



Wishing you all a good week!

The Briefing for December 9, 2024

The Last Briefing was December 7, 2024

The Rest of the Season!

Army – Navy play Saturday!

Go Navy!

[Here's the link to the College Football Playoff Matchups!](#)

[Here are the 2024 Bowl Matchups!](#)

What's the weather outlook?

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

Legislative Platforms Adopted

The following Legislative Platforms were adopted last week in Tampa by the members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School District Council Consortium. As your organization prepares for the Legislative Session – please review and included those items that are important to your organization. The content of the documents can be cut and pasted. Go for it!

[*SSDCC 2025 Legislative Priorities - Adopted December 2024.docx*](#)

[*www.ssdcc.org*](http://www.ssdcc.org)

[*!\[\]\(3342c215b2a8b663596a81468d5dc314_img.jpg\) The Small County Coalition - 2025 Legislative Program - Adopted December 2024.docx*](#)

[*www.smallcountycoalition.org*](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org)

Also provided is a link to a very basic outline for developing your Local Legislative Program. Organizations are able to copy sections of the text.

House Speaker Opens Appropriations Project Request Process

House Speaker Danny Perez has sent a [memo](#) notifying House members that the system managing ***Appropriation Project Requests is now open***. House members can now begin filing Appropriations Project Requests. Local governments, school districts, private organizations, etc; should be in contact with your House member outlining your local project priorities. Each entity requesting fundings should be prepared to submit information and back-up materials that will enable a complete evaluation of your project requests. The process will follow three steps.

- The first step is for the House member to submit an Appropriations Project Request (APR) form through the APR System.
- The next step is to publish the APR form on the House website.
- The third and final step is to submit an attestation form signed by the organization for which you are requesting funds. The organization will now be required to explain why the funding request is in the best interest of the State of Florida.

The deadline to submit an APR form is Friday, February 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Please refer to the House website (below) for additional information regarding the APR process and to access a downloadable version of the APR form. <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Appropriations/projects.aspx>

Headlines Around the State

[News4Jax: Lara Trump steps down as RNC co-chair and addresses speculation about Florida Senate seat](#)

[ABC News: Byron Donalds: Using military for deportations would be a 'last resort'](#)

[Sentinel: How childhood tragedy near Orlando shaped doctor Trump picked for surgeon general](#)

[WUSF: Billions of gallons of water being released from Lake Okeechobee to lower depth 4 feet](#)

[News-Press: Army Corps continues lowering Lake Okeechobee as aquatic grasses suffer from high levels](#)

[Democrat: 'Unprecedented': FSU launches nation's first AI in health care master's nursing program](#)

[NBC Miami: More than 2 million Floridians have specialty license plates. These are the most popular](#)

[FlaPol: Ron DeSantis approves \\$20M for rural infrastructure projects](#)

[WUSF: Farmworker housing issue is teed up in Tallahassee](#)

[WUSF: Florida wildlife officials will discuss bear management this week](#)

[FlaPol: Former Okaloosa County Commissioner Nathan Boyles enters race to replace Joel Rudman](#)

[FlaPol: Shevrin Jones to take on derelict boats, cashless businesses, water utilities](#)

[FlaPol: Peggy Gossett-Seidman floats drowning prevention, clean water bills](#)

[FlaPol: Jason Brodeur wants to help citrus growers, protect private property rights](#)

[Sentinel: 2nd rare Florida panther killed by vehicle in week, fewer than 250 remain in wild](#)

ON THE DOCKET THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

Legislature:

