

THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION DAY 2

The Briefing – Wednesday – January 14, 2026

The Last Briefing – Monday – January 12, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

From Day 1 Open Speeches

[Senate President Ben Albritton's Opening Day Remarks](#)

[Florida House Speaker Perez's Opening Day Address](#)

Congressman NEAL DUNN, representing Florida's 2nd District, announced Tuesday [he was retiring from Congress](#). Dunn, a physician and former Army surgeon from Panama City who has served since 2017. The nonpartisan Cook Political report ranks FL-02 as a "solid Republican" seat with a +8 Republican margin, so it's likely that whoever wins the August GOP primary can look forward to being sworn into Congress to represent an area that includes Tallahassee and Panama City.

Who's considering a run:

- Republican Party of Florida Chair EVAN POWER
- Businessman KEITH GROSS, a Republican who unsuccessfully ran for Senate in 2024 is [also jumping into the race](#).

Select Action on Bills

Senate Passes Two Bills Today

Two major priorities were passed today by the Senate. The Senate meeting in full session approved the following

SB 250 – Rural Renaissance legislation [Staff Analysis](#)

SB 318 – Educational Scholarship Programs [Staff Analysis](#)

In Senate Community Affairs on Tuesday

- SB 354 - Blue Ribbon Projects – members express significant concerns that will have to be addressed as the bill moves forward. [Staff Analysis](#)
- SB 840 (CA) by Senator DiCeglie—Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Natural Disasters – passed the CA committee – this is the 180 fix. [Staff Analysis](#)

House Student Academic Success Subcommittee Passed the following bills yesterday:

- HB 453 by Gossett-Seidman -- Requirements for Standard High School Diploma [Staff Analysis](#)
- HB 731 by Abbott, Anderson -- Interscholastic or Intrasccholastic Extracurricular Activities Note this bill establishes new procedures for approving transfer requests and also sets up Coaches to negotiate additional salaries from Booster Clubs. [Staff Analysis](#)

Today House Education Administration Subcommittee passed the following:

- HB 409 - Observance of Veterans' Day by K-12 Schools – mandates taking V day off. [Staff Analysis](#)
- HJR 583 -- Protection of Religious Expression in Public Schools - [Staff Analysis](#)

Other bills of note getting action tomorrow:

On the House Floor

- HB 145 - Sovereign Immunity scheduled for the House Floor Thursday. [Staff Analysis](#)

In House State Affairs

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Morris Hall (17 HOB)

Consideration of:

HJR 203 by Miller -- Phased Out Elimination of Non-school Property Tax for Homesteads

[Staff Analysis](#)

Here is the Calendar

Florida House - [Daily Calendar](#)

Florida Senate Calendar for [January 14, 2026](#)

Here are some links that will assist you in monitoring the session.

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


<https://www.flsenate.gov/>

[The Florida Channel To Watch Proceedings](#)

[House Directory](#)

[Senate Directory](#)

Legislative Priorities

 [The Small County Coalition - 2026 Legislative Program -January .docx](#)

 [SSDCC 2026 Legislative Program - December 2025.docx](#)

The following Reports provide a comprehensive analysis of Florida Ad Valorem structure

- **FAC PROPERTY TAX REPORT** - <https://www.fl-counties.com/report-property-taxes/>
- **FLORIDA TAXWATCH REPORT - How-Florida-Counties-Compare-2025.pdf** –
- **Fla. League of Cities -Fiscal Structure & Rev. Resilience of Florida Municipalities**

Headlines Around The State

Politico: With uncertain future and bumpy session ahead, DeSantis touts 'results' in final State of the State

News4JAX: Gov. DeSantis touts 'big results' while continuing push for property tax relief in his final State of the State address

FlaPol: Ben Albritton downplays political tensions as Legislative Session starts

WLRN: Divided GOP leadership sets a tense tone for Florida's 2026 legislative session

Democrat: House Speaker calls Gov. Ron DeSantis 'petulant' after handshake snub

Democrat: What handshake snub signals about coming Florida legislative session

Democrat: GOP bad blood lingers as Florida legislative session starts

Sentinel: Florida lawmakers start new 'journey'

Democrat: Congressman Neal Dunn says he will not run again in 2026

FlaPol: Evan Power to run for Congress to succeed retiring Neal Dunn

Democrat: Drought across Florida impacting almost 15 million residents. What to know

Democrat: City Commissioner talks up TMH-FSU sale ahead of pivotal vote

Democrat: A taste of tradition returns as iconic Florida oyster waters reopen

FlaPol: Triangulation? Ron DeSantis warms to Paul Renner gubernatorial campaign as Jay Collins launches

WLRN: With army of loyalists, DeSantis built a conservative higher-ed empire

Herald: Despite controversy and grand jury probe, DeSantis touts Hope Florida as success

FlaPol: 'Locked in their homes': Gov. DeSantis calls fractured Legislature to focus on property tax cuts

