



The Briefing -Wednesday – May 7 - 2025

The Last Briefing End of Session Tuesday - May 6, 2025 .

What's the weather outlook?

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

[2025 NBA playoff bracket, schedule, scores, results](#)

[Initial Report from the 2025 Legislative Session - May 6 -2025 .docx](#)

The report includes the following:

Introduction – some initial results.

Listing of Bills that Passed and Died – active links to legislation

Listing of Bills Related to Education

Extension of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature

Overview of the Rural Renaissance Legislation

The House of Representatives Select Committee on Property Tax

Status of Special Facility Construction Projects

Schedule of Important Meetings

Florida black bear

Recently released information from the FWC

[Frequently Asked Questions about Options for Highly Regulated Bear Hunting in Florida](#)



Background

The black bear population has come back from just several hundred bears in the 1970s to over 4,000 today and is one of Florida's most successful conservation efforts.

Regulated black bear hunting occurred in Florida in the 1930s and continued until 1994. Hunting was closed until [2015](#), when it was reopened in the fall. No bear hunting seasons have been open since 2015.

U.S. World Report - Best States Rankings

See the overall Best States rankings below, and check out the Best States [methodology](#) for a detailed look at the data behind the Best States rankings.

[Rankings: Overall Best States | U.S. News Best States](#)

Some states shine in health care. Some soar in education. Some excel in both – or in much more. The Best States rankings by U.S. News draw on thousands of data points to measure how well states are performing for their citizens. In addition to [health care](#) and [education](#), the rankings take into account a state's [economy](#); its [roads, bridges, internet and other infrastructure](#); its [public safety](#); its [natural environment](#); the [fiscal stability](#) of state government; and the [opportunity](#) it affords its residents.

More weight was accorded to some categories than others, based on a survey of what matters most to people. Health care and education were weighted most heavily. Then came state economies, infrastructure, and the opportunity states offer their citizens. Fiscal stability followed closely in weighting, followed by measures of crime and corrections and a state's natural environment.

**Mark Your Calendars –
See you there!**

IMPORTANT MEETINGS COMING UP IN JUNE

- June 11 – 13- FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference, Tampa, FL –
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay - [Annual Meeting Agenda for the FSBA](#)
- June 12 – **FSBA Small District Council/Small School District Council Consortium
Joint Annual Business/Breakfast Meeting** -
- June 24-27– **Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting – Orlando Hilton** -
[Information on the FAC Annual Meeting](#)
- June 25 – **Small County Coalition Annual Business/Breakfast meeting**

Headlines Around The State

[FlaPol: Byron Donalds says feds can't hire enough Judges to give deportees due process](#)

[WLRN: In Miami, DeSantis says he will sign drinking water fluoride ban into law](#)

[News4JAX: 'Forced medication': Florida to become second state to ban fluoride in water supply](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Florida will ban water fluoridation amid battle between public health, personal freedom](#)

[Times: At UF, Ono says he's 'in alignment' with Florida's vision](#)

[Sun: UF president finalist Ono talks DEI, experimental learning in meetings with students, faculty](#)

[Floridian: Rutherford Questions Noem on Border Security, 287G, and Deporting Illegals](#)

[FlaPol: Stephanie Haridopolos named Chief of Staff to U.S. Surgeon General](#)

[Herald: Climate change is coming for Florida's real estate. Why don't prices reflect it?](#)

[Axios: What Floridians should know as student loan penalty pause ends](#)

[My News 13: FWC investigates possible bear attack after man, dog found dead](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Florida wildlife officers kill 3 black bears after a bear killed a man and dog](#)

[News4JAX: A bear recently killed a man and his dog in Florida, but data shows physical black bear encounters are very rare](#)

[The Capitolist: Florida Tops Nation in Economy, Higher Ed Earns No. 1 Spot for Ninth Year](#)

[Democrat: Feud between Gov. DeSantis, House Speaker Perez deepens over property tax cut plan](#)

[FlaPol: Ron DeSantis rips 'far left' House property tax panel as 'dog and pony show'](#)

[Floridian: Can't Beat 'Em, Join 'Em: DeSantis Rips Democrats for Flipping Registrations](#)

[Floridian: The Florida Session is Going Into Overtime: What Bills Will Lawmakers Debate?](#)

[Floridian: Evan Power Slams Legal Challenges Against State's Election Integrity Law](#)

[Democrat: Florida Gov. DeSantis to ban weather modification, track 'chemtrail' complaints](#)

[WLRN: No recreation without representation: the fight for Florida's state parks](#)

[FlaPol: Lawmakers addresses could soon be exempted from public records, if Gov. DeSantis signs off](#)

[Axios: These bills died during Florida's lawmaking session](#)

[FlaPol: Byron Donalds' campaign launches coalition of women business leaders](#)

[PNJ: DeSantis appoints another Heritage Foundation member to UWF Board of Trustees](#)

[WUSF: Florida Public Service Commission keeps approval for TECO rate hikes](#)

[FlaPol: Erased: Legislature fails to pass cursive writing bill](#)

[FlaPol: Bill mandating AEDs to save students from cardiac arrest heading to Governor](#)

[Democrat: 'A standard of excellence': Florida A&M's journalism program receives accreditation](#)

On The Docket

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

- SUPPRESSION OF EVIDENCE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in two cases, including a dispute about suppressing evidence because of what is known as a “knock-and-announce” violation by police. - 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

- ENGINEERS BOARD - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Board of Professional Engineers will meet. - Information at <https://fbpe.org/meetings-info/agendas-minutes-meetings/agenda-and-minutes-2025/>
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/jacksonville-area-refugee-task-force-meeting>
- OPIOID USE - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/statewide-council-opioid-abatement>

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

- JUVENILE SENTENCING - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in two cases, including whether it was constitutional to impose two life sentences on Corey B. Johnson, who was convicted of committing murder and attempted murder when he was a juvenile. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- VOTER SIGNATURE ISSUE DEBATED - Thursday, 9 a.m. - A panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in a lawsuit by advocacy groups challenging a Florida requirement for “wet” signatures on voter-registration forms. The challenge involves a state requirement that paper voter-registration applications include what is known as a “wet” signature — a handwritten signature in ink. - Frank M. Johnson, Jr. United States Courthouse, 1 Church St., Montgomery, Ala.
- COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR DEAF - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will meet. - University of North Florida, Tom & Betty Petway Hall, 1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville.
- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BOARD - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet in Miami. - Stephen P. Clark Center, commission chamber, 111 N.W. First St., Miami. <https://www.youtube.com/miamidadetv>
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- FLORIDA GATEWAY TRUSTEES - Thursday, 3 p.m. - The Florida Gateway College Board of Trustees will hold a workshop, followed by a regular board meeting. - Florida Gateway College, Administration Building, Lake City.

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

- HOUSING ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Fort Lauderdale Marriott North, 6650 North Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.
- COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR DEAF - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will meet. - University of North Florida, Tom & Betty Petway Hall, 1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville.

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

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.ssdec.org and click on the red Briefing button

Chris Doolin

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com