



## *The Briefing for December 7, 2024*

*The Last Briefing was December 1, 2024*

*College Football Moves to Post-Season*  
[Link to Week 15 of College Football](#)

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*What's the weather outlook?*

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



***Congratulations Commissioner Susan Adams***  
*Elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the Florida Association of Counties*

*Congratulations to Indian River Commissioner Susan Adams on being elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Florida Association of Counties.*

*A total of four candidates vied for the position. Adams received a majority vote after a run-off of the top two vote getters.*

*Adams has been a leader in both the Florida Association of Counties and the Small County Coalition.*

### ***Small County Coalition and Small School Districts Meet***

The Small County Coalition (<https://smallcountycoalition.org/>) and the Small School District Council Consortium (<https://ssdcc.org/>) met in Tampa this past week along with the State meetings of the Florida Association of Counties and the Joint meeting of the FADSS and FSBA. The purpose of the meetings were to Greet Newly Elected Officials; Adopt Legislative Programs; and to Fill Officer Vacancies Resulting from 2024 Elections.

#### **Major Actions of the Small County Coalition –**

- Adopted a legislative program for the 2024 Session - [Small County Coalition - 2025 Legislative Program - Adopted December 2024.docx](#).
- Filled Officer and Executive Committee Vacancies –

- Officers Elected - **Chris Dougherty, Bradford County, filled the Vice-Chair Vacancy, Rick Jones, Franklin County, was elected Secretary,**
- Chairs Appointment – **Betsy Condon – Clay County was appointed as 1 of the three Appointees of the Chair.**
- Regional Reps were approved – **Scott Monlyn-Calhoun; Ralph Thomas- Wakulla; and, - Greg Hansen- Flagler, all filled vacancies as regional representatives on the Executive Committee.**

**Major Actions of the Small School District Council Consortium–**  
**Adopted the SSDCC Legislative Priorities for the 2024-25 Legislative Session.**  
[SSDCC 2025 Legislative Priorities - Adopted December 2024.docx](#)

**Filled Officer Vacancies –**


Elected to Chair - Darryl Taylor - Superintendent – Calhoun County  
 Elected to Vice-Chair – Rick Surrency – Superintendent – Putnam County

**Executive Committee Members**

Cheryl Pridgeon– School Board Member – Dixie County  
 Donna Howerton – School Board Member – Highlands County  
 Mike Swindell – Superintendent - Hendry County  
 Robbie Edwards – Superintendent – Lafayette County  
 Kyle Peddie – Superintendent – Liberty County  
 Ed DaSilva – School Board Member – Suwannee County  
 Becky Raulerson – School Board Member – Union County

***Developing You Own Legislative Program for 2024 Session***

Reducing your priorities to provide information about your local community and highlights specific concerns and requests will help communicate your Local Legislative Requests to your House and Senate members. The document linked below gives an overview of tips for developing your local program.

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

***Pre-filed Bills as of December 7<sup>th</sup>***

All House and Senate bills that have been pre-filed are listed. The House bills are ODD numbers – the Senate Bills are EVEN. The link lists bill in numeric order and the bills numbers are active links –

 [Bills Prefiled by Dec 7th for Legislative Consideration 2025.docx](#)

**Governor Announces \$20 million in Rural Infrastructure Grants**

Governor Ron DeSantis has awarded \$20 million to small county governments and rural municipalities through the Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF). Awards were made to 17 Florida communities for projects that will complete critical infrastructure and strengthen rural economies.

For more information on the Rural Infrastructure Fund, [click here](#).

**The following communities will receive funds through the RIF Program:**

- **City of Bonifay (\$1,233,000)**
- **Cedar Key Water & Sewer District (\$2,500,000).**
- **City of Chipley (\$295,000)**
- **Town of Cross City (\$620,000)**
- **Dixie County (\$300,000)**
- **Hardee County Industrial Development Authority (\$1,478,822)**
- **Indian River State College (\$1,500,000)**
- **Jackson County BOCC (1,665,000)**

- Town of Lee (\$1,100,000)
- City of Live Oak (\$559,365)
- City of Marianna (\$1,655,000)
- City of Perry (\$1,396,319)
- Sebring Airport Authority (\$600,000)
- City of Sneads (\$84,500)
- Wakulla County (\$4,504,369)
- Washington County (\$67,500)
- City of Wauchula (\$441,125).

## FWC Meeting This Week - December 11 - 12, 2024 Update on Bear Management Plan

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will meet in Lakeland this week. - RP Funding Center, 701 West Lime St., Lakeland. The [Agenda](#) includes an Update on Implementation of the Florida Black Bear Management Plan. Staff will provide a 5-year update on implementation of the 2019 Florida Black Bear Management Plan. The update will include an overview of bear management efforts and current research activities in the four conservation focal areas identified in the management plan: population management, habitat conservation, human-bear conflict, and education and outreach.

[Summary Memo](#) | [Presentation](#)

### *Headlines Around the State*

*Herald: A quiet force in Miami-Dade, Lt Gov. Jeanette Nuñez now one choice away from real power*

*Politico: Former top DHS lawyer assisting Bondi with DOJ transition*

*Sun-Sentinel: Trump's controversial picks for health agencies gained prominence in Florida*

*Herald: Trump picks Homeland Security Investigation's top agent in Miami for White House post*

*Sun-Sentinel: DeSantis directs flags to fly at half-staff in honor of Pearl Harbor*

*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis awards \$20M to 17 rural projects. 'Project Boomer' in Wakulla County is the biggest winner*

*FlaPol: Let the planning for America's 250th anniversary begin, Gov. DeSantis says*

*FlaPol: Miami-Dade Dems will elect a new Chair next week. Meet the candidates*

*Herald: Ex-Proud Boy from Miami is sent to prison for role in Jan. 6 assault on U.S. Capitol*

*FlaPol: Field set in Special Election to replace Matt Gaetz, including 10 Republicans*

*Florida Phoenix: Mining company vows to forge ahead when permitted despite feds' Okefenokee Refuge expansion plan*

## 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](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](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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