



The Briefing for February 3, 2025

The Last Briefing was January 31, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

Governor DeSantis' Budget Released

[2025-Governors-Bill.pdf](#)

This link is word searchable – you can **Ctrl F** and type in a word, term, name to see if it is recommended for funding.

[Education Funding - Summary Report.pdf](#)

This provide an overview of the recommended budget 26-27

Legislative Calendar Set Calendar for Next Week

[House Daily Calendar for the Week of Feb 3-7](#)

[Senate Calendar for Week of Feb 3-7](#)

Senate Committees to Focus on Regional Education Consortia

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 - Senate Education Pre-K - 12: 11:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.,

Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building:

(MEMBERS: Senator Simon, Chair; Senator Calatayud, Vice Chair; Senators Berman, Burgess, Collins, Davis, Gaetz, Thompson, and Yarborough)

Agenda

- 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

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 - Senate Appropriations on Pre-K-12 Ed.: 1:15-2:45 p.m.,

Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building:

(MEMBERS: Senator Burgess, Chair; Senator Thompson, Vice Chair; Senators Bradley, Calatayud, Fine, Gaetz, Jones, Osgood, Simon, and Yarborough)

Agenda

- Program Review - District Support Programs - Assistance to Low Performing Schools; School District Education Foundation Matching Grants; Regional Literacy Teams
- Program Review - Regional Education Consortia

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

Adopted Legislative Programs for 2025 Legislative Session

Both the Small School District Council Consortium (SSDCC) and the Small County Coalition have adopted Legislative Programs for the 2025 Session. We encourage utilization of the information included to support your local legislative effort. Also listed below the adopted legislative programs are ‘Higher-Level’ issues of concern in Florida’s small counties and school districts . Feel free to cut an paste sections or text, if that will help you express support for those items included.

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

Providing Flexibility in the School Start Time Mandate
Offset impact of Sharing 1.5 millage revenues
Addressing Acceleration Issues
Funding for the Special Facility Construction Account Program
Provide a substantial increase in funding to the School Transportation Formula
Recovery from impacts of hurricanes on district facilities and enrollment
Support for the Regional Education Consortia program.

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

Unrestricted Determination of Local Elected Officials
Solar Facilities on Agricultural Lands
Hurricane Relief
Increased Funding for Small County Road Programs
Stability and Sustainability of funding for Fiscally Constrained Counties
Enhance Funding in Key Programs

Headlines Around the State

Monday - FEB. 3, 2025

[NBC 6: Rubio says Panama must reduce Chinese influence around the canal area or the US will act](#)

[The Hill: Rubio warns Panama over canal, saying current status is unacceptable](#)

[Bloomberg: Panama Offers Concessions to US After Rubio Meets President](#)

[FlaPol: Marco Rubio says that if we don't control Greenland, China will](#)

[WLRN: Florida Democrats demand Trump not deport Venezuelans with 'Temporary Protected Status'](#)

[Herald: Miami Republicans trust Trump as new administration reengages with Maduro in Venezuela](#)

[FlaPol: Rick Scott bills target human trafficking, China](#)

[Bloomberg: UK's Lammy to Meet Rubio to Discuss Chagos Deal, Telegraph Says](#)

[FlaPol: S&P study shows Florida had nominal increase in homeowners insurance rates](#)

[Sentinel: 'Floridians need to pay attention.' Are we prepared for federal cuts to our health care?](#)

[FlaPol: Ballard Partners hires Debbie Wasserman Schultz's former Chief of Staff](#)

[WUSF: After Trump pardon, here are Florida defendants with Jan. 6 ties still facing legal woes](#)

[Politico: Florida Republicans just declared war on each other](#)

[WUSF: Florida legislators on their contentious immigration bill and the feud with DeSantis](#)

[Democrat: Can Florida Democrats rebuild voter support for 2026 and beyond?](#)

[FlaPol: Hillsborough Commissioner wants Legislature to eliminate Sunshine Law for County Commissioners](#)

[Post: How Everglades National Park came to preserve the great 'River of Grass'](#)

[Today: Record number of young manatees died in Florida in 2024](#)

[My News 13: Florida bill would provide standardized tests in multiple languages](#)

[The Capitolist: Economic forecast: interest rates, inflation to test Florida's momentum](#)

[FlaPol: Florida Chamber bullish on economic outlook for state in 2025](#)

[WUSF: What baseball in Orlando could mean for the Tampa Bay Rays](#)

[Today: Brevard to ask Space Florida for \\$130M for improvements to wastewater plant](#)

[WUSF: Red tide spreads along the Southwest Florida coast from Tampa Bay to Key West](#)

[The Capitolist: Lockheed Martin to build new facility in Florida, creating 300 jobs](#)

On the Docket

Monday – February 3, 2025

Legislature:

- ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES PANEL - Monday, 3:30 p.m. - The Joint Administrative Procedures Committee will take up issues involving the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Environmental Protection. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- EDUCATION AUDITS - Monday, 3:30 p.m. - The Joint Legislative Auditing Committee will receive a presentation about audits of universities, colleges and school boards. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- ELECTION QUALIFYING STARTS - Monday, 8 a.m. - A candidate-qualifying period will start in special elections Senate District 19 in Brevard County and House District 3 in Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties. The seats became open when Sen. Randy Fine, R-Brevard County, and former Rep. Joel Rudman, R-Navarre, submitted their resignations to run in special elections for congressional seats. Primary elections will be held April 1, with general elections on June 10, if needed.
- EASTERN FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Monday, 10:30 a.m. - The Eastern Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Eastern Florida State College, Public Safety Institute, 3865 North Wickham Road, Melbourne.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

— Legislature:

- HURRICANE MITIGATION - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Banking and Insurance Committee will receive presentations on hurricane and flood mitigation. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Commerce Committee will hold a panel discussion on manufacturing. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- CAREER, TECHNICAL ED - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Education Postsecondary Committee will receive presentations about career and technical education. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- ELECTION ISSUES - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee will receive an overview from elections supervisors about the 2024 elections and 2025 legislative priorities. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- RULEMAKING - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The House Government Operations Subcommittee will receive an overview of administrative rulemaking. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS - Tuesday, 9 a.m. Description: The House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee will receive an overview of agriculture programs and issues. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CORRECTIONS, JUVENILE JUSTICE - Tuesday, 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.
- STUDENT ATHLETES - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The House Student Academic Success Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 151), filed by Rep. Shane Abbott, R-DeFuniak Springs, that would expand the ability of private-school students to participate in sports at public and private schools that are members of the Florida High School Athletic Association. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CITRUS INDUSTRY - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Agriculture Committee will receive an update about the citrus industry. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- HURRICANE SEASON - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Community Affairs Committee will receive a presentation by the state Division of Emergency Management about the 2024 hurricane season. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- RURAL SCHOOLS - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee will hold a panel discussion with rural school superintendents. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- DERELICT VESSELS - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee will receive a presentation from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission about derelict vessels. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- LAWMAKERS GO TO SUPREME COURT - Tuesday, 12:30 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 - Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. - The House Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee and the Senate Health Policy Committee will receive presentations about the state's medical-marijuana program. - House meeting at 12:30 p.m. in Reed Hall, House Office Building. Senate meeting at 1:45 p.m. in 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- CITIZENS INSURANCE - Tuesday, 12:30 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.
- JUVENILE JUSTICE - Tuesday, 1:45 p.m. - The Senate Criminal Justice Committee will receive a presentation from the Department of Juvenile Justice. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- DOMESTIC SECURITY - Tuesday, 1:45 p.m. - The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will receive presentations about domestic security. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

- KIDCARE ELIGIBILITY - Tuesday, 3 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.
- SCHOOL SAFETY - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The House Education Administration Subcommittee will hold panel discussions about school safety and a statewide early warning system. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- MY SAFE FLORIDA HOME - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The House State Administration Budget Subcommittee will receive an update on the My Safe Florida Home program, which provides money to help residents harden their homes. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Tuesday, 3 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.
- DCF TECHNOLOGY - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee will receive a presentation about technology systems modernization at the Department of Children and Families. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- ILLEGAL GAMBLING - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Regulated Industries Committee will receive a presentation about illegal gambling. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- TRAIL PROGRAM - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Transportation Committee will receive an update from the Department of Transportation about what is known as the Shared-Use Nonmotorized, or SUN, Trail Program. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol

— **Also:**

- HD 32 QUALIFYING STARTS - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - A candidate-qualifying period will start in a special election in Brevard County's House District 32. The special election will be held because Rep. Debbie Mayfield, R-Melbourne, is running in a special election in Senate District 19. The primary election will be held April 1, with a general election on June 10, if needed.
- 'TANF' PROGRAM - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will analyze caseloads and expenditures in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- UTILITY ISSUES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission will consider proposals by Duke Energy Florida and Tampa Electric Co. to collect more than \$1.55 billion from customers to cover hurricane-related costs and replenish storm reserves. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- FAU TRUSTEES MEET - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees will hold committee meetings, followed by a full board meeting. - Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. <https://www.fau.edu/bot>
- MEDICAL EXAMINERS - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The state Medical Examiners Commission will meet. - Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, 1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary.
- GEOLOGISTS BOARD - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Board of Professional Geologists will meet. - Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 659910157
- SD 19, HD 3 QUALIFYING ENDS - Tuesday, noon. - A candidate-qualifying period will end in special elections in Senate District 19 in Brevard County and House District 3 in Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties. The seats opened when Sen. Randy Fine, R-Brevard County, and former Rep. Joel Rudman, R-Navarre, submitted their resignations to run in special elections for congressional seats. Primary elections will be held April 1, with general elections on June 10, if needed.

