



The Briefing –Thursday, January 1, 2026

The Last Briefing –Monday - December 22, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

Nuts and Bolts!

Good morning! Been offline since Christmas! Will kick it in gear on Monday!

Congratulations to the University of Miami! Beating OSU in CFP playoffs!

Next games up today –



In Orlando today and tomorrow, came with family to welcome our #1 Granddaughter home from 6 month stay in Madrid with her Aunt from the cultural experience. She melted when she was greeted at the gate by her cousins, Aunt, Uncle, and Grands.

Great families are a wonderful thing! Enjoy yours!


FWC announced 52 black bears were killed during Florida's first hunt in a decade. The state sold 172 bear tags, or permits for hunters whose names were chosen through a lottery.

Here's a look at some of the landmark events to come this year.

- Winter Olympic Games will unfold in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, from Feb. 6 to 22, when the international stars of winter sports will compete for Olympic gold and glory.
- Artemis II launch- The Artemis II mission, the next step in NASA's return-to-the-moon program, is [expected to launch](#) sometime from February to April.
- The FIFA World Cup, the world's premier international soccer competition, returns for its 23rd tournament this summer. This year, a record 48 teams will battle for glory across three host countries — the U.S., Canada and Mexico, a first.
- America 250 - This year, the U.S. will celebrate its [250th birthday](#), commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
 - Midterm elections - The Congressional seats, as well as key governor's races, downballot elections, and Constitutional Amendments will dominate [the November General Election](#).

Small County Coalition Legislative Reception to Kick Off Week of County and Rural Activities

Here's the link to the invitation

 [Small County Coalition Reception Invite.docx](#)

Rural Counties Day 2026 is set for **January 21-22, 2026** –

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

Legislative Priorities of the Small County Coalition

 [The Small County Coalition - 2026 Legislative Program - November 2025.docx](#)

Legislative Priorities of the Small School District Council Consortium

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

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)

[Link to the Florida House of Representatives](#)

[The Florida Channel](#)

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

[News4JAX: These bipartisan bills about a drinking water pipeline and a Florida tribe were noncontroversial -- until Trump's vetoes](#)

[FlaPol: Donald Trump vetoes plan to protect Miccosukee Tribe's Osceola Camp](#)

[FlaPol: Here are 10 under-the-radar Florida political stories to watch in 2026](#)

[NBC 6: Tourism inches up in Florida as Canadians continue to avoid traveling to the U.S.](#)

[Herald Tribune: Soda, candy cut for Florida SNAP users in 2026. What's changing and when](#)

[WUSF: DeSantis announces four appointments to USF's Board of Trustees](#)

[FlaPol: 3 notable health-related laws go into effect in Florida on New Year's Day](#)

[FlaPol: Power struggle: Gov. DeSantis looks for 'intelligent' approach to AI data centers in Florida](#)

[FlaPol: Byron Donalds calls for restrictions on police use of drones](#)

[WUSF: Florida will receive \\$209.9 million over five years to improve rural health care](#)

[Sentinel: Florida Supreme Court rejects Uthmeier proposal for lawyers to skip state bar exam](#)

[Herald: How Florida's open carry rules differ from other states](#)

[Floridian: Numbers USA Gives Florida a 'C' Grade on Immigration Reform](#)

[News4JAX: Florida's rare and controversial black bear hunt kills 52](#)

[Herald: Alan Graham Greer, distinguished Miami trial lawyer and civic leader, dies at 86](#)

[NBC News: Florida school district cut ties with GOP candidate James Fishback in 2022 over sexual misconduct allegations](#)

[WLRN: Legal pot supporters fight the invalidation of petition signatures](#)

[FlaPol: Joe Gruters bill aims to shrink Citizens insurance, steering policies to private market](#)

[FlaPol: Sam Garrison expects AI 'tension' to drive 2026 Session](#)

[FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis appoints Urban Meyer onto New Colleges trustees](#)

[Democrat: Florida could put an end to paper straws if this bill gets passed](#)

[FlaPol: Wyman Duggan files bill to give Duval School Board more legal autonomy](#)

[Sentinel: Legislature focused on cutting homestead property taxes as cities, counties raise concerns](#)

[FlaPol: Ron DeSantis names four members to Space Florida Board of Directors](#)

[WUSF: Florida's rocket launches break record, reaching triple digits in 2025](#)

[FlaPol: Where did Hope Florida go in the Medicaid contract? Report raises questions](#)

[NBC: Trump and Zelenskyy to meet Sunday in Florida](#)

[Sentinel: How Orlando figures in the Epstein files](#)

[FlaPol: Carlos Guillermo Smith and Anna Eskamani support music therapy amid Medicaid changes](#)

[FlaPol: Yvette Benarroch files bill to fight the physician shortage](#)

FlaPol: Ponce Inlet settles lawsuit filed by former fire official

TCPalm: Former state Senate candidate gets probation, time served for drug charges

Politico: After 20 years of Florida's gift ban, some would like to make a return

WUSF: What comes next in Florida's budget-making process?

News-Press: Trump calls it 'scam' but Florida GOP puts affordability on to-do list

Times: Florida's new license plate law leads to immigration detention, wrongful arrest

News-Press: Lee clerk accuses port authority of impeding a safety audit at RSW

ON THE DOCKET THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

- STATE OFFICES CLOSED - State offices will be closed for New Year's Day.
- NEW FPL, TECO RATES TAKE EFFECT - Base rate increases for Florida Power & Light and Tampa Electric Co. will take effect Thursday after being approved by state regulators.
- WORKERS' COMP RATES DIP - Many Florida employers will see lower workers' compensation insurance rates in 2026, with an overall 6.9 percent decrease taking effect Jan. 1.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026

- STATE OFFICES CLOSED - State offices will be closed for the New Year's holiday weekend.
- PASSIDOMO SMITH LEADS PSC - Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo Smith will begin a two-year term as chairwoman of the Florida Public Service Commission. Passidomo Smith will succeed Chairman Mike La Rosa, who will remain on the utility regulatory panel. Also, former Rep. Bobby Payne, R-Palatka, and Ana Ortega will begin serving on the commission, replacing Commissioners Andrew Fay and Art Graham, who decided against seeking reappointment.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES FY 25-26

2026

January 13 -	2026 Regular Session Begins
January 20 -	Small County Coalition Legislative Reception
January 21 -	FAC County Legislative Days
January 21-22 -	Rural Counties Day 2026
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	FAC Annual Summer Meeting - Orlando
June 24	Small County Coalition Annual Business Meeting - Orlando

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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