



*Day 10!
50 to go!*



The Briefing for March 13, 2025

The Last Briefing was March 9, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

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

Scheduled Activities for Next Week

Tuesday – March 18th –

- **5:15pm-7:00pm - Small County Coalition Legislative Reception** - American Institute of Architects Florida Headquarters - 104 E. Jefferson St., Tallahassee – Open Event for County Commissioners and Staff – Also welcome School Board members in town for FSBA meetings and training.

Wednesday – March 19th –

- **8:00am-10:00am – Florida Association of Counties – Legislative Briefing** – Challenger Learning Center. 200 South Duval St.
- **9:45am-11:15am - Small School District Council Consortium - Legislative Briefing** - - The Hayward House – 228 Adams Street - School Board members and Supts attending Legislative Days in the Capitol
- **11:30 -Noon -Senate Chamber - A Visit with Senate Leadership** - The Senate Chamber is reserved for small county elected commissioners and school officials to visit with rural Senators that do not have conflicts. Senate President Albritton is tentatively scheduled to meet with the Small County Electeds.
- **5:15—6:15pm - Florida School Boards Association Reception**—The Governors Club— 202 S. Adams St.
- **5:30-7:30PM – Florida Association of Counties Legislative Reception** – At Eve on Adams – the bar at the top of the DoubleTree. 101 S. Adams St.
- **6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Rural Counties Day Opening Reception** –Networking Reception Grande Ballroom on the 3rd Floor of the Dunlap Champions Club at Doak Campbell Stadium, 225 Champions Way.

Thursday, March 20th –

- **10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. - Rural Counties Day** - - Florida State Capitol Courtyard from–

- **11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Rural Counties Day Fish Fry** - Luncheon Provided by Posey's Restaurant

Major Issues

All of the following Issues are Significant – Some will have positive impacts others Not So Much!

Rural Renaissance – [Senate Bill 110](#) and [HB 1427](#) – [Staff Analysis of SB 110](#)

County Commission/Schools Board Term Limits – [SB 802](#) and [HJR 679](#)

Property Tax Issues - - [Property Tax Overview](#) - [Property Tax Bills 2025](#)

Affordable Housing – [HB 247](#) and [SB 184](#) - [Staff Analysis of SB 184](#)

Sovereign Immunity – [HB 301](#) and [SB 1570](#) – [Analysis of Sovereign Immunity Legislation](#)

Regional Planning Councils – - [HB 1125](#) and [SB 1264](#)

Solar Fields – [SB 1304](#) and [HB 1595](#)

Private Provider Inspection Services – [HB 695](#) and [SB 1474](#)

Affordable Housing – [SB 1730](#) and [HB 943](#)

Agriculture – [SB 700](#) and [HB 651](#)

School Start Time - [SB 296](#) and [HB 261](#)

Elected Superintendents and Elimination of At Large Seats – [SJR 1454](#) and [HJR 1263](#)

Efficiency in Public Schools – [SB 166](#) – *No House Companion*

Hazardous Walking Conditions – [SB 650](#) and [HB 85](#) [HB 85](#)

School Safety – [SB 1470](#) and [HB 1403](#)

Family Empowerment – [SB 508](#) and [HB 423](#)

Private School Student Participation In Interscholastic and Intrascholastic Extracurricular Sports

SB 248 and HB 151

Administrative Efficiency in Public Schools -SB 166 -Staff Analysis of SB 166

Hazardous Walking Conditions - CS/HB 85 and SB 650 -Staff Analysis of HB 85

***Charter School Conversion – Limitations on Surplus Land and Land Purchase
-CS/HB 123 and SB 140 - Staff Analysis of CS/HB 123***

Diabetes Management in Schools - CS/HB 597 and SB 772 -Staff Analysis of HB 597

Legislator Contacts

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

<https://flsenate.gov/Senators>

Calendars for Weeks 2 and 3

House Calendar for Weeks 2 and 3

Senate Calendar for Weeks 2 and 3

Headlines Around The State

Times: In TV ad, Florida CFO touts 'largest' insurance fine that he didn't support
WLRN: Florida Surgeon General recommends Miami-Dade stop adding fluoride to municipal drinking water

WUSF: Miami-Dade commissioners cast doubt on Ladapo's evidence against water fluoridation

Herald: Florida's surgeon general gets a lukewarm reception in Miami on his fluoride fight

Herald: Florida cops can now report their bosses for immigration enforcement failures

WUSF: Medically Unnecessary: Kids with complex needs moved to state insurance that doesn't help

Post: Hantavirus found in Florida cotton rats. Here's what you should know

FlaPol: Byron Donalds wants to fix the insurance market. But Gov. DeSantis says things are improving already

CBS Miami: Florida lawmakers push to replace Lt. Governor with "efficiency commissioner"

The Capitolist: Florida House Panel Advances Proposal to Eliminate Lieutenant Governor, Restructure Executive Branch

CBS Miami: Florida bill moves to ban fluoride in local water supplies

Democrat: Lawmaker wants to boost manufacturing with a 'Fresh from Florida' flavor

WUSF: Florida lawmakers advance school changes: phone bans, required cursive, no later start mandate

[Floridian: Senate Panel Advances Legislation to Repeal Ban on Firearm, Ammunition Purchases During State of Emergency](#)

