gov. Ron DeSantis touts highway projects in Polk County appearance

Herald: Florida State Guard recruit threatened to 'blow up' military base, witnesses told cops

WLRN: Florida resumes giving back to frequent toll-road drivers with transponders

Sentinel: Race to fill Regina Hill's Orlando seat draws heavy, early interest

Sentinel: Ex-DeSantis aide had \$6.5K a month contract with state attorney Bain's office

FlaPol: Lauren Book kicks off 1,500-mile 'Walk in My Shoes' trek to raise awareness about protecting children

Sentinel: GOP operatives, far right blogger 'conspired' to smear candidate, suit alleges

FlaPol: Chad Klitzman campaign for SD 35 reports 7 new endorsements, \$90K raised in Q1

FlaPol: Christine Hunschofsky endorses Sarah Henry in HD 38

FlaPol: Hillary Cassel, Spencer Roach to speak at FGCU forum on insurance reform

Axios: Duke Energy and TECO bills to fluctuate in Florida

WUSF: Lee County is in a race to try to get a decision reversed on federal flood insurance premiums

Herald: Deputy cleared in rough arrest of teen sues Broward sheriff. Were charges politically motivated?

Herald Tribune: Sarasota city attorney to prepare a potential ordinance to track political lobbying

WLRN: State officials say Broward district owes millions to charter schools. Here's some context

On The Docket for this Week

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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