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35 Days down – 25 to Go!

**Budget will begin to take center stage as bills scramble for consideration!
Fasten your seat belt the remainder of the trip may get a little bumpy!**

The Briefing for Monday, February 16, 2026

The Last Briefing – Saturday, February 14, 2026

Note – All previous Briefings can be accessed at www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org

Click the Briefing button at the website!

What's the weather outlook?

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

Legislative Calendar

Check the Calendar for Key Bills

[Senate Calendar for Week Six](#)

[House Calendar for Week Six](#)

Week Six

Here's a complete status report on the bills that will be considered this week!

**[Week Six - Bills up for consideration in legislative committees or on the House -
Senate Floorx](#)**

<u>HB 0039</u>	Assessments Levied on Recreational Vehicle Parks by Nix, Jr.
<u>HB 0103</u>	Local Business Taxes by Botana
<u>HB 0173</u>	Parental Rights by Kendall
<u>HB 0409</u>	Observance of Veterans' Day by K-12 Schools by Giallombardo
<u>HB 0441</u>	Conservation Lands by Kendall
<u>HB 0455</u>	Protection of Historic Monuments and Memorials by Black
<u>SB 0532</u>	Clerks of the Court by Simon
<u>HB 0543</u>	Transportation by McFarland
<u>SB 0546</u>	Conservation Lands by Mayfield
<u>SB 0556</u>	Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma by Berman
<u>HB 0615</u>	Individual Education Plans by Tendrich
<u>HB 0641</u>	Gender Identity Employment Practices by Plakon
<u>HB 0691</u>	Agricultural Enclaves by Botana

<u>HB 0731</u>	Interscholastic or Intrасhоlаstіс Extrасurriculаr Activities by Abbott
<u>SB 0824</u>	Inventory of Unimproved Real Property Owned by School Districts by Truenow
<u>SB 0840</u>	Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Nat. Disasters by DiCeglie
<u>SB 0856</u>	Disclosure Of Estimated Ad Valorem Taxes by DiCeglie
<u>HB 0925</u>	Clerks of Court by Trabulsy
<u>SB 1036</u>	School Counselors by Calatayud
<u>SB 1062</u>	Speech and Debate by Brodeur
<u>HB 1073</u>	School Districts by Koster
<u>SB 1134</u>	Official Actions of Local Governments by Yarborough
<u>HB 1147</u>	School District Unimproved Real Property by Nix, Jr.
<u>SB 1682</u>	Local Administration of Vessel Restrictions by Trumbull
<u>SB 1718</u>	Educator Preparation and Certification by Calatayud
<u>SB 2500</u>	Appropriations by Appropriations
<u>SB 2502</u>	Implementing the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act by Appropriations
<u>SB 2514</u>	Pre-K-12 Education by Appropriations
<u>SB 7028</u>	Retirement by Governmental Oversight and Accountability
<u>BUC2</u>	Implementing the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act by Budget Committee
<u>BUC1</u>	General Appropriations Act by Budget Committee

A Little More Explanation on these topics of Interest

- **HB 1073 – [School Board Bill of Rights is on the House Floor – Tuesday](#)** There is an amendment that states that if one board member requests a document that is not on the agenda – all members of the board will be offered the document. Also the preemption on employment of relatives has been eliminated from both the House and Senate bills. Districts must follow Nepotism policies adopted for the district.
- **Rural Renaissance – is included in [SPB 2502: Implementing the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act](#)** the bill implements the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act; Revising the services required to be provided by regional consortium service organizations under certain circumstances; creating the Regional Consortia Service Organization Supplemental Services Program; establishing the Rural Incentive for Professional Educators (RIPE) Program within the Department of Education for a specified purpose; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a budget amendment requesting additional spending authority to implement specified programs and payments, etc. Its

scheduled for consideration in Senate Appropriations, 02/18/26, 1:30 pm, 412 Knott Building **Bill Text:** [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)

- **Safe Schools Funding has become an issue** – the House is proposing \$158 million to the allocation but is changing the formula which will result in the elimination of each district getting a \$250,000 base in the distribution formula. Net result hurts all districts which 14 districts will actually see a reduction in Safe School funds. Districts have been advised as has the Florida Sheriffs Association. [Elimination of the Base component in the Safe Schools Formula will impact small counties](#)
- **Small County Funding** - [26-27 - Budget Small County Programs .docx](#) – funding for small county programs looks pretty status quo – most of the items are the same in both sides with some differences.
- **Sovereign Immunity** – House Bill 145 is in Senate messages and raises cap to \$600k per individual and \$1.2 million per incident by 2031. Senate Bill 1366 is headed for Senate Rules and raises caps for \$300K per individual and \$600k per incident.
- **Local Government Spending** – SB 1566 and HB 1329 propose expanded posting of information on county and city websites. A lot of questions regarding the need of this when so much information is already on the web. In addition, members questions why local government were being required to meet standards that are not met at the state level.
- **Term Limits – Non-starter this session.**
- **Property Tax Proposals – Nothing in the Senate yet!** Senate is in Sync with the Governor – who has not outlined a specific proposal.
- **Consolidation of Counties** – Nothing but a press release in January.

