



The Briefing for January 20, 2025

The Last Briefing was January 16, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

It's gonna be real cold around Florida – Possible Snow in North Florida

Hats, Gloves, Coats, and Scarfs Mandatory

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Senator Bradley Files Bill to Repeal School Start Time Mandate

Senator Jennifer Bradley has filed [SB 296](#) repealing the school start time requirements that are scheduled for final implementation on July 1, 2026. Senator Bradley indicated that she had heard about this issue from school officials attending local delegation hearings. The law that passed in 2023 requires that middle school start times cannot be earlier than 8:00am and High Schools cannot start

	before 8:30am. The Small School District Council Consortium supports Senator Bradley's proposal and encourages school officials to communicate that school start times should be a local decision.
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This week is loaded with important events and meetings:

Monday

Presidential Inauguration of the 47th President Donal J. Trump
 National Holiday Honoring Martin Luther King
 The College Football National Title Game – Ohio State vs Notre Dame

Tuesday

Recovery from Monday – Travel to Tallassee for 2nd round of committee meetings -

Wednesday and Thursday

House and Senate Committee hold meetings in preparation for the 2025 Legislative Session. Here are the committees we will be monitoring:

Wednesday

- REGIONAL EDUCATON CONSORTIA – - House PreK-12
 - Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 11:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m., Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building;
 - Presentations from the Executive Directors of the Heartland Educational Consortium, North East Florida Educational Consortium, and Panhandle Area Educational Consortium on Rural School Districts and Consortia Services
 - Panel Discussion by Rural School District Superintendents
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - House Nat Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

Thursday

- REGIONAL EDUCATION CONSORTIA Senate Pre-K-12 Education Appropriations
 - Thursday, January 23, 2025, 9:00—11:00 a.m., Mallory Home Committee Room, 37 Senate Building
 - Program Review - Regional Education Consortia
- FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS - Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations
- TEACHER PREPARATION - House Student Academic Success Subcommittee
- CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION Senate Higher Education Approps
- COUNTY BUDGETS - The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee
- SCHOOL SAFETY - The House Education Administration Subcommittee
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT -The House Transportation & Economic Development Budget Sub



Tracking Committee Meetings
Deliberations can be watched live on
[The Florida Channel: Home](#)

Legislative Calendar
House and Senate Committees will be holding meetings Wednesday and Thursday
[House Calendar for Week](#)
[Senate Calendar for Committee Meetings](#)

Accessing Committee Meeting Agendas and Materials (If available)

[Link to Senate Committees](#)

[Link to House Committees](#)

On the Docket

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025 -INAUGURATION DAY

- President-elect Donald Trump will be inaugurated in Washington, D.C., and return to the White House after winning the November election.
- STATE OFFICES CLOSED State offices will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025

— **Legislature:**

- ORANGE DELEGATION - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Orange County legislative delegation will meet to discuss a local bill. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.

— **Also:**

- ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees will meet. - St. Petersburg College, Midtown Center, 1300 22nd St. South, St. Petersburg.
- CHARTER SCHOOL - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - The state Charter School Appeal Commission is expected to take up a Palm Beach County case involving the American Academy of Palm Beach K-8 Charter School. - Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines St., Tallahassee.
- GOLDMAN SACHS EXEC - Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. - Goldman Sachs Vice Chairman Rob Kaplan is slated to speak to the Economic Club of Florida. - Dunlap Champions Club, 225 Champions Way, Tallahassee.
- TALLAHASSEE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. - The Tallahassee State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Tallahassee State College, Hinson Administration Building, 444 Appleyard Dr., Tallahassee.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd. East, Niceville.
- SANTA FE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Santa Fe College Board of Trustees will meet. - Santa Fe College, Blount Hall, 530 West University Ave., Gainesville.
- PENSACOLA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. - The Pensacola State College Board of Trustees is scheduled to hold committee meetings, a workshop and a full board meeting. - Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola.
- NORTH FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - The North Florida College Board of Trustees will meet. - North Florida College, 325 N.W. Turner Davis Dr., Madison.
- CHIPOLA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - The Chipola College Board of Trustees will meet. - Chipola College, Public Service Building, Marianna.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025

