

Day 45

Regular Session is $\frac{3}{4}$ over – $\frac{1}{4}$ to go!

No meetings scheduled for Friday!

Will they finish on time? Hmm!

The Briefing for Thursday, February 26, 2026

The Last Briefing – Monday, February 23, 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 |](#)



In Memoriam **Senator/Sheriff Charlie Dean**

Charles S. Dean Sr., a longtime Citrus County sheriff and former member of the Florida Legislature, passed away earlier this week. Senator Dean devoted more than three decades to public service in Citrus County and the State of Florida. He was first elected Sheriff of Citrus County in 1980 and served four consecutive terms from 1981 to 1996. During his tenure, he earned statewide recognition for crime-prevention initiatives and leadership within the Florida Sheriffs Association, including serving as its president. In 2022, Dean was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where he served until 2027. He later won election to the Florida Senate, serving from 2007 to 2016. Throughout his legislative career, he was known for his focus on public safety, natural resource protection, healthcare issues, and education. **Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 28 at 3:00 p.m.** Location: College of Central Florida | Charles S. Dean Sr. Educational Center Address: 3800 S Lecanto Hwy, Lecanto, FL 34461

The Budget

Both the Senate and House have adopted respective budgets. Next step the conference process.

The Constitution requires a 72 hr waiting period after the Conference Agreement is reached.

Links are provided to wordsearch for project or program funding.

[SB 2500](#)

[Senate FEFP Proposal](#)

[HB 5001](#)

[House FEFP Proposal](#)

Rural Renaissance –

Many of the provisions of SB 250 – Rural Renaissance are also in Senate Bill 2502 and Senate Bill 7046.

The House has no corresponding provisions – Bills will be part of the conference process.

[SB 2502](#)

Sections pertaining to Rural Renaissance

Sections – 4, 5, 6, 7, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, and 99

Includes Language related to Regional Consortia

Programs and Office of Rural Prosperity

[Staff Analysis of SB 2502](#)

[SB 7046](#)

Sections pertaining to Rural Renaissance

Sections 8, 10, 11, and 18 through 38 –

Distribution Change and Definition Change for

Fiscally Constrained Counties

[Staff Analysis of Senate Bill 7046](#)

Property Tax Proposed Constitutional Amendment –

House 203 proposes total exemption of ad valorem on Homestead Property!

[Analysis of House Property Tax Proposals - CS/CS/HJR 203](#)

Senate has not revealed property tax plan!

Governor DeSantis has not outlined his proposal for Property Tax reduction.

Wakulla Board of County Commissioners Workshop Potential Impact of Tax Reduction

The following PDF documents were developed by the Wakulla Board of County Commissioner to determine impact of Property Tax proposal on Wakulla County programs.

<p><u>Workshop_2025-12-08_SLIDES.pdf</u> This document provides an overview of property tax revenue, county services, budgets, revenue sources, expenses, and future strategies.</p>	<p><u>Presentation Boards Exercise.pdf</u> The document outlines the FY 2025-26 budget for general revenue and fund services, detailing revenue sources and allocations for mandatory and discretionary county functions.</p>
--	---

Tax Proposals (Not property tax)

<p><u>Senate Bill 7046 - Taxation</u> <u>SB 7046 - Staff Analysis of Senate Tax Package</u></p>	<p><u>House Bill PCB WMC 26-01</u> <u>Staff Analysis of House Bill - PCB WMC 26-01</u></p>
--	---

Local Government Spending

<p><u>Senate Bill 1566</u> Bill is waiting to be heard in Senate Rules. <u>Staff Analysis of SB 1566 - Transparency of Local Govt Spending</u></p>	<p><u>House Bill 1329</u> Bill has passed all committees waiting to be schedule for full House consideration. <u>Staff Analysis of HB 1329 - Local Govt Spending Transparency</u></p>
---	--

School Board Bills of Rights

The bills have been amended to delete broad preemption of employment of relatives.

