

1/3 of Session Over!

40 Days remain!

Legislature will begin to outline 26-27 Budget Proposals

The Briefing – Saturday – January 31, 2026

The Last Briefing – Friday – January 30, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

Legislative Calendar

[Senate Calendar for Week Four – Committee Agenda for Monday and Tuesday outlined](#)
[Legislative Calendar for the House Next Week - Agenda for Monday specified](#)

Week Three Actions

Reports provide links; brief narratives; last action; bill companions; and status of similar bills.

 **[Week Three Action on Local Government Bills .docx](#)**

 **[Week Three - Action on Education Bills .docx](#)**

Heads Up

- **Sovereign Immunity – SB1366 to be heard Tuesday in Senate Judiciary** - The bill increases the caps for individual claims from \$200,000 to \$300,000 and the caps from multiple claims from \$300,000 to \$450,000. The increases were based on CPI increase from the last time the caps were set.
- **Restriction on Employment of Relatives - SB1620 is up in Senate Education Pre K – 12 Tuesday** - Senate Bill 1620 is up Tuesday. The bill makes School Districts an agency under FS 112.3135 Restriction on employment of relatives.

EDR IS ADVISING OF REQUIRED REPORT DEADLINE

Local Government Economic Development Incentives Survey for FY 2024-25

Deadline for Submission Extended from Jan. 15 to Feb. 13 for report submission

<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/local-government/economic-development-incentives/index.cfm>

The Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) is requesting completion of the *Local Government Economic Development Incentives Survey for FY 2024-25*. County and municipal governments are required to annually report to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) the economic development incentives in excess of \$25,000 paid to businesses during the previous local fiscal year.

The statutory reporting deadline for completing the online FY 2024-25 survey was January 15, 2026. However, EDR will continue to accept survey responses through Friday, February 13, 2026. After February 13th, the link to the online survey will be disabled.

Governor Declares February 16 – Presidents Day to be State Holiday to celebrate America's 250th.

Gov. **Ron DeSantis** announced that Feb 16th will be a State Holiday. State Employees will get an extra paid day off and state parks will waive admission fees for several days next month, in honor of America's 250th birthday. Presidents Day, which honors Washington's birthday, is a federal holiday. Feb. 16 will be an official state holiday, prompting state offices to close.

Admission will be waived for week of Feb 12-16

In addition, people can visit state-owned public lands — including state parks, wildlife management areas and Department of State historical properties — for free from Feb. 12 to 16.

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](#)

- **Governors Office DOGE Report on Local Government Spending – [Florida DOGE Report Jan 2026 – Adobe cloud storage](#)**-The report includes recommendations including a suggestion that a review of Florida's 411 cities should be done to see if some could be abolished or consolidated with other governments.
- **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](#)**
- **Significant Bill Lists**
 - [Significant Education Bills .docx](#)
 - [Significant County Bills - 2026 .docx](#)

On The Docket

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

— Legislature:

- **DEMOCRATS HOLD AVAILABILITY** - Monday, 10 a.m. - House Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell, D-Tampa, and Rep. Kelly Skidmore, D-Boca Raton, will hold a media availability. Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85918244788?pwd=eYf2d3oeNUBYmsFO81obZLStizNW5m.1#success>
- **SECURITY, THREAT PANEL** - Monday, 1 p.m. - The House Security & Threat Assessment Committee will receive a closed-door briefing about “critical incident response protocols.” Location: 12 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- **SEX OFFENSES** - Monday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Criminal Justice Committee is slated to consider a proposal (SB 1750), filed by Chairman Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, that would increase penalties for sex offenses. Location: 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **GUBERNATORIAL TRANSITION** - Monday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee will take up a bill (SB 1078), filed by Sen. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, that would require steps to smooth the transition to a new governor, including

requiring the governor to appoint a “transition liaison.” Location: 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

- MEDICAID - Monday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Health Policy Committee will consider a proposal (SB 1758), filed by Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, that would make a series of changes in the Medicaid program, including seeking federal approval to place work requirements on able-bodied adults in the program. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SPACE FLORIDA - Monday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will take up a bill (SB 1514), filed by Sen. Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills, that would allow Space Florida to hold closed-door meetings to discuss information designated as trade secrets. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol
- ROUNDING TO A NICKEL - Monday, 3:30 p.m. - The House Ways & Means Committee will consider a proposal (HB 951), filed by Rep. Fiona McFarland, R-Sarasota, and Rep. Toby Overdorf, R-Palm City, that would allow businesses to round transactions to the nearest nickel as the U.S. has stopped producing pennies. Location: 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR SET - Monday, 15 minutes after Senate committee meetings. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. Location: 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- SPACE ISSUES - Monday, 1 p.m. - The Space Florida Board of Directors will meet. Location: Florida Department of Transportation, 605 Suwanee St., Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-321-234-5533. Code: 843378632
- TOURISM ISSUES - Monday, 2 p.m. - The Visit Florida Board of Directors will meet. Location: Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Legislature:

- CAMPUS SAFETY - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The House Education & Employment Committee will take up a bill (HB 757), filed by Rep. Michelle Salzman, R-Pensacola, that would make a series of changes to try to bolster security on college and university campuses. Location: Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SECURITY DETAILS - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The House Judiciary Committee will consider a proposal (HB 401), filed by Majority Leader Tyler Sirois, R-Merritt Island, that would require the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to provide security details for major-party nominees for governor and lieutenant governor. Location: 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CONSERVATION LAND SALES - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The House State Affairs Committee will take up a bill (HB 441), filed by Rep. Kim Kendall, R-St. Augustine, and Rep. Allison Tant, D-Tallahassee, that seeks increased public notice before the state or water management districts could consider selling or exchanging conservation lands. Location: Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CHURCH SECURITY - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Rules Committee will take up a bill (SB 52), filed by Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, that would offer a licensing exemption for volunteers who provide armed security at churches, mosques, synagogues or other places of worship. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- HORSE RACING - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - The House Commerce Committee will consider a proposal (HB 881), filed by Rep. Adam Anderson, R-Palm Harbor, that would allow the state's two thoroughbred tracks to stop holding races while continuing to offer other types of gambling, such as poker. Location: 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- WASHINGTON EXHIBIT UNVEILED - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, will unveil an interactive George Washington exhibit. Location: Old Capitol.
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The House Health & Human Services Committee will consider a proposal (HB 303), filed by Rep. Robin Bartleman, D-Weston, that would require completion of a course on human trafficking before people could be licensed as nurses. Location: Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CHILD WELFARE - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee will consider a proposal (SB 996), filed by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez, R-Homestead, that would make changes in the child-welfare system. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Judiciary Committee will take up a bill (SB 1366), filed by Sen. Jason Brodeur, R-Sanford, that would change the state's sovereign immunity laws, potentially leading to government agencies paying more money in negligence lawsuits. Location: 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- UTILITY CONNECTIONS - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Regulated Industries Committee will consider a proposal (SB 1014), filed by Sen. Debbie Mayfield, R-Indianapolis, that would lead to municipalities allowing people outside their boundaries to connect to utility services. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- TRANSPORTATION ISSUES - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Transportation Committee will take up a bill (SB 1220), filed by Chairman Ralph Massullo, R-Lecanto, that would make numerous changes related to the Florida Department of Transportation. Location: 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- CYBERSECURITY LAWSUITS - Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. - The House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 635), filed by Rep. Mike Giallombardo, R-Cape Coral, that could help shield government agencies and businesses from lawsuits over cybersecurity breaches.. Location: 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- DFS - Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. - The House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 1221), filed by Rep. Chip LaMarca, R-Lighthouse Point, that would make a series of changes related to the Department of Financial Services. Location: Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- FARMS, HOUSING - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Agriculture Committee will consider a proposal (SB 962), filed by Sen. Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island, that would make a change so that cities and counties are not required to authorize multifamily or mixed-use residential purposes on farmland. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- PROHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Education Prek-12 committee will consider SB 1620, filed by Sen. Leek. The bill will restrict the employment of relatives in School Districts. The House Bill 1073 removed the employment provision when it was considered last week.

- DATA CENTER REGULATIONS - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Community Affairs Committee will take up a bill (SB 484), filed by Sen. Bryan Avila, R-Miami Springs, that would set regulations related to data centers. Location: 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee will consider a proposed constitutional amendment (SJR 1104), filed by Sen. Ralph Massullo, R-Lecanto, that seeks to bolster protections of religious expression in public schools. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- DEP - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. - The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee will take up a bill (SB 1510), filed by Sen. Ralph Massullo, R-Lecanto, that would make numerous changes related to the Department of Environmental Protection. Location: 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- UTILITY ISSUES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission will meet. Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- EXPRESSWAY PROJECT - Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in St. Johns County on plans for the First Coast Expressway, from east of County Road 2209 to Interstate 95. Location: Renaissance World Golf Village, 500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

— Legislature:

- **SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.**
- STABLECOIN PROGRAM - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The Senate Banking and Insurance Committee will take up a bill (SB 1568), filed by Sen. Nick DiCeglie, R-Indian Rocks Beach, that would create a pilot program for the Department of Financial Services to accept stablecoins for payment of fees. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- ‘CRYPTO ATM’ SCAMS - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee will consider a bill (SB 198), filed by Sen. Darryl Rouson, D-St. Petersburg, that would place regulations on virtual currency kiosks, which are sometimes used in scams against seniors. Location: 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- HIGHER ED BOARD MEMBERS - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The Senate Education Postsecondary Committee will hold confirmation hearings for state university system Board of Governors members Michael Okaty and Keith Perry. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- ELECTIONS LAW - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee will take up a bill (SB 1334), filed by Sen. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, that would make a series of changes in elections laws, including taking additional steps to try to make sure people registering to vote are U.S. citizens. Location: 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SWIM LESSONS - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 428), filed by Sen. Clay Yarborough, R-Jacksonville, that would expand eligibility for a swimming-lesson voucher program. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- MATH EDUCATION - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Pre-K-12 Education Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 920), filed by Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, that would make a series of changes in mathematics education. Location: 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- TRANSPORTATION MONEY - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will discuss budgets for several agencies, including the Department of Transportation and the Division of Emergency Management. Location: 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- RIVER RESTORATION - Wednesday, 3:45 p.m. - The Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 1066), filed by Sen. Jason Brodeur, R-Sanford, aimed at restoring North Florida's Ocklawaha River. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- RIGHTS RESTORATION - Wednesday, 3:45 p.m. - The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 132), filed by Sen. Tina Polsky, D-Boca Raton, that would direct the Florida Commission on Offender Review to develop a database to help convicted felons determine if their voting rights have been restored. Location: 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- EDUCATION BUDGET - Wednesday, 3:45 p.m. - The Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee will review budget issues for the Department of Education and the university system's Board of Governors. Location: 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: House chamber, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- House Budget Committee (8 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- House Higher Education Budget Subcommittee (9 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building).
- House Human Services Subcommittee (9 a.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol).
- House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee (9 a.m., 404 House Office Building).
- House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee (9 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., 314 House Office Building).
- House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- House Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building).
- House Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., 404 House Office Building).

Also:

- FISH, WILDLIFE PANEL - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will take up a series of issues, including regulations about trapping. Location: Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- VOTER FRAUD CASE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in three cases, including an appeal by a convicted felon who was one of 20 people accused by Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials in 2022 of registering and voting when they were ineligible. Terry Hubbard went to the Supreme Court last year after the 4th District Court of Appeal ruled that charges against him should move forward. The Supreme Court case centers on

a question about whether the statewide prosecutor's office had authority to file charges against Hubbard. Location: Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.

- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission is scheduled to meet. Location: Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Code: 282335254
- PORT ISSUES - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council is scheduled to meet. Location: Mission San Luis, 2021 Mission Road, Tallahassee.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

— Legislature:

- House Criminal Justice Subcommittee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building).
- House Health Care Budget Subcommittee (8 a.m., 314 House Office Building).
- House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee (8 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building).
- House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee (8 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- Senate Appropriations Committee (9 a.m., 110 Senate Office Building).
- Senate Fiscal Policy Committee (9 a.m., 412 Knott Building).
- Senate Special Order Calendar Group (15 minutes after committee meetings, 401 Senate Office Building).
- House Government Operations Subcommittee (12:30 p.m., 404 House Office Building).
- House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee (12:30 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- House Justice Budget Subcommittee (12:30 p.m., 314 House Office Building).
- House Student Academic Success Subcommittee (12:30 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building).
- House Education Administration Subcommittee (4 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building).
- House Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee (4 p.m., 404 House Office Building).
- House State Administration Budget Subcommittee (4 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building).
- House Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee (4 p.m., 314 House Office Building).
- House Rules & Ethics Committee (6:15 p.m., 404 House Office Building).

— Also:

- FISH, WILDLIFE PANEL - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will meet and take up issues such as hunting regulations. Location: Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- POT PROPOSAL - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in three cases, including a dispute about whether a proposed recreational-marijuana constitutional amendment should go on the November ballot. The Smart & Safety Florida political committee needs Supreme Court approval of the proposed ballot wording, but Attorney General James Uthmeier and other opponents contend the wording does not meet legal requirements. Location: Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.

- PAROLE CASES - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Location: Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office, 1350 N.W. 12th Ave., Miami. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- GAMBLING ISSUES - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- VALENCIA COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Valencia College Board of Trustees will meet. Location: Valencia College, West Campus, 1800 South Kirkman Road, Orlando.
- APALACHEE COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Apalachee Regional Planning Council will meet. Location: Apalachee Regional Planning Council, 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100, Tallahassee.
- NORTHEAST FLORIDA I - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet. Location: Jessie Ball duPont Center, 40 East Adams St., Jacksonville. <https://nefrc.org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>. Meeting ID: 87499770491
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

- 'IMPACT' CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an "impact" conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. Location: 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

Headlines Around The State

Ledger: Fort Meade residents hurl skepticism at massive data center during forum

Florida Phoenix: Another tort tussle in the state House

Times: As Florida pitches tweaks to Schools of Hope law, critics want to see more

Herald: Where is Carlos? An American family caught in the immigration crackdown

FlaPol: St. Petersburg Housing Authority backs Blake Investment Partners Historic Gas Plant District bid

Sentinel: Warned of Florida State Guard concerns, DeSantis administration fired whistleblower, records show

FlaPol: State to waive park fees for a week, give employees Presidents Day off, Gov. DeSantis says

Herald: The DeSantis DOGE spotlight comes to Broward and Miami-Dade

Herald: How bone-chilling cold coming to Florida could affect shopping, travel, fields

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