The Capitolist: Florida lawmakers open 2026 session with focus on affordability

Sentinel: Senators back revisions to Florida law that blocked cities from restricting development

WLRN: Broward school board member invites state officials to review district finances after DeSantis 'disaster' claim

Sun-Sentinel: Broward School Board members call for state DOGE audit after DeSantis rebuke

FlaPol: Bill requiring George Washington, Abraham Lincoln portraits in class runs into Dem pushback

News4JAX: With vacancies on the rise, Florida teachers urge lawmakers to prioritize public education as Legislative session begins

WLRN: Florida Education Association wants Legislature to make major investment into schools, teachers

FlaPol: Nick DiCeglie bill that aims to fix unintended consequences of hurricane recovery law flies through committee

The Capitolist: Florida data centers would be curbed under legislative bill

Democrat: DeSantis appoints four new Florida BOG members, reappoints two

Sun: DeSantis appoints Keith Perry to Florida Board of Governors

FlaPol: Senate panel advances Gayle Harrell bill to update Florida's autism-related education standards

FlaPol: Antisemitism Task Force gets approval from House Government Operations Subcommittee

FlaPol: Student polling place volunteer bills advance in House, Senate

WUSF: Graduation rates improve across Central Florida, as DeSantis touts state's highest rate on record

ON THE DOCKET THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

— Legislature:

- **DESANTIS BUDGET REVIEWED** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Appropriations Committee will receive a presentation about Gov. Ron DeSantis' proposed budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **SCHOOL REGULATIONS** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Fiscal Policy Committee will take up a bill (SB 320), filed by Sen. Simon, R-Tallahassee, that seeks to reduce regulations on public schools. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **HHS BUDGET** - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee will receive a presentation about Gov. Ron DeSantis' budget proposals for agencies such as the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- **EDUCATION BUDGET** - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Pre-K-12 Education Appropriations Committee will receive a presentation about Gov. Ron DeSantis' budget proposal for the Department of Education. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- 'GRANNY FLATS' - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 48), filed by Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, that would require local governments to allow what are known as "granny flats" or "carriage houses" in single-family residential areas. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- WATER DISTRICT MEMBERS - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee will hold confirmation hearings for members of the governing boards of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water Management District. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- JUSTICE SYSTEM BUDGET - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will receive a presentation about Gov. Ron DeSantis' budget proposals for agencies such as the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- COLLEGE TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee will hold confirmation hearings for trustees of Eastern Florida State College, Lake-Sumter State College, Miami Dade College, Northwest Florida State College, St. Johns River State College and State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION** - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee (8 a.m., 314 House Office Building).
- House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee (8 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- House Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee (8 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building).
- House Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building).
- House Criminal Justice Subcommittee (10:30 a.m., 404 House Office Building).
- House Health Care Budget Subcommittee (10:30 a.m., 314 House Office Building).
- House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee (10:30 a.m., 212 Knott Building).
- House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee (10:30 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- House Education Administration Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building).
- House Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol).
- House State Administration Budget Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- House Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., 314 House Office Building).

- House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee (4 p.m., 404 House Office Building).
- House Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee (4 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building).
- House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee (4 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).

— **Also:**

- HEALTHY KIDS BOARD - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Healthy Kids Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Hotel Duval, 415 North Monroe St., Tallahassee.
- 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-10>
- 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
- 'FISCALLY CONSTRAINED' COUNTIES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss rural "fiscally constrained" counties. Location; 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- MASSAGE THERAPY BOARD - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. - Embassy Suites by Hilton Sarasota, 202 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.
- SCHOOL BUILDING MONEY - Wednesday, 9:15 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will address the Public Education Capital Outlay, or PECO, program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - 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: 282335254
- NORTHWEST WATER BOARD - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - Northwest Florida Water Management District, 81 Water Management Dr., Havana.
- 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-3>

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

— **Legislature:**

- STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - Thursday, 8 a.m. - The House State Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- RULES COMMITTEE - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Rules Committee is scheduled to meet. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- RULES & ETHICS - Thursday, 15 minutes after the House floor session. - The House Rules & Ethics Committee is scheduled to meet. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- LOTTERY MONEY - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze Florida Lottery issues. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Broward Refugee Task Force will meet.
- Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/broward-refugee-task-force-meeting-3>
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ISSUES - Thursday, 3 p.m. - The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council is scheduled to meet. - Florida Department of Transportation SunGuide SWIFT Center, 10041 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE HELD - 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.
- HEARING AID BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists will meet. - Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 763676340
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Palm Beach Refugee Task Force will meet.
- Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/palm-beach-refugee-task-force-meeting-3>
- MOODY, COLLINS, RENNER AT ‘LIFE’ EVENT - Friday, 6 p.m. - U.S. Sen. Ashley Moody, R-Fla., Lt. Gov. Jay Collins and Republican gubernatorial candidate Paul Renner are expected to speak during the Florida Right to Life “Love for Life” benefit gala. - Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, 225 East Coastline Dr., Jacksonville.

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

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing button**

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