

2025-26 College Football Playoff

Tonight – It's all about the U! Go Canes!

Tomorrow – It's about the Hoosiers!

Thursday, Jan. 8

[No. 6 Ole Miss vs. No. 10 Miami | Fiesta Bowl \(Glendale, AZ\) |](#)

7:30 p.m. | ESPN, WatchESPN

Friday, Jan. 9

[No. 1 Indiana vs. No. 5 Oregon | Peach Bowl \(Atlanta\) |](#)

7:30 p.m. | ESPN, WatchESPN

The Briefing – January 8, 2026

The Last Briefing – Saturday, January 3, 2026

[What's the weather outlook?](#)

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

2026 Session to Start Next Week

Get Your Calendar Set –

January 13 -

2026 Regular Session Begins

January 20 -

[Small County Coalition Legislative Reception](#)

[Small County Coalition Legislative Reception to Kick Off Week of County and Rural Activities](#)

Small County Coalition Annual Legislative Reception

Tuesday, January 20th – 2026 - 5:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Entertainment Provided by Nassau County Commissioner [Hupp Huppman](#)

Doubletree by Hilton - [Oasis Pool Deck](#)

101 South Adams Street -Tallahassee Florida 32301

January 21 - **[Small County Coalition Members Meeting with Senate Leadership](#)**

11:45 – 12:45 – Senate Chamber – 4th Floor of the Capitol

Small County Coalition will meet with Senator Ben Albritton

Senators from Small Counties are invited as well.

In the Senate Chamber

January 21 – FAC Legislative Days - Registration Required for the FAC Activities

<https://www.fl-counties.com/event-directory/2026-legislative-day/>

January 21-22 - [Rural Counties Day 2026](#) sponsored by FREDA - Registration Required to attend

Here's the link to register to attend the reception-<https://floridaruralada.org/rural-counties-day/>

January 28 -

[Small District Legislative Briefing](#)

January 28-29 -

[FSBA Day in the Legislature](#)

March 13 -

Regular Session Ends

June 10-12 -

[FSBA Summer Meeting](#)

June 11-

[Small District Breakfast – Summer Meeting](#)

June 23-26
June 24

FAC Annual Summer Meeting - Orlando
Small County Coalition Annual Business Meeting - Orlando

2026 Session Preview By Major Policy Groups

 [2026 Policy Preview .docx](#)

This document is a compilation of policy briefs. It is categorized by major subject area. Each section provides an overview of the policy areas and issues identified before the legislative session. These previews outline anticipated developments, relevant stakeholders, and potential impacts within each policy area.

Agriculture, Environment, & Natural Resources

Education

Local Government


Taxes

Health & Human Services

Insurance & Financial Services


Justice & Law Enforcement

Here are some links that will provide you with information on Legislative Priorities

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

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

Bills Being Tracked

 [Bills Filed Related to Local Governments - 2026 .docx](#)

[Bills Filed Relating to Education - 2026 .docx](#)

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

[Florida Senate Main Web Page](#)

[The Florida House Main Web Page](#)

[The Florida Channel To Watch Proceedings](#)

[House Directory](#)

[Senate Directory](#)

DeSantis Calls for April Special Session to Redraw Congressional Districts

[Proclamation: Special Legislative Session on Congressional Redistricting](#)

[2026D Special Session on Congressional Redistricting](#)

DeSantis has called for a special session for the week of April 20. The DeSantis administration also rescheduled a qualifying period for Florida congressional candidates. Lawmakers will convene commencing at 12:00 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2026, and extend no later than 11:59 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2026. Senate President Ben Albritton, a Wauchula Republican who had previously expressed support for delaying redistricting until after the regular session, said in a memo to senators Wednesday that there is “no ongoing work regarding mid-decade redistricting taking place in the Senate at this time. I’ll continue to monitor legal developments and will keep you updated.”

[President Albritton Memorandum: Special Session Proclamation](#)
Governor Hints at Special Session to address Property Tax Reductions

During his announcement regarding Congressional Redistricting - DeSantis indicated that he might seek a special session to address his priority of cutting property taxes.

