



It's Budget Time!

Legislative Session - Week 4 – Day 24 – 36 days to go!

The Briefing for March 27, 2025

The Last Briefing was March 22, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

Legislative Calendars

[Florida House Calendar for Today and the next few days](#)

[The Calendar for the Florida Senate](#)

It's Showtime for School Start Time Repeal

Both House and Senate bills have passed all committees and are ready for final action.

Today, the Senate is in Session beginning at 9:00am – on the Special Order Agenda is SB 296, by Senator Jennifer Bradley, repealing the mandated school start time legislation that passed in 2023. SB 296's House Companion – HB 261 by Rep. Gerwig passed its final committee yesterday and is on the House 2nd Reading Calendar. Great job folks!

Budget and Bills

House and Senate Appropriation Subcommittees Chairs Reveal Budget Proposals

Spreadsheets include local project request recommendations

This week the Legislative Appropriation Process kicked into full gear with the release of legislative budget subcommittee Chairs proposed budgets. The “spreadsheets” outlined funding recommendations that will combined into proposed House and Senate budgets for consideration by the full House and Senate. The proposals are different and can be hard to interpret, in that some program funding is in the “base” and does not show up on a spreadsheet. Next week, more detailed documents will be revealed. Subcommittee Chairs also revealed Proposed Committee Bills called “Conforming” bills that propose changes to statutes necessary to implement the budget proposals. Here are links to the [Chairs' Budget Proposals](#).

House Appropriations Subcommittee Proposals

- [Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee](#)
- [Health Care Budget Subcommittee](#)
- [Higher Education Budget Subcommittee](#)

- [Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee](#)
- [Justice Budget Subcommittee](#)
- [PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee](#)
 - [Staff Analysis of Subcommittee proposed Changes to School Funding](#)
- [State Administration Budget Subcommittee - expected 3/27/25](#)
- [Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee - expected 3/27/25](#)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Proposals

- [Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government](#)
- [Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice](#)
- [Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services](#)
- [Appropriations Committee on Higher Education](#)
- [Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education](#)
- [Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development](#)

Note -

1. Budget proposals include recommended project funding.
2. PreK-12 budget proposals include an FEFP overview sheet showing

House Speaker Proposed Reducing Sales Tax from 6% to 5.25% **A move that will reduced state revenue by \$5 Billion**

House Speaker Daniel Perez announced yesterday that he wants to lower the state's sales-tax rate, trimming revenue by almost \$5 billion a year. Perez directed the Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee to produce a bill that would lower the state sales tax rate from 6 to 5.25 percent. Slowing state spending has been a stated priority for the House Speaker – the reduction in sales tax will be tied to a reduction in slowing of state spending. Without a state income tax, Florida relies heavily on sales taxes to fund programs such as schools, health care and prisons. While the state has a 6 percent rate, many counties have higher rates through what is known as a “discretionary” sales tax. As part of budget negotiations, the House and Senate are expected to reach a deal on a tax-cut package

House Overrides 4 more DeSantis Vetoes

During a floor session Wednesday, the House unanimously voted to override four of DeSantis' budget vetoes from the current year's spending plan. Those vetoes totaled \$4.74 million.

The four vetoed items were –

- \$140,000 for the Florida Senior Veterans in Crisis Fund;
- \$2.5 million for a Rockledge water-treatment project;

- \$1 million for an automated staffing, time management and scheduling system; and
- \$1.104 million for a sewer and water project in Baldwin.

During a special session in February, the House and Senate overrode a DeSantis veto of \$57 million for “legislative support services” --- the first time the Legislature has overridden a DeSantis veto during his six years as governor. The actions to override will have to be approved by the Senate before vetoed funds are restored.

Legislator Contacts

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

<https://flsenate.gov/Senators>

Major Issues

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](#)

Local Option Sales Tax –[SB 1664](#)and [HB 1221](#)

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 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](#)

Headlines Around The State

[FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis' DOGE to dive into university DEI, administration](#)

[FlaPol: Florida could soon acknowledge Holocaust Remembrance Day to fight back against antisemitism](#)

[Times: How COVID changed Florida in 5 years](#)

[Post: Draining the Everglades began in the 1880s; saving it continues.](#)

[Post: STAs and FEBs are crucial for Everglades restoration. What are they?](#)

[TCPalm: Sugar companies lose lawsuit against Army Corps over EAA Reservoir](#)

[Times-Union: Do you live in Florida? Report says this is the income you need to be financially stable in these 2 cities](#)

[Sentinel: Food bank in crisis mode after federal cuts cancel food deliveries](#)

[WLRN: UM study finds recipe for restoration of elkhorn coral colonies](#)

[Yahoo News: Florida residents would pay \\$5 billion less in sales taxes under House speaker's plan](#)

[Sentinel: Florida House Speaker proposes historic, permanent state sales tax cut](#)

[NBC 6: Florida House approves repealing law blocking people under 21 from buying rifles](#)

[FlaPol: As part of 'Rural Renaissance,' Senate appropriators slot \\$200M for Florida's citrus industry](#)

[WLRN: Florida legislators want to rewrite rules on wetlands banking, weakening restoration efforts](#)

[FlaPol: Fit for print: House passes bill requiring 5th graders to prove they can read, write cursive](#)

[Democrat: Where's the money? Florida seeks to better track school voucher funds at private schools](#)

[NWF Daily News: Walton County beach access bill clears another hurdle in Florida Senate](#)

On the Docket

THURSDAY MARCH 27, 2025

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee (8 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee (8 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Budget Committee (12:30 p.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Ways & Means Committee (12:30 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

- Senate Appropriations Committee (1 p.m., 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Fiscal Policy Committee (1 p.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Education Administration Subcommittee (3:30 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee (3:30 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House State Administration Budget Subcommittee (3:30 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee (3:30 p.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Rules & Ethics Committee (7 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

— Also:

- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY - Thursday will be STEM Day at the Florida Capitol, as groups tout science, technology, engineering and math.
- APALACHEE COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Apalachee Regional Planning Council is scheduled to meet. - Apalachee Regional Planning Council, 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100, Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL - Thursday, 7 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. - Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Blvd., Lake City. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 477800085

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.

Also:

- HOUSING - Friday, 8 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - AC Hotel by Marriott Tallahassee Universities at the Capitol, 801 South Gadsden St., Tallahassee.
- UF TRUSTEES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The University of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - University of Florida, Emerson Alumni Hall, Gainesville.
- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- JOBLESS REPORT RELEASED - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Department of Commerce will release a February unemployment report.
- FIU TRUSTEES - Friday, 11 a.m. - The Florida International University Board of Trustees will meet. - Information at <https://calendar.fiu.edu/event/bot-meeting-20250328>

- SELF-INSURERS PANEL - Friday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Self-Insurers Guaranty Association Board of Directors is scheduled to meet. - Florida Self-Insurers Guaranty Association, 1427 East Piedmont Dr., Tallahassee.

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

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