



The Briefing for Tuesday - April 29, 2025

The Last Briefing was April 27, 2025 .

***Legislative Session – Three Days Remain In Regular Session
No question the Session will not finish on time.***

What's the weather outlook?

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



Liberty County School District Supt. Kyle Peddie will be doing the Invocation in the Senate this Thursday – Tune into [The Florida Channel](#) and watch The Pastor take us to higher ground! He's also a really talented singer and guitar player.

The Calendar!

The House Calendar

The Senate Calendar

Three Days Left !

Extended Time will happen to resolve the budget and tax plan.

School Start Time Repealed

This afternoon SB 296 repealing the School Start Time Mandate passed the House floor!

The vote on the House floor was unanimous.
[Analysis of New School Start Time Legislation - Repeals Mandated Start times!](#)

No agreement yet on Tax Plan – However Speaker Perez announced the creation of a Select Committee on Property Tax. This may clear the way for moving forward on tax plan.

The committee will be tasked with reviewing the current state of property taxes in Florida and exploring proposals to reduce the financial burden on homeowners. The Select Committee on Property Taxes is expected to hold its first meeting on Thursday, May 1st. The Select Committee will begin its work by exploring a variety of potential reforms, including:

- Requiring every city, county, and special district to hold a referendum on the question of eliminating property taxes on homestead properties.
- Creating a new \$500,000 homestead exemption, as well as a \$1 million homestead exemption for properties owned by Floridians aged 65 and older, or who have had a homestead for 30 years, applicable to all non-school taxes.
- Authorizing the Legislature to increase the homestead exemption to any value by general law. Modifying the assessment increase limitations on property values:
 - For homestead properties, changing the cap from the lower of 3% or CPI to a flat 3% over any three-year period for all taxes.
 - For non-homestead properties, changing the cap from 10% annually to 15% over any three-year period for all non-school taxes.
- Protecting Homeownership by eliminating the ability to foreclose on a homestead property due to a property tax lien.

Additional Materials on the Select Committee to Study Property Tax

- Press Release: [Florida House Forms Select Committee Targeting Property Tax Relief for Homeowners](#)
- [Florida House Speaker Perez's Floor Remarks as Prepared for Delivery](#)

Still Working on a number of issues

- Opposing the repeal of the opt out provision in the Live Local act.
- Opposing the proposal that abolishes Tourist Development Councils and use TDT revenues for property tax reduction.
- The status of Rural Renaissance is a bit unclear however all provisions of the Rural Proposal are still alive and are in messages from the House to the Senate.
- Status of Special Facilities – tied up in the budget process – there's been an effort to ensure that all of the recommended project receive recommended funding.

Other Priorities

Changes to Sovereign Immunity at this time – its dead!
Term limit Changes – its dead!

Headlines Around The State

FlaPol: Byron Donalds says tax hikes for the rich are not going to happen

Herald: Attorney general drops lawsuit alleging FEMA conspiracy against Florida Trump supporters

FlaPol: Top congressional Republicans line up behind Byron Donalds

NBC 6: Florida's emergency management director, Miami-Dade Sheriff named part of new FEMA review council

Yahoo News: FAA notice: Trump, Vance coming to Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach for Donalds fundraiser

My News 13: FSU reopens student union for first time since April 17 shooting

Democrat: 'A healing process': FSU reopens student union building, reflects after mass shooting

WUSF: 'We are unconquered': FSU student hurt in shooting sends love to community amid road to recovery

Democrat: Judge says Florida should reject permit to drill for oil near Apalachicola River

Yahoo News: 'Kill the Drill' groups cautiously hopeful about Apalachicola River oil drilling ban

Times: 6 ways Florida's public safety system leaves domestic violence victims vulnerable

WLRN: Many fear the Endangered Species Act could be gutted by proposed revisions

Democrat: FAMU presidential search now faces review by state Board of Governors

Times-Union: Florida residents lost \$1 billion in 2024 internet scams. Here's how to protect your money

The Capitolist: Florida Gas Prices Rise 5 Cents Over the Week, Averaging \$3.05 Per Gallon

Democrat: Florida legislative Democrats rally amid turmoil after top leader quit 'dead' party

FlaPol: 'Alive and kicking': Lori Berman, in new role as Democratic Leader, counters talk that caucus is 'dead'

WUSF: A proposal to include an exemption to Florida's minimum wage law is likely dead

Sentinel: Minimum wage and property insurance changes not likely to pass Legislature

FlaPol: Legislature passes bill granting off-duty probation officers concealed carry permit abilities, more

