

**The Whiskey Speech Edition! Happy Holidays!
Enjoy the political double-speak! Taking both sides of an issue!**

The Briefing for December 16, 2024

The Last Briefing was December 13, 2024

Go Navy!

The rest of the season:

[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](#)

[The Whiskey Speech provided for you enjoyment!](#)

[Noah S. Sweat – The Whiskey Speech](#)

This speech is a classic example of political double-speak delivered by Noah S. Sweat! Sweat was a member of the Mississippi legislature when he gave this speech in 1954. The "Whiskey Speech" concerned the question of the prohibition of alcoholic liquor, a law that was still in force in Mississippi at the time the speech was delivered.

[John Grisham Reads Soggy Sweat's Whiskey Speech](#)

[Read Along!](#)

“My friends, I had not intended to discuss this controversial subject at this particular time. However, I want you to know that I do not shun controversy. On the contrary, I will take a stand on any issue at any time, regardless of how fraught with controversy it might be. You have asked me how I feel about whiskey. All right, here is how I feel about whiskey: If when you say whiskey you mean the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster, that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean the evil drink that topples the Christian man and woman from the pinnacle of righteous, gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, and despair, and shame and helplessness, and hopelessness, then certainly I am against it. But, if when you say whiskey you mean the oil of conversation, the philosophic wine, the ale that is consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts and laughter on their lips, and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer; if you mean the stimulating drink that puts the spring in the old gentleman's step on a frosty, crispy morning; if you mean the drink which enables a man to magnify his joy, and his happiness, and to forget, if only for a little while, life's great tragedies, and heartaches, and sorrows; if you mean that drink, the sale of which pours into our treasuries untold millions of dollars, which are used to provide tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dumb, our pitiful aged and infirm; to build highways and hospitals and schools, then certainly I am for it. This is my stand. I will not retreat from it. I will not compromise.”

Key Dates for the 2025

| | |
|--------------|--|
| March 4 | Regular Session Begins |
| March 18 - | Small County Coalition Legislative Reception |
| March 19 | Small School District Legislative Briefing |
| March 19 -20 | Rural Counties Day in the Legislature |
| May 2 - | Regular Session Ends |

Rural Days at the Capitol - March 19 - 20, 2025

Registrations Now Open

This event is produced by the Florida Rural Economic Development Council. 32 Rural Counties attend and actively participate in this event. It aims to emphasize the distinctive benefits, offerings, and significance of our Rural Counties to Florida's overall economic success. Registration required for both of the following events.

Event 1 - Legislative Networking Reception

Wed, Mar 19, 2025 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

[Registration for the Legislative Networking Reception](#)

Price: \$35.00

The reception will be held at Doak Campbell Stadium.

Advance payment is required to attend.

Event 2 - County Booths In the Capitol Courtyard

Date and time: Thu, Mar 20, 2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

[Booth Registration](#) - Price: \$750.00

Location: Florida State Capitol, 400 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32399


Includes: County Booth Displays and a Fish Fry on the Capitol Courtyard Reservations for booths are made on a first-come, first served basis.

BOOTH REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 14, 2025

Here are some links that might help you prepare for the session-

 [Effective Local Participation in the 2025 Legislative Process .doc](#)

Fiscal Capacity based on Revenue Sources

- [Questions to Analyze Financial Capacity and Per Capita rankings based on Population and Revenue Sources](#)
- [Data Set - Population –Value of 1 mill Ad Valorem - Value of 1 cent Local Option Sales Tax 2024.xlsx](#)
-  [DATA Set -2024 School District Taxable Values-October 2024.xlsx](#)

Small School District Priorities

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

www.ssdcc.org

Small County Priorities

 [The Small County Coalition - 2025 Legislative Program - Adopted December 2024.docx](#)

www.smallcountycoalition.org

Headlines Around the State

Democrat: Trump casts shadow over Congress candidates from Florida. Are policy plans made to please Trump?

CBS Miami: Waltz says federal agencies are "pointing at each other" to figure out mysterious drone sightings

WUSF: This holiday, Florida has a second chance to opt-into food assistance for kids

CBS News: Just how fast is Miami sinking into the Atlantic Ocean?

Times: DeSantis, Cabinet consider spending over \$318M in land conservation deals

FlaPol: Florida Sheriffs Academy prepares 10 new sheriffs in Florida to take over agencies