- SENATORS GET ETHICS TRAINING - Monday, noon. - The Florida Senate will hold ethics training. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE BILL DRAFTING OUTLINED - Monday, 2:30 p.m. - The Florida Senate will hold a training session about drafting bills. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SENATORS GET SECURITY BRIEFING - Monday, 3:30 p.m. - The Florida Senate will hold a closed meeting to get a briefing on security issues. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE ADMINISTRATION EXPLAINED - Monday, 4 p.m. - The Florida Senate will hold a training session to provide an administration overview. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- APPRAISAL BOARD - Monday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Real Estate Appraisal Board will meet. - Zora Neale Hurston Building, North Tower, Suite N901, 400 West Robinson St., Orlando. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8133072545150067030>
- OIL DRILLING FIGHT - Monday, 9 a.m. - Administrative Law Judge Lawrence Stevenson will start a hearing in a challenge by the environmental organization Apalachicola Riverkeeper to a draft permit that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection approved in April for a company to drill an exploratory oil and gas well in Calhoun County. - Florida Division of Administrative Hearings, 1230 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee.
- TAMPA BAY COUNCIL - Monday, 10 a.m. - The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will meet. - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100, Pinellas Park. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83378505645?pwd=bDYweUxudVh3cDhNZE9aTHZMYTBMZz09>. Meeting ID: 83378505645. Code: 286877
- STATE INVESTMENTS - Monday, 11 a.m. - The state Investment Advisory Council will meet. - The Hermitage Centre, Hermitage Room, 1801 Hermitage Boulevard, Tallahassee.
- PANHANDLE JUDICIAL CANDIDATES - Monday, noon. - The 1st Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for a circuit-judge position. Candidates expected to be interviewed are Jack Schlechter, Wesley Nicholls, Josh Mitchell, Autumn Miller, Amy McBride, Casey Ethridge, Hayward Dykes and Paul Bailey. - M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building, 190 West Government St., Pensacola.
- COSMETOLOGY BOARD - Monday, 3 p.m. - The Florida Board of Cosmetology will meet. - Call-in number: 1-571-317-3116. Code 508724181.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024

Legislature:

- STATE FINANCES - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Senate will receive a presentation about the state's Long Range Financial Outlook and discuss the process for lawmakers to make local funding requests. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SENATORS GET ETHICS TRAINING - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida Senate will receive ethics training. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- MIAMI DADE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The Miami Dade College Board of Trustees will meet. - Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus, 300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami. <https://www.mdc.edu/livestream>
- KIDCARE CASELOADS - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will analyze caseloads in the KidCare subsidized health-insurance program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- JUSTICES CONSIDER GAS RATES CASE - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in three cases, including a dispute about rates for Florida City Gas. The state Office of Public Counsel, which represents consumers in utility issues, appealed a decision by the Florida Public Service Commission. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- SUWANNEE WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - Suwannee River Water Management District, 9225 County Road 49, Live Oak.
- USF TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The University of South Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - University of South Florida, Marshall Student Center, 4103 USF Cedar Circle, Tampa.

- ST. JOHNS WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid St., Palatka.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Tallahassee Refugee Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/tallahassee-area-refugee-task-force-meeting-0>
- TOP NURSING HOMES - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long-Term Care will consider applications for nursing homes to receive Gold Seal awards. - Agency for Health Care Administration, 15500 Lightwave Dr., Clearwater.
- AUCTIONEERS - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Board of Auctioneers will meet. - Call-in number: 1-571-317-3116. Code: 393437037
- CITRUS FORECAST UPDATED - Tuesday, noon. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture will update a forecast for the 2024-2025 citrus growing season. - Call-in number: 1-888-844-9904. Code: 8552986
- TAXWATCH RELEASES REPORT - Tuesday, noon. - Florida TaxWatch will hold a news conference to release a report titled, "More Than A Store: The Fiscal and Economic Impacts of Goodwill in Florida." Participants in the news conference are expected to include Sen. Tracie Davis, D-Jacksonville. - Fourth floor, the Capitol.
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE ANALYZED - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The state Drug Policy Advisory Council will meet. - Florida Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee. <http://floridahealth.gov/DPACMeeting>. Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 655350064
- MANATEE-SARASOTA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - The Board of Trustees of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota will meet. - State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, 5840 26th St. West, Bradenton.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024

- FISH AND WILDLIFE ISSUES - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will meet, with issues including an update on the state's black bear management plan. - RP Funding Center, 701 West Lime St., Lakeland.
- JUSTICES WEIGH DEATH ROW CASE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in four cases, including an appeal by Death Row inmate Mesac Damas, who was convicted of killing his wife and five children in 2009 in Collier County. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. - Florida Commission on Offender Review, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- MASSAGE THERAPY BOARD - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. - Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 985532741
- CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNCIL - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. - 100 Transformation Way, Auburndale.
- ROAD PLAN PRESENTED - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a hearing in Polk County to present a draft tentative five-year work program. - Florida Department of Transportation, 801 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5302437049812749659>
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Orlando Area Refugee Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/orlando-area-refugee-task-force-meeting-0>
- TRANSPORTATION ISSUES - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The state Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged will meet. - 3185 South Blairstone Road, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-739-5589. Code: 453090457
- TRIUMPH GULF COAST BOARD - Wednesday, 11 a.m. Central time. - The Triumph Gulf Coast board, which oversees settlement money from the Deepwater Horizon disaster, will meet. - Gulf Coast State College, Charles Hilton Center, 5230 West Highway 98, Panama City.

