



The Briefing for January 15, 2025

The Last Briefing was January 14, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

Here's a listing of bills pre-filed for consideration in the upcoming legislative session.

[A total of 186 Bills have been pre-filed for consideration](#)
[43 Bills Filed Have Some Reference to Education](#)

What's Going On?

House Committee to discuss Home Rule and Preemption of Local Governments

[Link to Live Stream Schedule of Meeting](#)

The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee will meet Wednesday at 1:00pm in 17 HOB - Morris Hall of the House Office Building. On the agenda: An Overview of county and municipal home rule powers and preemption of local governments and a panel discussion of such home rule powers and preemption of local governments. Preemptions and Unfunded Mandates are two of the significant areas where local governments authority is restricted/diminished and costs are increased through state requirements. Tune in – it will be instructive as to how the legislature will respond to the panel. The panel included FAC Executive Director Ginger Delegal.

Legislative leaders balk at DeSantis' call for a special session.

Memo calls Special Session before the Regular Session - "premature" and "irresponsible".

In a joint memorandum to all State Legislators, Senate President Ben Albritton and House Speaker Danny Perez responded to the Governor's call for a Special Session. The memo was very direct – leaving no question about the position of the legislative leadership. Here are some quotes for the memo –

- ***"Calling a special session at this time is premature. "***
- ***"It is completely irresponsible to get out ahead of any announcements President Trump will make, especially when uninformed or ill-timed state action could potentially impair or impede the success of President Trump's forthcoming efforts to end illegal immigration, close our borders, and protect the sovereignty of our nation."***
- ***"Florida's Constitution compels our attendance at a special session unilaterally called by the Governor. However, the power to convene a special session also resides with the presiding***

officers. As the people's elected representatives, the Legislature, not the Governor, will decide when and what legislation we consider."

School Start Time Survey Responses

36 Small Districts were surveyed on Monday – 23 have responded

Middle School and High School Start Times

Text of Legislation as passed.

Staff Analysis of Start Time Legislation

Initial Responses

- 23 of the 36 districts surveyed responded within 24 hours.
- 9 of the 23 respondents currently meet the Start Time Requirement
- 14 of the 23 respondents do not currently meet the Start Time Requirement
- All 23 respondents indicated a preference that the statutes provide for flexibility from the specific start times.
- 8 of the 9 districts meeting requirements start Elementary schools earlier than Middle and High Schools.
- The 14 districts that have not yet implemented the required start times, start high schools and middle schools earlier than the district elementary schools.
- Additional comments outlined challenges and issues – including staffing; transportation; supervision; impact on parent drop-off conflicting with work schedules; extra-curricular activities and after-school events are started later; and, later release times impact students ability to supervise siblings and cut into work schedules.

Senate Community Affairs Committee Review Housing Assistance and Live Local Programs

Provided below are the links to the Community Affairs meeting on Affordable Housing. The meeting video and the committee packet provide a comprehensive look at Florida's Housing programs: I would advise Housing and Planning staff to look at the packet of programs:

[Affordable Housing and Live Local -Meeting Video](#)

[Senate Community Affairs committee packet the cover Live local](#)

Committee Deliberations can be watched live on

[The Florida Channel: Home](#)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

- SENATE - **SCHOOLS BUDGET** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Senate Pre-K-12 Education Appropriations Committee will receive an education budget overview. 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE - **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will receive presentations about programs such as the Job Growth Grant Fund and Visit Florida. 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE - **WORKFORCE HOUSING** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion on workforce housing. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE - **SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY** Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Student Academic Success Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about a law on technology in public schools. Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE - **HOME RULE** - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee will discuss home-rule powers and preemption of local governments. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.

Mark Your Calendars

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

Headlines Around the State

[Post: Gov. DeSantis: Thin GOP majority means no US House members for Rubio replacement](#)

[FlaPol: Ron DeSantis cool on Cory Mills interest in Senate seat amid slim GOP House majority](#)

[The Hill: No. 2 Senate Democratic leader will back Rubio for secretary of State](#)

[Yahoo News: 2 Florida residents face Senate confirmation hearings this week. What we know](#)

[FlaPol: Governor blames faulty 'resign to run' law for lack of elections to replace Randy Fine, Joel Rudman](#)

[Herald: Rubio ends adjunct professor contract with FIU following secretary of state nomination](#)

[The Floridian: Mills Talks Ambitions to Replace Rubio, 'We Need Real Strength in Senate'](#)

[WUSF: Tampa-area immigrants brace for Trump's promise of mass deportations](#)

[FlaPol: Aaron Baker blames Susie Wiles for Donald Trump's Randy Fine endorsement](#)

[FlaPol: Elijah Manley 'almost certainly' challenging Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick in Democratic Primary](#)

[News4JAX: Can Florida's housing market rebound in 2025 after experiencing one of worst years in decades? Here's what experts think](#)

[FlaPol: Florida citrus harvest projections remain steady to start 2025](#)

[WLRN: Fewer Florida children are receiving routine vaccinations](#)

[Yahoo News: What security looks like around Trump's Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach ahead of inauguration](#)

[Sentinel: Fatal drug overdoses dipped in Central Florida, statewide in 2023](#)

[Herald: High-profile Miami lobbyist charged with tax evasion, owes over \\$600,000 to IRS: feds](#)

[Bradenton Herald: DeSantis agenda sparks Tallahassee power struggle with new GOP leaders](#)

[CBS Miami: Florida legislative leaders push back on DeSantis' call for special session on immigration](#)

[Sentinel: Florida legislative leaders call DeSantis special session on immigration 'premature', 'irresponsible'](#)

[The Floridian: Florida Democrats go at 'Big Mad' DeSantis Over Special Session](#)

[FlaPol: Randy Fine wants his bill on ending benefits for undocumented students to be heard in Special Session](#)

FlaPol: Anna Eskamani and Mike Gottlieb file bill to protect workers from heat

My News 13: Florida condo owners hope for financial relief from special session

Times: Can the reserve cost burden for owners of low-rise condos away from ocean be lessened?

Today: Three of four candidates invest six-figure amounts into upcoming Florida House race

FlaPol: As Special Session looms, Florida Policy Project spotlights dire need for action on condo assessment crisis

Times-Union: Ex-teachers union head and V.P. charged with \$2.4 million fraud

News-Press: 'Attack,' 'Land grab' - Bill to consolidate control districts draw ire

About the Briefing

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

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 www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button