DeSantis Announces \$167.5 Million for Infrastructure in 34 Florida Rural Communities

- **Taylor County** will receive nearly \$36 million through the Community Development Block Grant Program and the Rural Infrastructure Fund:
 - **City of Perry** - \$12,000,000 – to construct a new parallel treatment train, which will enhance operational resilience and safety during future storms. \$8,500,000 – to replace current wastewater infrastructure and install modern equipment—managing capacity, ensuring regulatory compliance and enhancing system resilience during future storms. \$4,500,000 – to create a resilient independent water source by restoring capacity and increasing the reliability of Well No. 3 that will directly serve the City of Perry if the main treatment plant or water lines are compromised during a hurricane.
 - **Taylor County Board of County Commissioners** - \$1,050,000 – to repair and reconstruct residential roads in Steinhatchee to reduce recurrent flooding and prevent future washouts. 4,969,425 – to construct the Taylor County Special Needs Emergency Shelter. \$298,440 – to determine the best available location in Steinhatchee for the construction of critically needed infrastructure for a commercial seafood off-load, processing and distribution facility through the Rural Infrastructure Fund. Doctor’s Memorial Hospital in Taylor County (\$4,431,981) – to install a whole-facility emergency power system, replace hospital phone and communications systems and modernize the facility’s water treatment system through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Mitigation Program
- **Jackson County Board of County Commissioners** (\$3,260,000) – to add a new well, pumping equipment and water storage system needed to provide emergency services to Jackson County.

Grants through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

Infrastructure Repair Program:

- **Big Bend Water Authority** (\$4,514,185) – to repair and replace critical water mains in **Steinhatchee, Florida and Jena, Florida.**
- **Cedar Key Water and Sewer District** - \$7,349,280 – to construct and harden the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District potable water system. \$4,124,017 – to harden the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- **City of Carrabelle** (\$2,569,775) – to repair damages and harden Carrabelle’s Sanitary Sewer Collection and Treatment Systems.
- **City of Gretna** (\$7,156,377) – to rehabilitate and upgrade the city’s production wells, the foundation of the municipal water supply system.
- **City of Monticello** (\$14,158,044) – to rehabilitate or replace deteriorated lift stations and force mains, install permanent standby generators at critical sites, elevate and harden electrical and mechanical components and integrate systems monitoring to improve storm response.

- **City of Port St. Joe** (\$25,000,000) – to rebuild and strengthen the wastewater treatment facility by upgrading current infrastructure.
- **Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners** (\$1,298,634) – to install updated drainage systems that are underperforming or have been damaged in previous storms.
- **Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners** (\$1,200,000) – to restore and provide needed improvements to Hamilton County’s sole sheltering facility.
- **Lafayette County Board of County Commissioners** (\$1,382,403) – to restore and harden the drainage and roadway system that serves residents, school buses, agriculture and emergency vehicles.
- **Levy County Board of County Commissioners** - \$1,107,015 – to eliminate a severe safety hazard, restore essential recreational and tourism access, and increase resiliency for this vulnerable coastal location. \$358,000 – to complete a Fire Emergency Response and Control Project—ensuring reliable emergency services in one of the county’s most vulnerable and hazard-prone regions.
- **Liberty County Board of County Commissioners** (\$1,500,000) – to improve, repair and resurface the Bristol Boat Ramp to ensure safe access, mitigate environmental damage and enhance long-term resiliency.
- **Madison County Board of County Commissioners** (\$8,000,000) – to construct the Madison County Special Needs Shelter at the Madison County Emergency Operations Shelter.
- **Town of Cross City** - \$32,062,208 – to build a new wastewater treatment plant and repair the sewer lines in the city. \$5,708,267 – to improve and upgrade stormwater drainage by installing elliptical reinforced concrete piping along the streets, further collecting stormwater into the main drainage ditch alongside US Highway 19.
- **Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners** (\$2,822,481) – to design and construct a project to line manholes, gravity sewer and tie-ins in the Panacea Shores Units residential subdivision's central wastewater system.