— **Legislature:**

- **STORM MITIGATION** - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Banking and Insurance Committee will receive presentations on hurricane and flood mitigation. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **TECHNICAL EDUCATION** - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Education Postsecondary Committee will receive presentations related to technical education. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **ELECTIONS SUPERVISORS APPEAR** - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee will receive an overview from elections supervisors about the 2024 elections and legislative priorities. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **WORKFORCE NEEDS** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee will discuss issues related to meeting workforce needs. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The House Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee will hold a discussion about the state's role in energy, transportation and broadband planning. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **IT PROJECTS** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The House Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about information-technology project management and oversight. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **CITRUS INDUSTRY** - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Agriculture Committee will receive an update about the citrus industry. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol. - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Community Affairs Committee will receive a presentation from the Florida Division of Emergency Management about the 2024 hurricane season. - 37 Senate Office Building, the
- **RURAL SCHOOLS** - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee will host a panel discussion of rural school superintendents. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **ERELICT VESSELS** - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee will receive a presentation from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission about derelict vehicles. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **LAWMAKERS GO TO SUPREME COURT** - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee will visit the Florida Supreme Court. - The subcommittee will convene at 212 Knott Building, before walking to the Supreme Court.
- **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** - Wednesday, 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - The House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee and the Senate Health Policy Committee will receive presentations about the state's medical-marijuana program. - House meeting at 1 p.m. in Reed Hall, House Office Building. Senate meeting at 1:30 p.m. in 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **CITIZENS INSURANCE** - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee will receive a presentation about the state's Citizens Property Insurance Corp. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **DJJ MAKES PRESENTATION** - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Senate Criminal Justice Committee will receive a presentation from the Department of Juvenile Justice. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **FOREIGN INVESTMENTS** - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee will receive a presentation from the State Board of Administration about prohibitions on certain foreign investments. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **VETERANS SERVICES** - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will receive presentations about services and support for veterans. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

- ‘ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY’ - Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. - The House Human Services Subcommittee will receive a presentation from the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Commerce and CareerSource Florida about a 2024 law related to “economic self-sufficiency.” - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. - The House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee will receive presentations from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Transportation and the Division of Emergency Management about emergency management. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL FUNDING - Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. - The House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee will receive an overview of the Florida Education Finance Program, or FEFP, the main funding formula for schools. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- DCF TECHNOLOGY - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee will receive a presentation about a modernization of technology systems at the Department of Children and Families. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- ILLEGAL GAMBLING - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Regulated Industries Committee will hold a panel discussion on illegal gambling. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- TRAIL PROGRAM - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Transportation Committee will receive an update from the Department of Transportation about the Shared-Use Non-motorized, or SUN, Trail Program. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

— ***Also:***

- GOODWILL DAY AT CAPITOL Wednesday is Florida Goodwill Day at the Capitol, with Goodwill leaders from across the state meeting with lawmakers and staff members.
- UNEMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD - 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
- GEOLOGY ISSUES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Board of Professional Geologists will meet. - Florida State University Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences- EOAS Building, 1011 Academic Way, Tallahassee.
- ST. JOHNS RIVER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The St. Johns River State College Board of Trustees will meet. - St. Johns River State College, St. Augustine Campus, 2990 College Dr., St. Augustine.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

— ***Legislature:***

- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee will receive a review of a Department of Children and Families program about domestic violence. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMS - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Pre-K-12 Education Appropriations Committee will receive a review of district support programs. Location; 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will receive information about the Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement process. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- RULEMAKING ISSUES - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The House Government Operations Subcommittee will receive an overview of rulemaking. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

- TINY HOMES - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee will visit The Dwellings, a tiny-home community. - Lawmakers will meet at Morris Hall in the House Office Building before leaving by van.
- CORRECTIONS, JUVENILE JUSTICE - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The House Justice Budget Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about issues at the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice. - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- TEACHER PREPARATION - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The House Student Academic Success Subcommittee will hold a discussion about preparing and supporting teachers to meet the academic needs of students. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOME HARDENING PROGRAM - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee will receive a review of the My Safe Florida Home program, which provides money to help residents harden their homes against such things as hurricanes. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will receive reviews from the state court system and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement about certain performance measurements. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee will receive information about career and technical education issues. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- CRIMINAL SENTENCES - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The House Criminal Justice Subcommittee will discuss prison sentences and probation. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- MENTAL HEALTH - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The House Health Care Budget Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about mental health and substance abuse. - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- 'THREE-TIER' SYSTEM - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The House Industries and Professional Activities Subcommittee will discuss the state's "three-tier" system related to manufacturing, distributing and selling alcoholic beverages. - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- COUNTY BUDGETS - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee will take up issues related to county budgets. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL SAFETY - Thursday, 3:30 p.m. - The House Education Administration Subcommittee will hold a discussion related to school safety. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- KIDCARE ELIGIBILITY - Thursday, 3:30 p.m. - The House Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee will get a briefing on a 2023 law about eligibility for the KidCare program, which provides subsidized health insurance to children who don't qualify for Medicaid. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Thursday, 3:30 p.m. - The House Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee will receive a presentation from the Division of Emergency Management about issues such as the costs of disasters. - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- HUMAN RELATIONS PANEL - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Human Relations will meet. - Call-in number: 850-270-6017. Code: 503795883