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](#)

DATA SETS ON STATEWIDE MILLAGE RATES AND LOCAL TAX ROLLS

[Report on Millage Rates and Taxes Levied](#)

[Data Sets on County Tax Roll Components](#)

[Florida DOGE Report Jan 2026 – Adobe cloud storage](#)

[Florida Association of Counties Property Tax Report](#)

[Florida TAXWATCH Report How Florida Counties Compare!](#)

Fiscal Structure & Revenue Resilience of Florida Municipalities

Headlines Around The State

[News4JAX: Wildfire prevention team arrives in Florida amid worsening statewide drought conditions](#)

[Times: Florida first lady Casey DeSantis warns of weed killer in bread. What to know.](#)

[CBS Miami: Parents of Parkland school shooting victims turn their grief into action](#)

[TCPalm: 'Secret Sauce' schools expose issues with how Florida grades schools](#)

[Democrat: Leon County schools face critical shortage of ESE teachers, Hanna says](#)

[Democrat: Tallahassee student heads to D.C. for civics immersion program](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: 'We got lucky': How Florida wildlife died or survived in the brutal February freeze](#)

[Democrat: Florida's 2nd Congressional District race draws record 8 candidates](#)

On The Docket

Tuesday - Feb. 17 --- Legislative

Senate

- DATA CENTERS, GROWTH LAW, TRUMP AIRPORT - Tuesday, 12 p.m. - The Rule Committee will spend an afternoon reviewing numerous proposals, including measures to address issues such as electricity and water use for massive data centers (SB 484), to preempt the naming of major airports in Florida to the state with the intent to rename Palm Beach International Airport after President Donald Trump (SB 706), to ban local governments from funding or promoting diversity, equity and inclusion programs (SB 1134), and to scale back a 2025 law that temporarily blocked cities and counties from approving "more restrictive or burdensome" changes to growth plans (SB 840). Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

--House

- **HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Tuesday 1 p.m.** - The House is on the floor. Among items listed on "special order" include proposals to preempt the naming of major airports in Florida to the state with the intent to rename Palm Beach International Airport after President Donald Trump (HB 919), to make records more accessible to district school board members and to ban non-disclosure agreements for school employees (HB 1073), and to disqualify unemployment claimants who do not contact a required number of employers weekly, don't appear for scheduled job interviews or don't return to work when recalled after layoffs (HB 191) Location: House chamber, the Capitol.

Tentatively scheduled

- Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

- --- Education & Employment, Reed Hall (102 HOB)
- --- Judiciary, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)
- --- State Affairs, Morris Hall (17 HOB)

- Tuesday, 6 p.m. or 15 minutes after the end of the floor session.

- --- Rules & Ethics,

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - Tuesday, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Internal Affairs meeting. - The Florida Public Service Commission will consider revising the currently prescribed depreciation rates for Florida City Gas. Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, Joseph P. Cresse Hearing Room 148, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The Miami-Dade College Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting. Location: Kendall Campus, Building R, Room R402, 11011 SW 104th Street, Miami.
- ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees is meeting. Location: EpiCenter, 13805 58th Street North, Clearwater.
- FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 10:45 a.m. for committee meeting and 1 p.m. for board meeting. - Florida State College at Jacksonville Board of Trustees will meet at a workshop and a meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee. Location: FSCJ Administrative Offices, 501 West State St., Jacksonville.
- TALLAHASSEE STATE BOARD - Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. - The Tallahassee State College Board of Trustees is meeting. Location: Hinson Administration Building, 444 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE BOARD - Tuesday, 3 p.m. CT - The Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees is meeting. Location: Raider Central, Building 400, Morell Room 302, Niceville Campus, 100 College Boulevard E, Niceville.
- PALM BEACH STATE BOARD - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Palm Beach State College District Board of Trustees is meeting. Location: Lake Worth Campus, Multi-Media Boardroom, CE 129, 4200 South Congress Avenue, Lake Worth.
- SANTA FE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Santa Fe College Board of Trustees is meeting. Location: Andrews Center, 209 W Call St, Starke.
- PENSACOLA STATE BOARD - Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. - The Pensacola State College Board of Trustees is meeting. Location: Pensacola State College, Pensacola Campus, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola.
- GOLDEN GLADES INTERCHANGE - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation to consider improvements to the Golden Glades interchange along Florida's Turnpike that includes noise walls and road widening. Location: Miami Gardens Senior Family Center, 18330 NW 12 Avenue, Miami Gardens.