- SOUTHWEST REFUGEE PANEL - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The Southwest Florida Refugee Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/southwest-florida-refugee-task-force-meeting-0>
- CENTRAL FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The College of Central Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - Appleton Museum of Art, 4333 East Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

- FISH AND WILDLIFE ISSUES - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will meet, with issues including an update on the state's stone-crab and lobster-trap fisheries. - RP Funding Center, 701 West Lime St., Lakeland.
- FGCU TRUSTEES - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees will meet. - <http://www.fgcu.edu/boardcast>
- ENGINEERING ISSUES - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Professional Engineers will meet. - Holiday Inn Tallahassee East Capitol-Universities, 2003 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee.
- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - https://sfwmd.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XT_r5mxyQEiVefTEgQJeZQ#/registration
- MEDICAID CASELOADS - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will analyze caseloads in the Medicaid program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- JUDICIAL CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The 10th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for a circuit-judge position in Polk County. Candidates expected to be interviewed are Graylin Cory Chastang, Adam Patton, Monica Smith, Jennifer Steimle, John Waters and Rachelle Williamson. - Southern Atlantic Law Group, PLLC, 290 First St. South, Winter Haven.
- WATER QUALITY - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The state Biscayne Bay Commission will meet. - Information at <https://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/BiscayneBayCommission>
- GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY - Thursday, 10:45 a.m. - The state Government Efficiency Task Force will meet. - Call-in number: 850-739-6768. Code: 719278023
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Emerald Coast Regional Council will meet. - Walton County Commission chamber, 571 U.S. 90 East, DeFuniak Springs.
- NORTHWEST WATER BOARD - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - Northwest Florida Water Management District, 81 Water Management Dr., Havana.
- LAND CONSERVATION - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The state Acquisition and Restoration Council, which works on land-conservation issues, will meet. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- MEDICAID DRUGS - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board will meet. - <https://primetherapeutics.zoom.us/j/89047649471>, Call-in number: 1-305-224-1968. Webinar ID: 89047649471
- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL - Thursday, 7 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. - Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 S.W. Commerce Blvd., Lake City. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 923417661

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

- PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD - Friday, 8 a.m. - The Florida Board of Physical Therapy will meet. - The Shores Resort & Spa, 2637 South Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach Shores.
- PHARMACY BOARD - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Pharmacy will meet. - St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater Hotel, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd., St. Petersburg.
- HOUSING ISSUES - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport, 9300 Jeff Fuqua Blvd., Orlando.
- PHARMACEUTICAL ISSUES - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee will meet. - <https://primetherapeutics.zoom.us/j/87614551863>

- UF TRUSTEES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The University of Florida Board of Trustees will meet after holding a series of committee meetings on Thursday. - University of Florida, Emerson Alumni Hall, Gainesville.
- LAND CONSERVATION - Friday, 9 a.m. - The state Acquisition and Restoration Council, which works on land-conservation issues, will meet. - Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- PODIATRIC BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Podiatric Medicine will meet. - Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 882700344
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/miami-dade-refugee-task-force-meeting-1>
- MEDICAID ISSUES - Friday, 11 a.m. - The state Medical Care Advisory Committee, which works on Medicaid issues, will meet. - Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, 2727 Mahan Dr., Building 3, Tallahassee.
- ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL - Friday, 1 p.m. - The state Environmental Regulation Commission is scheduled to meet. - Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES PROJECTED FOR FY 24-25

Activities listed involve local elected county commissioners, school board members and school superintendents.

2024

December 9-13 Interim Committee Meeting - Senate only

2025

January 13-17-	Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
January 21-24	Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
February 2 -	Deadline for release of Governors recommended budget
February 3 – 7	Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
February 10 – 14	Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
February 17 – 21	Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
March 4	Regular Session Begins
March 18 -	Small County Coalition Legislative Briefing/Reception
March 19-	FAC Day in the Legislature
March 19 – 20	FSBA 38th Annual Day in the Legislature, Tallahassee, FL
March 19	Small School District Legislative Briefing
March 19 -20	Rural Counties Day in the Legislature
May 2 -	Regular Session Ends
June 11 – 13	FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference, Tampa, F
June 12 -	Small School District Breakfast Meeting
June 24-27	FAC Annual Summer Meeting - Orlando
June 25	Small County Coalition Annual Business Meeting - Orlando

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

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

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