- GULF COAST COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 10 a.m. Central time. - The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Gulf Coast State College, Student Union West, 5230 West Highway 98, Panama City.
- UWF TRUSTEES - Thursday, 10 a.m. Central time. - The University of West Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - <https://uwf.zoom.us/j/82520294460?pwd=OSKfPSuwq4CSq9LbetK7MonOYaqc7B.1>. Webinar ID: 82520294460. Code: 022020. Call-in number: 1-305-224-1968
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL TO - Thursday, 7 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. - Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Blvd., Lake City.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

- ETHICS COMMISSION - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Ethics will take up a series of issues, including a long-running case involving Sen. Randy Fine, R-Brevard County. - 1st District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee.
- HOUSING ISSUES - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Hilton Naples, 5111 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.
- OPTOMETRY BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Optometry will meet. - Holiday Inn Tampa Airport Westshore, 700 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa.
- HEARING AID BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists will meet. - Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 866954839
- FSDB TRUSTEES - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Board of Trustees will meet. - Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Moore Hall, 207 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.
- JOBLESS NUMBERS RELEASED - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Department of Commerce will release a December unemployment report.
- WATER QUALITY - Friday, 10 a.m. - The state Biscayne Bay Commission will meet. - <https://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/BiscayneBayCommission>
- PIZZO SPEAKS AT TIGER BAY - Friday, noon. - Senate Minority Leader Jason Pizzo, D-Sunny Isles Beach, will speak to the Capital Tiger Bay Club. - Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025

- DEMOCRATIC LEADERS - Saturday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee will meet. - Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace, 1900 East Buena Vista Dr., Lake Buena Vista.

Mark Your Calendars

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

Headlines Around the State

The Hill: Rep. Byron Donalds eyes Florida governor bid

Times-Union: Jacksonville is among the port cities waiting to see how Trump's tariffs play out

Post: Trump likely to spend more time at Mar-a-Lago: "He loves that place"

Sentinel: Insurance cost increases in Florida have outpaced inflation. We asked experts why.

FlaPol: Barbara Sharief files 'Patterson's Law' to help parents disprove false child abuse claims

Times-Union: Florida prepares snowplows with freezing temperatures, snow this week. What we know

Times: How Trump's next presidency will affect how DeSantis governs Florida

Post: Trump's second term to include many Floridians – and policies tested in Sunshine State

Sun-Sentinel: Train law officers to help immigration officials or face criminal charges, DeSantis says

Times: Bondi lobbied for Tampa company that has active case against US government

FlaPol: Florida Republican Mayors Association backs Gov. DeSantis' call for Special Session

Floridian: Cammack Reintroduces Resolution to Ban Foreign Flags on House Floor

Florida Phoenix: Democrat Dotie Joseph calls on Joe Biden to extend clemency before he leaves office

Sun-Sentinel: Delray fire truck driver in Brightline crash was lauded in reviews, had no discipline history, records show

Times: Out-of-order Tropicana Field displaces St. Petersburg events beyond Rays

AP: Florida jury says CNN defamed Navy veteran in story about endangered Afghans

FlaPol: Jared Moskowitz nabs high-ranking Oversight and Intelligence Subcommittee post

Herald Tribune: Sarasota County School District officials explain construction plans, safety measures

WLRN: After judge removes Riviera Beach candidates from March ballot, one councilman wants law changed

Floridian: Waltz Calls TikTok 'Great Platform,' Says Trump Will 'Preserve It'

FlaPol: Ashley Moody is already prepping for 2026 contest, with a committee ready to raise cash

FlaPol: Mike Waltz backs Randy Fine as CD 6 replacement

News4JAX: Early voting begins Saturday in special election to replace Rep. Michael Waltz

FlaPol: 'A man of integrity': Matt Gaetz predecessor Jeff Miller endorses Jimmy Patronis for CD 1

FlaPol: Joe Gruters elected as Treasurer of Republican National Committee

Times: Former state Rep. Carolina Amesty charged with COVID-19 relief fraud

Floridian: 'Nickel Boys' Movie, Based on Florida's Abusive Dozier School, Launches in Tallahassee

[WUSF: Challenge to Florida's age verification law for porn sites has been halted](#)

[Ledger: Fire at Imperial Swan Hotel leaves Hurricane Milton refugees with 'no place to go'](#)

[AP: Florida hotel discriminated against Arab American group after Hamas attack, Justice Department says](#)

[Gainesville Sun: Gainesville man sentenced for vandalizing City Hall, Old Library Building](#)

[WLRN: 'Putting it to work': FPL, Miami-Dade aim to reduce aquifer water usage at Turkey Point](#)

[FlaPol: Glen Gilzean's lawsuit against Orange County comes with \\$41,500 price tag](#)

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