<p><u>SB 1620</u> <u>Waiting to be heard in Senate Rules</u> <u>Staff Analysis of SB 1620</u></p>	<p><u>HB 1073</u> <u>Bill has passed the House and is in Senate Messages</u> <u>Staff Analysis of HB 1073</u></p>
---	---

Sovereign Immunity –

<p>HB 145 is in Senate messages. <u>Analysis of House Bill 145 - Sovereign Immunity</u></p>	<p>SB 1366 is in Senate Rules <u>Analysis of SB 1366 - Sovereign Immunity.</u></p>
---	--

Bill Proposing Inventory of School District Unimproved Property

<p><u>SB 824</u> Bill has passed Senate – in House messages! <u>Analysis of CS/SB 824 - Unimproved School District Property</u></p>	<p><u>HB 1147</u> Bill has passed committees - awaiting House action. <u>Analysis of HB 1147 - School District Unimproved Property</u></p>
--	---



Legislative Calendar for Week 7

[House Calendar for Day 45](#) no meeting scheduled for Friday

[Senate Calendar for Day 45](#) Senate has adjourned for the day. No meetings tomorrow.

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](#)

Headlines Around The State

[FlaPol: Is the Florida redistricting process delayed — or dead on arrival? Even Republicans aren't sure](#)

[Times: As Florida pushes schools to quash protests, students face mix of punishments](#)

[Times: UF law dean defended attorney general's teaching pay in faculty meeting](#)

[WUSF: USF President Limayem on making the institution a 'model for true civil discourse' and more](#)

[Yahoo News: Gadsden man detained for immigration violations after mass attack concerns](#)

[Democrat: 'What excellence looks like': FSU trustees extend president's contract](#)

[WUSF: Florida unveils emergency operations center built to withstand 200 mph winds](#)

[Sun: As electric rates soar in Florida, here's how they compare nationally](#)

[Herald: Broward home searched by FBI as part of case linked to L.A. schools chief Carvalho](#)

[News4JAX: 'You're going to have something on the ballot': Gov. DeSantis pushes Florida property tax cuts as key affordability fix](#)

[FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis still sees Special Session as necessary for property tax relief](#)

[FlaPol: Gallop Franklin elected to lead House Democrats in 2028-30 term](#)

[Floridian: DeSantis Unveils Statue of Civil Rights Icon Fredrick Douglass in St. Augustine](#)

[The Capitolist: Governor, Florida Cabinet Backs Conservation Easements for Two Agricultural Ranches](#)

[FlaPol: Wilton Simpson: Farmland in Hardee, Highlands counties set aside for protection from development](#)

[FlaPol: Senate votes to expand swimming lesson vouchers, adds drowning prevention language](#)

[Today: Florida bill requires most children, 8, to be in booster seat](#)

[Post: What the numbers say about ICE enforcement and school enrollment](#)

[FlaPol: Clay Yarborough's 'medical freedom' bill survives bipartisan scrutiny in Senate Committee](#)

[FlaPol: House panel advances bipartisan bill to protect students with autism at public schools](#)

[News4JAX: Florida bill aims to keep kids buckled in booster seats longer](#)

[PNJ: Michelle Salzman slams Commissioner Kohler for 'abhorrent' sex abuse remark](#)

[FlaPol: Neal Dunn says he will serve out final term in House](#)

[WUSF: Freezing temperatures brought over \\$3.1 billion loss to Florida's agricultural industry](#)

[Times: Uthmeier's office goes after Republican lawmaker who investigated Hope Florida](#)

[*FlaPol: Alex Andrade urges continued oversight as he holds final Subcommittee hearing*](#)

[*FlaPol: Lake County GOP rejects Anthony Sabatini's membership application*](#)

[*FlaPol: Political community mourns passing of former Sen. Charlie Dean*](#)

On The Docket

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- REVENUE ESTIMATING CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference Impact Conference is meeting. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

Here are key dates for 26-27

June 9-12	FSBA Summer Meeting – Tampa
June 11 –	Small District Breakfast – SSDCC Annual Meeting
June 23-26 –	FAC Annual Conference – Orlando
June 24 -	Small County Coalition Summer Meeting
August 18 –	Primary Elections
Sept 16-17 –	FAC Policy Conference – Jacksonville
Nov 3 –	General Election
Nov. 17-19-	Rural Summit – Ocala – Sponsored by FREDa
Dec 2-4 –	Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference
Dec 2 -	Small County Coalition Breakfast –
Dec 2-4 –	FSBA Legislative Conference – Tampa
Dec 3 -	Small District Breakfast – SSDCC Legislative Meeting
Dec - Feb. -	Legislative Committee Meetings
March 2 -	Legislature convenes
March 16 -	Small County Coalition – Legislative Reception
March 17 -	Small School District Council Consortium
March 17-18-	Rural Days 2027 – Tentative
March 17-18 –	FSBA Days in the Legislature
March 17 -	Florida Association Counties – Legislative Day
April 30 -	Legislative Session 60 Days – Sine Die!

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](#)

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