ON THE DOCKET THIS WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

- SARASOTA COUNTY DELEGATION - Monday, 9 a.m.--- The Sarasota County legislative delegation is scheduled to meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota; Rep. James Buchanan, R-Sarasota; Rep. Fiona McFarland, R-Sarasota; and Rep. Danny Nix, R-Placida.--- Sarasota County Commission chamber, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota.
- ST. LUCIE COUNTY DELEGATION - Monday, 10 a.m.--- The St. Lucie County legislative delegation is scheduled to meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Sen. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach; Sen. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart; Rep. Toby Overdorf, R-Palm City; and Rep. Dana Trabulsky, R-Fort Pierce.--- Indian River State College, Pruitt Campus, William and Helen Thomas STEM Center, 500 N.W. California Blvd., Port St. Lucie.
- SEMINOLE STATE TRUSTEES - Monday, 2 p.m.--- The Seminole State College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet.--- Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford/Lake Mary Campus, 100 Weldon Blvd., Sanford.
- BAY COUNTY DELEGATION - Monday, 5 p.m.--- The Bay County legislative delegation, made up of Sen. Jay Trumbull, R-Panama City, and Rep. Griff Griffiths, R-Panama City Beach, will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session.--- Bay County Government Building, 840 West 11th St., Panama City.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PANEL - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.--- The SelectFlorida Board of Directors will meet.--- JAXPORT headquarters, 2831 Talleyrand Ave., Jacksonville.
- REAL ESTATE ISSUES ADDRESSED - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.--- The Florida Real Estate Commission will meet.--- Zora Neale Hurston Building, North Tower, Suite N901, 400 West Robinson St., Orlando. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/603461895294460508>
- DESANTIS, CABINET - Tuesday, 9 a.m.--- Gov. Ron DeSantis and the state Cabinet will meet, with issues including proposals to spend more than \$318 million to buy conservation land and enter other deals that would shield rural properties from development.--- DeSantis and Cabinet members are expected to participate by phone. Public access at the R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough St., Tallahassee. Also, The Florida Channel is expected to carry the meeting.
- COLLEGE PRESIDENT - Tuesday, 9 a.m.--- The Broward College Board of Trustees will discuss the school's search for a new president.--- Broward College, Willis Holcombe Center, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.
- KIDCARE PROGRAM - Tuesday, 9 a.m.--- The Social Services Estimating Conference will analyze expenditures in the KidCare subsidized health-insurance program.--- 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- SOUTHWEST WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m.--- The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet.--- Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville.
- WATER RATES - Tuesday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.--- The Florida Public Service Commission will hold hearings in Lake and Seminole counties about a proposal by Sunshine Water Services Co. to raise rates. Sunshine Water Services has customers in Charlotte, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Seminole counties.--- 10 a.m. at Eustis Community Center, 601 Northside Dr., Eustis. Also, 6 p.m., Altamonte Springs City Commission chamber, 225 Newburyport Ave., Altamonte Springs.
- FAMU TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.--- The Florida A&M University Board of Trustees will meet.--
- <https://famu.zoom.us/j/96036198994?pwd=50HDkMUD2aFuPPJgPBBAWSpbY7xcC.1>
- FAU TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 11 a.m.--- The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees will meet.--- <http://www.fau.edu/bot>
- CHIROPRACTIC ISSUES - Tuesday, noon.--- The Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine will meet.--- Information at <https://floridaschiropracticmedicine.gov/>
- PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS - Tuesday, 2 p.m.--- Florida's 30 presidential electors will meet to cast votes for President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect JD Vance.--- Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- VETERANS ISSUES - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.--- The Florida Commission on the Status of Women will host a discussion about issues affecting veterans. Participants are expected to include Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez, state Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and state Sen. Jay Collins, R-Tampa.--- 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- OKALOOSA COUNTY DELEGATION - Tuesday, 5:45 p.m.--- The Okaloosa County legislative delegation will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville; Sen. Jay Trumbull, R-Panama City; Rep. Patt Maney, R-Shalimar; and Rep. Joel Rudman, R-Navarre. --- Warrior's Hall, 201 Stillwell Blvd., Crestview.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024

- REAL ESTATE ISSUES - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.--- The Florida Real Estate Commission will meet.--- Zora Neale Hurston Building, North Tower, Suite N901, 400 West Robinson St., Orlando. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/603461895294460508>
- LAKE COUNTY DELEGATION - Wednesday, 9 a.m.--- The Lake County legislative delegation will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Sen. Keith Truenow, R-Tavares; Rep. Taylor Yarkosky, R-Montverde; Rep. Nan Cobb, R-Eustis; and Rep. Richard Gentry, R-Astor.--- Venetian Center, 1 Dozier Circle, Leesburg.
- TITLE IX ARGUMENTS - Wednesday, 9 a.m.--- A panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in a challenge by Florida and three other states to a federal rule about sex-based discrimination in education programs. The rule deals with Title IX, a landmark 1972 law that bars discrimination in education programs based on sex. The rule would extend Title IX regulations to apply to discrimination based on gender identity.--- Elbert P. Tuttle United States Court of Appeals Building, 56 Forsyth St. N.W., Atlanta.
- CITRUS ISSUES - Wednesday, 9 a.m.--- The Florida Citrus Commission will meet.--- Florida Department of Citrus, 605 East Main St., Bartow. Call-in number: 1-904-539-9759. Code: 298869115
- PALM BEACH DELEGATION - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.--- The Palm Beach County legislative delegation will hold a public hearing as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Democratic senators Lori Berman, Mack Bernard and Tina Polsky; Republican Sen. Gayle Harrell; Democratic House members Joe Casello, Jervonte Edmonds, Kelly Skidmore and Debra Tendrich; and Republican House members Mike Caruso, Anne Gerwig, Peggy Gossett-Seidman,

John Snyder and Meg Weinberger.--- Palm Beach State College, Loxahatchee Groves Campus, 15845 Southern Blvd., Loxahatchee.

- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.--- The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission is scheduled to meet.--- Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Code: 261180880
- MIAMI-DADE DELEGATION - Wednesday, 10 a.m.--- The Miami-Dade County legislative delegation will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Republican senators Bryan Avila, Alexis Calatayud, Ileana Garcia and Ana Maria Rodriguez; Senate Minority Leader Jason Pizzo; Democratic Sen. Shevrin Jones; Republican House Speaker Daniel Perez; Republican House members Fabian Basabe, Omar Blanco, David Borrero, Demi Busatta, Tom Fabricio, Vicki Lopez, Jim Mooney, Juan Carlos Porras, Alex Rizo and Mike Redondo; and Democratic House members Wallace Aristide, Kevin Chambliss, Ashley Gantt, Dotie Joseph, Felicia Robinson and Marie Woodson.--- Florida International University, Herbert and Nicole Wertheim School of Music & Performing Arts, 10910 S.W. 17th St., Miami.
- MADISON COUNTY DELEGATION - Wednesday, 10 a.m.--- The Madison County legislative delegation, made up of Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, and Rep. Allison Tant, D-Tallahassee, will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session.--- Madison County Commission board room, 229 Pinckney St., Madison.
- AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM - Wednesday, 10 a.m.--- The Florida Agricultural Museum Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet.--- Flagler County Princess Place 2500 Princess Place Road, Palm Coast.
- JEFFERSON COUNTY DELEGATION - Wednesday, 1 p.m.--- The Jefferson County legislative delegation, made up of Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, Rep. Jason Shoaf, R-Port St. Joe, and Rep. Allison Tant, D-Tallahassee, will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session.--- Jefferson County Courthouse Annex, 435 West Walnut St., Monticello.
- DEVELOPMENT BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m.--- The Florida Development Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet.--- 156 Tuskawilla Road, Suite 2340, Winter Springs. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83864592089?pwd=Noy6z2w7Yu7BL9sa8eke6l9dfcNcOs.1#success>. Meeting ID: 83864592089. Code: 745334. Call-in number: 1-646-558-8656
- DRISKELL HOLDS HOLIDAY PARTY - Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.--- House Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell, D-Tampa, will hold a holiday party.--- Information at <https://www.mobilize.us/hillsboroughcountydec/event/745532/>

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

- TECO RATES - Thursday, 9:30 a.m.--- The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an internal-affairs meeting, followed by a meeting about a rate increase for Tampa Electric Co.--- Internal affairs meeting at Gerald L. Gunter Building, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee. Rate meeting at Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- BROWARD DELEGATION - Thursday, 10 a.m.--- The Broward County legislative delegation will hold a public hearing as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Senate Minority Leader Jason Pizzo; Democratic senators Rosalind Osgood, Tina Polsky and Barbara Sharief; Democratic House members Robin Bartleman, Daryl Campbell, Hillary Cassel, Dan Daley, Lisa Dunkley, Mike Gottlieb, Christine Hunschofsky, Felicia Robinson, Mitch Rosenwald and Marie Woodson; and Republican House member Chip LaMarca.--- Junior Achievement World, 1130 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek.
- SOUTHWEST COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m.--- The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will meet.--- South Florida Water Management District, 2301 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers.
- PILOT COMMISSIONERS BOARD - Thursday, 10 a.m.--- The Florida Board of Pilot Commissioners will meet.--- Call-in number: 1-571-317-3116. Code: 337217893

- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m.--- The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- WATER RATES ON AGENDA - Thursday, 1 p.m.--- The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an online hearing about a proposal by Sunshine Water Services Co. to raise rates. Sunshine Water Services has customers in Charlotte, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Seminole counties.--- <https://www.floridapsc.com/watch-archive-psc-events>
- UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - Thursday, 2:30 p.m.--- The state university system’s Board of Governors will hold two committee meetings, followed by a full board meeting.-- <https://www.flbog.edu/board/upcoming-meeting/>

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024

- BUDGET REQUESTS CONSIDERED - Friday, 8:30 a.m.--- The governor’s Office of Policy and Budget is scheduled to hold a meeting about agency budget requests and long-term program plans. --- Conference Room 2002L, the Capitol.
- MEDICAID EXPENDITURES - Friday, 9 a.m.--- The Social Services Estimating Conference will analyze expenditures in the Medicaid program.--- 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS - Friday, 10 a.m.--- The Florida Department of Commerce will release a November unemployment report.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES PROJECTED FOR FY 24-25

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

2025

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|------------------|--|
| 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

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

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