[News4JAX: 'Making it official': Florida is one step closer to enshrining 'Gulf of America' in law](#)

[WLRN: Florida Legislature push to increase benefits for the State and National Guard](#)

[Democrat: DeSantis orders flags to half-staff Thursday for Sen. Geraldine Thompson](#)

[FlaPol: Senate Republican leaders back Lauren Melo's bid in SD 28](#)

[FlaPol: Don Gaetz's affordable housing bill advances through committee](#)

[Democrat: Florida animal abusers may soon show up on a statewide list. What to know about SB 494](#)

[FlaPol: Robin Bartleman's Family Empowerment Scholarship bill advances](#)

[FlaPol: Adam Anderson's Sunshine Genetics Act advances, offering promise for rare disease research and treatment](#)

[WLRN: People with developmental disabilities visit the Florida Legislature to raise awareness](#)

[FlaPol: Bill pitting sea turtles vs. Americans for Prosperity advances in House](#)

[WLRN: Major Miami project moves forward with d WSJ: In Trump's Washington, It Pays to Be From Florida](#)

[The Hill: Trump pushes detente between Musk and Rubio](#)

[Herald: A look at Florida cities that have agreed to help find, arrest undocumented immigrants](#)

[WLRN: Florida seeks drug prescription data with names of patients and doctors](#)

[Democrat: National wildlife refuge workers in Florida hit by President Trump, DOGE firings](#)

[WLRN: South Florida national parks celebrated resurging attendance before Trump layoffs](#)

[FlaPol: Mike Pence to headline Forum Club of the Palm Beaches luncheon](#)

[FlaPol: Florida sees jobless claims drop for third week in a row](#)

[Herald: DeSantis wants to eliminate property taxes. Is it realistic?](#)

[FlaPol: Republicans want to stop Gov. DeSantis from spending taxpayer money to fight ballot initiatives](#)

[WUSF: Senate bill to restrict Florida's ballot initiative process also bars using state funds for advocacy](#)

[Yahoo News: Some workers could get paid less than minimum wage under bill moving in Florida Legislature](#)

[My News 13: Proposed state bill would provide universal free breakfast and lunch for Florida's public school students](#)

[News4JAX: Florida legislators considering 15 bills to revive program that helps homeowners with storm prep work](#)

[FlaPol: Kevin Guthrie has clocked in 30 years to earn role leading Florida's emergency response](#)

[FlaPol: Big Bend lawmakers back bills to block oil drilling and exploration](#)

[Democrat: Lawmakers push to ban oil drilling near Apalachicola Bay](#)

[*Times: Proposal would change who can sit on Florida's top wildlife board*](#)
[*Democrat: Neighbor's tree falls on your property? New Florida bill would make them pay for damages*](#)

On the Docket

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

— Legislature:

- LATE SENATOR HONORED - Thursday, noon, - The Senate will hold a memorial service for Sen. Geraldine Thompson, an Orange County Democrat who died last month at age 76. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS
 - House Ways & Means Committee (8 a.m., 404 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 Education & Employment Committee (10 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Judiciary Committee (10 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House State Affairs Committee (10 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee (1 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee (1 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee (1 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
 - House Rules & Ethics Committee (6:30 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

— Also:

- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach. https://sfwmd.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0HC-ryluQWKR1pyLXG47Fg#/registration
- VALENCIA COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Valencia College Board of Trustees will meet. Valencia College, Osceola Campus, 1800 Denn John Lane, Kissimmee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- WATER DISTRICT HOLDS OPEN HOUSE - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The South Florida Water Management District will hold an open house that will focus on the annual South Florida Environmental Report. South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach.
- MEDICAID DRUGS - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The state Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board will meet. <https://primetherapeutics.zoom.us/j/83897124401>
- FLORIDA GATEWAY TRUSTEES - Thursday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Gateway College Board of Trustees will meet. Florida Gateway College, Administration Building, Lake City.
- POSSIBLE BEAR HUNT - - Thursday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold an online meeting about the possibility of holding a bear hunt. Members of the public can go to MyFWC.com/Hunting and click "Florida black bear."

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025

— Legislature:

- INSURANCE & BANKING - Friday, 8 a.m. - The House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee is scheduled to meet. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- JUDICIAL CANDIDATES - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The 6th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview applicants for a circuit judgeship. Applicants scheduled to be interviewed are Natalie Scruggs, Elizabeth Constantine, Della Cope, Geoffrey Cox, Cornelius Demps, Kevin Elmore, Nick Fiorentino,

Olivier Lindemann, Patrick Moore, Mark Robens, Amber Sherwood and Kathryn Spurlock. St. Petersburg College, 2465 Drew St., Clearwater.

- PREFERRED DRUG LIST - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The state Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee will discuss recommendations for a preferred drug list in the Medicaid program. <https://primetherapeutics.zoom.us/j/81373738996>
- GENERAL REVENUE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will update projections of general revenue, which plays a major role in funding schools, health care and prisons. Location; 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- OPTOMETRY BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Optometry will meet. Information at <https://floridasoptometry.gov/meeting-information/>
- HEARING AID ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists will meet. Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 301372760
- PENCE TO SPEAK IN PALM BEACH - Friday, noon. - Former Vice President Mike Pence will speak to the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.

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