



*Week 1
of the
2025 Florida
Legislature*



The Briefing for March 6, 2025

The Last Briefing was March 2, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

Make Your Plans and Register Where Required

If you're coming to Tallahassee - Book your hotel - [Tallahassee Hotels .docx](#)

Tuesday – March 18 -

*Small County Coalition Legislative Welcome Reception
5:15pm-7:00pm*

Florida Headquarters American Institute of Architects – 104 E. Jefferson St

Wednesday – March 19

*Small School District Council Consortium Special Briefing
9:45am-11:15am*

Hayward House - 228.Adams Street

Wednesday – March 19

Florida Association of Counties Legislative Days

**Briefing – Lobbying – Reception
Registration Required**

Wednesday /Thursday – March 19-20

Florida School Boards Association Legislative Days

**Link provides information and schedule
Registration Required**

Rural County Days -2025 – March 19 – 20

Link for Registration, Information and Schedule

Reception – March 19

Displays and Fish Fry in the Capitol Courtyard – March 20

Calendars for Next Week

House Calendar for Week 1 and 2

Senate Calendar for Week 1 and 2

Link to Opening Day Speeches

[Senate President Ben Albritton Opening Day 2025 Remarks as Prepared](#)

[Florida House Speaker Perez's Opening Day Address: Remarks as Prepared for Delivery](#)

[Governor Ron DeSantis Delivers State of the State Address](#)

Reduction/Elimination of Property Taxes Receiving Focus

 [2025 Session to Explore Reducing - Eliminating Property Tax .docx](#)

As you may have heard, a variety of bills proposing to reduce or study the elimination of property tax have been filed. This week the Senate Finance and Tax Committee received a presentation about property taxes. [Senate Finance and Tax Committee - Property Tax Overview](#)

Local Governments need to start developing impacts relating to reduction or elimination of property tax would effect the local community. This should be taken as a serious initiative. What services are supported by your local ad valorem?

Major Issues from Week 1

Rural Renaissance - [Senate Bill 110 - Rural Renaissance](#) - by Sen. Simon was approved in first Committee – Community Affairs [An almost identical companion bill - HB 1427 - By Rep Griffiths was filed in the House.](#) [Here's the Staff Analysis of SB 110](#)

School Start Time - [Senate Bill 296 by Sen. Bradley](#) - passed the Senate PreK-12 committee. The companion bill is HB 261 by Gerwig has yet to be heard. These bills seem to have traction – we are hopeful. Please comment positively about this issue with your legislators. [Staff Analysis of SB 296](#)

SB 166 – [Ed Efficiencies](#) - No companion yet. This bill is a priority known as “Dereg. Part 2”. It will be one to watch all session has good stuff. - [Here's the staff analysis](#)

HB 123 - [Ed Administration and Charter School Conversion](#). Its companion is [SB 140 by Gaetz](#). This one we need to watch carefully. [Here's the staff analysis for HB 123](#)

Regional Planning Councils – [HB 1125 is causing some concern amongst the RPC's!](#) Companion bill [SB 1264 \(2025\) - Rural and Urban Business Enterprises](#)

Bills Regulating Solar Fields filed in both the Senate and the House–[SB 1304 by Bradley and HB 1595 by Koster](#) are identical. The bills authorize the county to adopt ordinance requiring that certain solar facilities be properly decommissioned; authorizes county to presume that solar facility has reached end of its useful life; authorizes county to require certain financial assurance & certain updates from solar facility owner; authorizes county to take action to complete decommissioning of solar facility. ***These bills provide oversight of location and decommissioning of Solar Fields. It is a priority of the Small County Coalition.***

Legislator Contacts

<https://www.flhouse.gov/representatives>

<https://flsenate.gov/Senators>

Headlines From The Weekend

[*Politico: Florida's universities find themselves in the DOGE house*](#)

[FlaPol: Pam Bondi touts success over terrorists, international gangs during first month as Attorney General](#)

[FlaPol: Byron Donalds bucks NRCC, commits to town hall](#)

[Democrat: Minimum wage vs. living wage in Florida? How much per hour you need to earn for basic needs](#)

[TCPalm: Indian River County school superintendent among four finalists for national award Thursday](#)

[FlaPol: Blocked shots: Gov. DeSantis urges permanent ban on vaccine mandates](#)

[WUSF: Florida Senate panel backs a bill on compensation for those wrongfully incarcerated](#)

[News4JAX: 'Accountability and parity': Florida legislators considering bill to undo law involving wrongful death lawsuits](#)

[Democrat: Start of Lent marked with Ash Wednesday at the Florida Capitol](#)

[The Capitolist: Rep. Chamberlin Renews Legislative Push to Phase Out Property Taxes in Florida](#)

[FlaPol: FloridaCommerce urging small and rural governments to apply for \\$38M in revitalization funds](#)

[The Capitolist: Florida Senate committee approves stolen valor bill for public officials](#)

[Herald: Stricter term limits for office? Proposal could topple Miami's political dynasties](#)

On the Docket

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025

— Legislature:

- **SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION** - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate will hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- **OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS**
 - House Justice Budget Subcommittee (8:30 a.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - Senate Appropriations Committee (9 a.m., 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - Senate Fiscal Policy Committee (9 a.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Government Operations Subcommittee (9 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee (9 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Student Academic Success Subcommittee (9 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Health Care Budget Subcommittee (1 p.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee (1 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee (1 p.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Criminal Justice Subcommittee (1 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

Also:

- **GAMBLING ISSUES** - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.

- PRE-K PROGRAM - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference will analyze issues in the voluntary pre-kindergarten program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL READINESS - Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference will discuss school readiness programs. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- INSURANCE CLAIMS - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The Claims Committee of the Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Board of Governors will meet. - <https://www.citizensfla.com/public-meetings>. Call-in number: 1-786-635-1003. Code: 98593216531

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

- ETHICS PANEL - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Ethics will take up a series of issues, including a case involving Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony. - 1st District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee.
- TRUST FUNDS - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss “outlooks” for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund and the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves analyzing potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- COLLEGE ENROLLMENT - Friday, 2 p.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will analyze enrollment in the Florida college system. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- OPTICIAN ISSUES - Friday, 2 p.m. - The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. - Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 965024285

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