FlaPol: Semantic split surfaces between Senate, House on dangerous dog crackdown

WUSF: Florida House passes bill to regulate dangerous dogs, including liability insurance mandate

Today: Moms for Liberty cofounder must vacate Florida Ethics Commission post

WUSF: Florida lawmakers moving forward with proposals to aid charter schools

FlaPol: Bill enhancing blood clot screening ready for Governor's signature

FlaPol: Substance abuse pilot program bill ready for Governor

FlaPol: Legislature passes bill to help aging veterans get skilled nursing beds

Sun-Sentinel: DeSantis' new Broward School Board appointee talks about his big move, strong local ties

Daily News: Florida may increase funding for Alzheimer's care

FlaPol: Zoning bill clears Senate floor, but without language threatening rural boundaries

FlaPol: Thoroughbred racing 'decoupling' now in the Senate's hands

WUSF: Florida Senate approves repeal of 2018 beach access law

FlaPol: Legislature OKs plan to teach K-12 students about disabilities

Destin Log: Governor announces 'record-breaking' 126-day state red snapper recreational season

Ledger: Polk County tourism officials nervously watch as House passes cuts to tourist marketing

WUSF: Report: 10 possible graves found at Tropicana Field

On The Docket

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

— Legislature:

- STATE PARKS - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Senate will take up numerous issues during a floor session, including a proposal (SB 80), filed by Sen. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart, that would prevent golf courses, resort-style lodging and pickleball courts in state parks. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- RULES COMMITTEE - Tuesday, 15 minutes after the House floor session - The House Rules & Ethics Committee is scheduled to meet. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Tuesday, 15 minutes after the Senate floor session. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group will set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. - 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- USF TRUSTEES MEET - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - The University of South Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - Information at <https://www.usf.edu/board-of-trustees/meetings/index.aspx>
- KEYS COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - The Board of Trustees of The College of the Florida Keys will meet. - The College of the Florida Keys, Middle Keys Center, 350 Sombrero Beach Road, Marathon.
- MANATEE-SARASOTA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - The Board of Trustees of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota will meet. - State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch Campus, 7131 Professional Parkway East, Sarasota.
- OYSTER HARVESTING ON AGENDA - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold a workshop about regulation of oyster harvesting. - St. Johns River State College, 2990 College Dr., St. Augustine.
- DEMOCRATS DISCUSS PROTECTING PROGRAMS - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Democratic Party and other groups will hold an online event about protecting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security from cuts. Participants are expected to include state party Chairwoman Nikki Fried. U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel, D-Fla., and state Rep. Christine Hunschofsky, D-Parkland.
- https://www.mobilize.us/hillsboroughcountydec/event/769562/?rname=Donald&share_context=event_details&share_medium=copy_link

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Wednesday, 15 minutes after the Senate floor session. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group will set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. - 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. - Florida Commission on Offender Review, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES - Wednesday, 9 a.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>
- 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
- JUDICIAL CANDIDATES I - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The 2nd Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for a circuit-court judgeship. Candidates scheduled to be interviewed are Michael Ruff, Andrea White, James A. Beville, Francis Carbone, Carlos Rey, D. Jason Harrison, Steven Sellers, Stefanie M. Newlin, Robert G. Churchill Jr., Jeremiah Hawkes, J. Jones, Kristen Hope Matthis and C. Ian Garland. - Leon County Traffic Court, 1920 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee.
- CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION - Wednesday, 12:15 p.m. - Former Sen. Lauren Book and her non-profit organization, Lauren's Kids, will hold a rally to raise awareness about child-abuse prevention after Book walked across the state. - Capitol
- CITIZENS INSURANCE BOARD - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Board of Governors will meet and is expected to discuss issues such as reinsurance. - Information at <https://www.citizensfla.com/-/20250430-special-bog>

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. - House chamber, the Capitol. Session.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Thursday, 15 minutes after the Senate floor: The Senate Special Calendar Group will set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. - 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- 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
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- HUTCHINSON EXECUTION SCHEDULED- Thursday, 6 p.m. - The state is scheduled to execute Jeffrey Hutchinson, who was convicted in the 1998 murders of his girlfriend and her three children in Okaloosa County. - Florida State Prison, 23916 N.W. 83rd Ave., Raiford.
- OYSTER HARVESTING - Thursday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold an online workshop about regulation of oyster harvesting.
- <http://www.myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/rulemaking/workshops/>

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.

- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 10:30 a.m - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session.
- House chamber, the Capitol.

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