- FLORIDA DEMOGRAPHICS ANALYZED - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Demographic Estimating Conference will discuss a state demographic forecast. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Tampa Bay Area Refugee Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/tampa-bay-refugee-task-force-meeting>

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

— Legislature:

- LAWMAKERS VISIT TECHNICAL COLLEGE - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee will visit Lively Technical College. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- LAND PROGRAM - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee will receive a presentation about the state’s Rural and Family Lands Protection Program. - 314 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 receive updates about information-technology projects. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SENTENCING ISSUES - Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. - The House Criminal Justice Subcommittee will discuss sentencing issues related to prisons and probation. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- MENTAL HEALTH - Wednesday, 12:30 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.
- AGE RESTRICTIONS - Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. - The House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee will hold a panel discussion about protecting minors from “age restricted products.” - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- COUNTY BUDGETS - Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. - The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee will receive an overview of county budget procedures. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- DISTRICT SUPPORT PROGRAMS - Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. - The Senate Pre-K-12 Education Appropriations Committee will receive a review of district support programs. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- FEMA REIMBURSEMENTS - Wednesday, 1:15 p.m. - The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will receive a review about the Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement process. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- DERELICT VESSELS - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee will receive a review about a state derelict-vessel removal program. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- STATE COURT SYSTEM - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will receive a review related to the state court system. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

- CAREER AND TECHNICAL ED - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee will receive a review of career and technical education initiatives. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- STATE TAXES - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Senate Finance and Tax Committee will receive an overview of state taxes. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee will receive presentations about emergency management from the Department of Commerce, the Department of Transportation and the Division of Emergency Management. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- EDUCATION FUNDING - Wednesday, 3 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 public schools. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The House Human Services Subcommittee will hold a workshop about employment of people with developmental disabilities. - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- PRISON MONEY PROPOSED - Wednesday, 5 p.m. - The Joint Legislative Budget Commission will take up a series of issues, including a proposal to provide \$8.2 million for Florida National Guard members to continue working at state prisons because of a shortage of correctional officers. - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- JUSTICES HEAR INSURANCE DISPUTE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in five cases, including a dispute about a 2021 law that placed additional hurdles to filing lawsuits against property insurers. The dispute centers on whether part of the law could apply to policies issued before the law took effect. A panel of the 6th District Court of Appeal in 2023 agreed with attorneys for Collier County homeowner Rebecca Hughes, whose home sustained water damage in 2019 but who did not file a lawsuit against Universal Property Insurance & Casualty Insurance Co. over the claim until August 2021 — about a month after the law took effect. The panel said the disputed part of the law, which requires homeowners to give a 10-day notice before filing lawsuits against property insurers, did not apply retroactively to policies issued earlier. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- 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
- HD 32 QUALIFYING ENDS - Wednesday, noon. - A candidate-qualifying period will end in a special election in Brevard County’s House District 32. The special election will be held because Rep. Debbie Mayfield, R-Melbourne, is running in a special election in Senate District 19. A primary election is scheduled April 1, with a general election on June 10, if needed.
- MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES - Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. - The state Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/commission-mental-health-and-substance-use-disorder>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025

— Legislature:

- INFORMATION HANDLING - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The House Security & Threat Assessment Committee will receive a closed-door briefing on handling “sensitive” information. - 12 House Office Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK BOARD - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling will meet. - The Florida Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando.
- JUSTICES WEIGH PRISON MURDER CASE - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in four cases, including an appeal by Death Row inmate Michael Lawrence Woodbury, who was convicted of murdering another prisoner in 2017 at Okeechobee Correctional Institution. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- VALENCIA COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Valencia College Board of Trustees will meet. - Valencia College, West Campus, 1800 South Kirkman Road, Orlando.
- NORTHEAST COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet. - Jessie Ball DuPont Center, 40 East Adams St., Jacksonville. <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>. Meeting ID: 87499770491
- AUCTIONEERS BOARD - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Board of Auctioneers will meet. - Call-in number: 1-571-317-3116. Code: 393437037
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- NURSING BOARD - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida Board of Nursing will meet. - Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach, 117 Vilano Road, St. Augustine.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

- BOARD OF MEDICINE - Friday, 8 a.m. - The Florida Board of Medicine will meet. - Aloft Jacksonville Tapestry Park, 4812 Deer Lake Dr. West, Jacksonville.
- PHYSICAL THERAPISTS - Friday, 8 a.m. - The Florida Board of Physical Therapy will meet. - Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach, 117 Vilano Road, St. Augustine.
- NURSING BOARD - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Nursing will meet. - Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach, 117 Vilano Road, St. Augustine.
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association Board of Directors is scheduled to meet. - Opal Key Hotel, 245 Front St., Key West.
- HISTORICAL PANEL - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Historical Commission will meet. - R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough St., Tallahassee. <https://dosmyflorida.zoom.us/j/85035635618?pwd=MbqZdov6aCJMoj1inbziZCx2gEvdYX.1>. Meeting ID: 85035635618. Code: 63032
- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE HELD - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES - Friday, 2 p.m. - The state Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder will meet. - <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/commission-mental-health-and-substance-use-disorder-0>

Mark Your Calendars

2025

- 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

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