



With Five days left - Session appears at a cross-road! Which way will it go?

The Briefing for Sunday Supplement ***April 27, 2025***

The Last Briefing was this morning.

Legislative Session - Five Days Remain After Today
Everything up in air

What's the weather outlook?

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

Special Note –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 do his magic! He's also a really talented singer and guitar player.

The Calendar!

[The House Calendar](#)
[The Senate Calendar](#)

So Where are We? What's gonna happen

With five days left that are big differences divide the House and Senate.
Things appear stalled but its probably more likely slowing down!
We shall see what happens in the Senate tomorrow and the House on Tuesday.

What will happen if they don't finish on time?

Uncertain as to Special Session or Extended Session.

If Session adjourns – bills that have not passed both the House and Senate will die!
There are some very unfriendly bills that include rural priorities and other changes likely
abolishing TDC's and CRA's.

Most of this legislation can come back next year with more study and understanding.

Here's what we do know -

Theres no budget if there is no agreement on tax reductions

Without an agreement on the revenue – the budget process can not move forward.

It is unlikely, however, not impossible to finish on time. Not sure if they will extend the session keeping legislation alive or end the session and come back in a special session to take up the budget. If they adjourn – bills will die! There are a lot of bad bills in Senate Messages from the House that it would be good if they just went away! There are also some bills – like the School Start Time bill that could fall victim to the situation. Hopefully, we can get HB 261 taken up in the House and then pass the Senate Version which is in messages from the Senate.

Theres no budget if there is no agreement on tax reductions –

- The House wants a recurring reduction of .75 of 1 cent.
- The Senate does not support a recurring recurring reduction but will support a targeted reduction of sales tax on a non-recurring.

What's the difference -

- The House proposal to cut the sales tax has severe consequences in the out years.
 - The House proposal has immediate negative impacts on recurring GR in the first two fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-27.
 - For this upcoming year and next, the House proposes to backfill the loss of recurring GR with non-recurring funds.
 - But by the third fiscal year 2027-28 the State's nonrecurring funds will be depleted causing the Legislature to drastically cut its recurring budget or raise taxes to fill the hole or both.
- The Senate President does not want to jeopardize future year funding based on Sales Taxes.

Without an agreement on the revenue – the budget process cannot move forward.

The revenue plan adopted will set the allocations for the appropriations process to move forward. The House and Senate have been reviewing side by side budget proposals which will give them a head-start on the budget process. The conference process could move quickly when the tax decisions are resolved.

- The current year budget is - \$117.5 billion
- The Senate Proposal is - \$117.4 billion
- The House Proposal is - \$112.9 billion
- The Governor's budget recommends \$115.6 billion for fiscal year 2025-26.


What are some of the Issues in Play -

- **Rural Renaissance Proposal** – the Senate’s Rural Renaissance package has passed the Senate and sent to the House. The House split the package into three pieces and put them into three House Bills. All three bills have been passed by the House and are in Senate Messages. Funding has been stripped and will be an appropriation issue. Here is a staff analysis for each bill.
 - HB 991 now amended onto SB 110 and returned. Its totally different that SB 110. [Staff Analysis of HB 991 now SB 110 passed by the House and is in Senate Messages.](#) The bill effectively dissolves CRA’s over time.
 - HB 1427 – Health Care – includes the health care components of the RR along with other controversial issues that House supports. [Analysis of HB 1427 - passed by the House and in Senate messages](#)
 - HB 1267 - House Education bill – includes education components of the RR program. [Staff Analysis of HB 1267 - Education Train](#)

Repeal of School Start Time - HB 261 is on 2nd reading but not on Special Order – SB 296 has passed the Senate and is in the House. All that has to happen is the House take up SB 296 and the mandated start time statutes will be repealed.

FEFP funding – The Senate budget proposal is better than House, the Governor’s proposal is better and does not adjust the weights. Problem- Gov’s proposal is not in play
Here are the proposals -`

- [The House Proposal for the FEFP](#)
- [The Senate Proposed FEFP](#)
- [The Governor's Proposed funding for the FEFP](#)
 - Program Cost Factors – Weighted FTE’s – Both the House and Senate have agreed to reduce weighted cost factors by 50%. Both have indicated that the funding related to the 50% will be transferred into the Base Student Allocation to provide flexibility to the districts. That’s an interesting look, however, it creates a budgeting problem at the district level in terms of maintaining previous funding levels for the weighted programs.

Special Facilities – the Senate and House have taken different approaches to funding special facilities funding. Here’s where things stand -  [Special Facilities Recommendations and House-Senate Recommendations .docx](#)

HB 7033 - Repeal of TDC, Transfer of TDT funds to county for property tax reduction and a Repeal of the Opt Out provision in the Live Local Act - [Staff Analysis of HB 7033.](#)

The bill has passed the House and is in Senate messages. This is a major part of the problem in getting agreement on the tax package.

HB1221 –Impacts local option sales taxes and repeals the TDC provisions – as in HB 7033.
[Staff Analysis of HB 1221 - Local Option Sales Tax](#)

Changes to Sovereign Immunity – Proposals are tied up – appear in critical condition – likely dead.

Term Limits – House proposal passed the House and is in messages in the Senate. The Senate has indicated that they will not take the bill up. So – DEAD!

On The Docket

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

— Legislature:

- DEMOCRATS HOLD MEDIA AVAILABILITY - Monday, 10 a.m. - House and Senate Democrats will hold a media availability, with participants expected to include House Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell, D-Tampa; Senate Minority Leader Lori Berman, D-Boca Raton; Rep. Christine Hunschofsky, D-Parkland; Rep. Kelly Skidmore, D-Boca Raton; and Sen. Tracie David, D-Jacksonville.
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85884301928?pwd=vkhksi9Q3QP54Q0YbvQbq5PvHufbkV.1#success>
- MEDICAID OVERSIGHT - Monday, 1 p.m. - The Senate will take up numerous issues during a floor session, including a proposal (SB 1060), filed by Sen. Jason Brodeur, R-Sanford, that would create a Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Oversight. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- RULES COMMITTEE - Monday, 5:30 p.m. - The House Rules & Ethics Committee will set a special-order calendar, which will list bills that will be heard on the House floor Tuesday. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Monday, 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:

- FALLEN LAW OFFICERS HONORED - Gov. Ron DeSantis has ordered that flags be flown at half-staff Monday to honor fallen law-enforcement officers. The Florida State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police will hold an annual memorial service at 10 a.m. Monday at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- STATE FAIR - Monday, 10:30 a.m. - The Florida State Fair Authority board is scheduled to meet. - Florida State Fairgrounds, Bob Thomas Equestrian Pavilion; 4800 U.S. 301 North, Tampa.
- INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL - Monday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Independent Living Council is scheduled to meet. - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85739378022?pwd=BzGbei9Wbt34PH9hrXDNf0dBMiadlj.1>. Meeting ID: 85739378022. Code: 948472
- POLK STATE TRUSTEES MEET - Monday, 4 p.m. - The Polk State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Polk State College, Winter Haven Campus, 999 Avenue H. N.E., Winter Haven.

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. sessionDescription
- 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

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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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