**Wednesday - Feb. 18 --- Legislative
Senate**

- SENATE BUDGET - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Senate Appropriations Committee will consider the General Appropriations Act, implementing bills, conforming bills, and amendments. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol. The appropriations committees at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will hold public hearings on budget spreadsheets.

Tentatively scheduled

- Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

- --- Health & Human Services Appropriations Committee, 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- --- Pre-K – 12 Education, 37 Senate Building, the Capitol
- --- Transportation, Tourism, & Economic Development Appropriations Committee, 110 Senate Building, the Capitol.

- Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

- --- Agriculture, Environment, & General Government Appropriations Committee, 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- --- Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations Committee, 37 Senate Building, the Capitol.
- --- Higher Education Appropriations Committee, 110 Senate Building, the Capitol.
- --- Finance & Tax, 301 Senate Building, the Capitol.

- Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.

- --- Fiscal Policy, 110 Senate Building, the Capitol.

House Tentatively scheduled

- Wednesday, 8 a.m.

- --- Commerce, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)
- --- Health & Human Services, Morris Hall (17 HOB)

- Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

- --- Civil Justice & Claims, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)
- --- Health Professions & Programs, Reed Hall (102 HOB)
- --- Insurance & Banking, Morris Hall (17 HOB)

- Wednesday, 1 p.m.

- --- Government Operations, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)
- --- Housing, Agriculture & Tourism, Morris Hall (17 HOB)
- --- Student Academic Success, Reed Hall (102 HOB)

- Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.

- --- Careers & Workforce, Morris Hall (17 HOB)
- --- Economic Infrastructure, Reed Hall (102 HOB)

- Wednesday, 3:30 p.m.

- --- Criminal Justice, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)
- --- Industries & Professional Activities, Reed Hall (102 HOB)
- --- Intergovernmental Affairs, Morris Hall (17 HOB)

- Wednesday, 5 p.m.

- --- Education Administration, Reed Hall (102 HOB)
- --- Health Care Facilities & Systems, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)

- Wednesday, 6 p.m.

- --- Human Services, Mashburn Hall (314 HOB)
- --- Natural Resources & Disasters, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)

- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

- --- Rules & Ethics, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The St. Johns River State College Board of Trustees is meeting. Location: Orange Park Campus, Thrasher-Horne Conference Center, Suites C & D, 2900 Thrasher Horne Ave, Orange Park.
- LAKE-SUMTER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 5 p.m. - The Lake-Sumter State College Board of Trustees is meeting. Location: Sumter Center, Building 4, Room 4108/4107, 1423 County Road 526A, Sumterville.
- SPRINGS COAST MANAGEMENT - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Southwest Florida Water Management District Springs Coast Management Committee is holding a conference call. Location: Dial: 786 749-6127. Code: 184 277 442#

Thursday -Feb. 19 --- Legislative

Senate

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Senate on the floor. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE SPECIAL ORDER GROUP - Thursday, 9 a.m. - Special Order Calendar Group
- Location: 401 Senate Building.

House

- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The House is on the floor.
- Location: House chamber, the Capitol.

Tentatively scheduled

- - 1 p.m. - Budget, Morris Hall (17 HOB)
- - 6:30 p.m. - Rules & Ethics, Sumner Hall (404 HOB)

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida National Register Review Board will consider National Register nominations of the Clara White Mission in Duval County and St. Paul AME Church in Franklin County. Location: Room 307, R. A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

Friday - Feb. 20 --- Legislative

Senate

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Senate is to consider the chamber's fiscal year 2026-2027 budget proposal, implementing bills, and conforming bills. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.

House

- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday 10 a.m. - The House is on the floor.
- Location: House chamber, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- CABINET AIDES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Cabinet aides for Gov. Ron DeSantis, Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia, Attorney General James Uthmeier and Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson meet ahead of the Feb. 24 Cabinet meeting. Location: Cabinet Meeting Room, Lower Level, the Capitol.
- BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE KEYS - Friday, 9 a.m. - The State Board of Education is to consider rules changes regarding middle and high school start times and Schools of Hope, and a request from Miami Dade College regarding a dental hygiene bachelor's program. Location: Tennessee Williams Theatre, The College of the Florida Keys, 5901 College Road, Key West.
- REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference Impact Conference is meeting. Location: 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Division of Historical Resources Florida Historical Commission is holding its quarterly meeting. Location: R.A. Gray Building, Heritage Hall Auditorium, 500 S. Bronough Street Tallahassee.
- TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council is meeting. Location: Indian River State College Chastain Campus, Wolf High-Technology Center, 2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart.

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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