Grants through the Rural Infrastructure Fund Program:

- **City of Blountstown** (\$200,000) – to implement improvements aimed at reducing stormwater and groundwater inflow and infiltration into the municipal wastewater collection system.
- **City of Gretna** (\$700,000) – to build a new roadway extension that will serve as an access route to a greenfield site designated for commercial development.
- **City of Marianna** (\$1,441,500) – for infrastructure improvements at Marianna Airport to support retention, expansion and investment of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) companies at the airport.
- **Franklin County** (\$176,100) – to create the first Master Site Plan for the Apalachicola Airport, supporting business development for aerospace and aviation companies requiring hangar space and runways to conduct operations.
- **Hamilton County** (\$300,000) – to construct a new building at the Alapaha Commerce Center—providing flexible, move-in-ready facilities designed to attract logistics, distribution and advanced manufacturing companies.
- **Madison County Board of County Commissioners** (\$105,000) – to create a master plan for the Madison County Industrial Park, to include planning, market research and utility assessments necessary to guide Madison County Development Council's outreach to prospective companies.

- **Town of Jennings** (\$300,000) – to complete the planning, design and permitting of a new production well as well as critical improvements and upgrades to the existing water treatment plant.
- **Town of Ponce de Leon** (\$1,500,000) – for critical upgrades to Lift Station #3 and the replacement of the force main serving the Interstate 10 and State Road 81 interchange—ensuring reliable utility service, strengthening infrastructure resiliency and enabling long-term economic development in the community.
- **Washington County Board of County Commissioners** (\$3,500,000) – to stabilize and improve Holmes Valley Road, providing critical access to the Old Shores Resort and Golf Club—generating approximately 90 new jobs.

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

Times: Florida failed to give due process to thousands kicked off Medicaid, court finds

Bradenton Herald: Former UF coach Urban Meyer set to help lead New College. See 5 things to know

WLRN: Oh, Canada — the tourists missing from Florida

FlaPol: Canadians are getting jitters about owning property in Florida and other states

FlaPol: Adam Johnson, who once nicked Nancy Pelosi's lectern, enters Manatee County Commission race

News-Press: Is weed legal in Southwest Florida? What to know about Trump's reclassification in 2026

WUSF: Baby corals take first steps to getting back on the Florida Reef

Times: Reef restoration plans transfer of 9,000 baby corals

Today: How could Florida be impacted if US missile silos were attacked?

News4JAX: Gov. DeSantis calls for special legislative session to redistrict Florida's congressional map

FlaPol: Ben Albritton, following Gov. DeSantis' lead, wants wait-and-see approach with congressional redistricting

The Capitolist: DeSantis Announces \$167.5 Million in Infrastructure Funding for 34 Rural Florida Communities

FlaPol: Governor teases Special Session to abolish homestead property tax

FlaPol: Kevin Steele drops \$5 million into his campaign for CFO

FlaPol: 'Let's go': Governor on board with Clay Yarborough, Dean Black bid to nix local DEI

Democrat: Florida lawmaker seeks ban on all handheld devices while driving

FlaPol: Nick DiCeglie bills would address growth, hurricane reconstruction and public safety pressures

Ledger: Florida AG says Winter Haven is violating state law banning public camping

[FlaPol: Darryl Rouson, Mitch Rosenwald push bills to revise how hospitals discharge homeless patients](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Florida GOP senator proposes bill to allow Broward hospital districts to partner](#)

[NYT: Rubio Tells Lawmakers Trump Wants to Buy Greenland](#)

[Floridian: DeSantis Appears to Indirectly Criticize Byron Donalds Over Congressional Stock Trading](#)

[The Hill: Rick Scott backs Machado for president of Venezuela](#)

[FlaPol: Rick Scott wants Senate Aging Committee to make a safer nation for seniors, both in their communities and online](#)

[FlaPol: Ron DeSantis sides with Donald Trump in dispute with Miccosukee Tribe](#)

[WLRN: How the 'Alligator Alcatraz' detention center stirred up a decades-old environmental fight](#)

[My News 13: Experts talk Sen. Mark Rubio's role in Maduro ouster](#)

[Democrat: Corporation for Public Broadcasting dissolved. Will this affect Florida?](#)

[News4JAX: Expiration of ACA subsidies could put nearly 1 million Floridians at risk, hospitals warn. How will you be affected?](#)

[Post: The 'super flu' is here and Floridians are getting hit hard by it](#)

[PB Daily News: South Ocean Boulevard near Mar-a-Lago to close for possible Trump trip](#)

[FlaPol: Palm Beach County hits \\$1B mark in Israel bond investments](#)

[Post: Urban pythons in Florida likely on the rise as canals act as 'highways'](#)

[Times: Florida is the No. 2 growth state in the country, UHaul moving data shows](#)

[CBS Miami: DeSantis says Florida may pursue state charges against Nicolás Maduro amid mounting fallout](#)

[Herald: Florida AG 'looking very seriously' at criminal case against Maduro, DeSantis says](#)

[DBNJ: Fears about overdevelopment likely to drive Florida politics in 2026](#)

[Politico: Florida's school choice headache: Millions of unused dollars](#)

[WLRN: As lawmakers fix Florida's school voucher system, educators, students cope with financial fallout](#)

[FlaPol: Darryl Rouson proposes mandatory electronic alerts in schools to curb student truancy](#)

[FlaPol: 10 years after state incentives ended, Florida could revamp its film policy via license plates](#)

[My News 13: State education commissioner includes Bible verse in letter to families](#)

[WLRN: Florida bill would ban public colleges from admitting undocumented students](#)

[Times: These Floridians waged war on their electric bills. Only some of them won](#)

[Post: Florida FHP won't settle lawsuits in chases and fatal crashes](#)

[WUSF: She fought to save the Everglades. Now, she'd be 'outraged' about a renewed decades-old battle](#)

[WUSF: He's spent years photographing the Everglades. Now, he's fighting to save the place that rescued him](#)

[WLRN: 'Unfinished, but not abandoned': The Everglades Jetport that never was](#)

[FlaPol: 'He will deliver': Richard Lamondin scores endorsements from Kevin Chambliss, Ken Russell](#)

[News4JAX: These 'potatoes' have invaded Florida. Here's why they're a threat](#)

ON THE DOCKET THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

- UWF TRUSTEES - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The University of West Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - University of West Florida, UWF Conference Center, Pensacola. <https://uwf.zoom.us/j/88363017667?pwd=4pcV3IPpatE7XIJRzcLYRaPsRaw8I#success>. Webinar ID: 88363017667. Code: 158613
- EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Self Insurance Estimating Conference will analyze expenditures in the state employees' health insurance program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- CHILD ABUSE DEATHS - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Child Abuse Death Review Committee is scheduled to meet. - Information at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/about/sunshine-info/public-meeting-notices/index.html>
- GAMBLING ISSUES - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- NORTHEAST FLORIDA ISSUES - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet. - WJCT, 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville. <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>. Meeting ID: 87499770491
- GULF COAST COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 10 a.m. Central time. - The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees is scheduled to hold a workshop. - Gulf Coast State College, Administration Building, Panama City.
- PROPERTY TAXES - Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to ad valorem, or property, taxes. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- FLORIDA GATEWAY TRUSTEES - Thursday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Gateway College Board of Trustees will meet. - Florida Gateway College, Administration Building, Lake City.
- AUTISM ISSUES - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - Agency for Persons with Disabilities Director Bob Asztalos is expected to take part in an event hosted by the Autism Society of Greater Orlando to discuss autism issues. - Boone High School, 1000 East Kaley St., Orlando.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

- '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.
- OPTOMETRY ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Optometry will meet. - Information at <https://floridasoptometry.gov/>
- MED MAL ISSUE - Friday, 11:30 a.m. - The Capital Tiger Bay Club will host a discussion about a controversial medical-malpractice law that prevents people who are 25 years old or older

from seeking what are known as “non-economic” damages in medical-malpractice cases involving deaths of their parents. Also, parents cannot seek such damages in malpractice cases involving the deaths of their children who are 25 or older. The House has moved forward with a bill (HB 6003) to try to repeal the law during the 2026 legislative session. Attorneys Andrew Bolin and Dana Brooks will discuss the issue. - Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.

- ARTS AND CULTURE - Friday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Council on Arts & Culture will meet. - <https://dos-myflorida.zoom.us/j/84989866543?pwd=sNIOOYfYWbdfGuEuTheX6f3q13KImb.1>. Meeting ID: 84989866543. Code: 987879
- GAMBLING MONEY - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will take up issues involving slot machines, Indian gaming and pari-mutuel facilities. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- FINANCE REPORTS DUE - Candidates in special elections in Senate District 14, House District 51, House District 52 and House District 87 face a Jan. 9 deadline for filing reports detailing campaign financial activity.

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.ssdcc.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