



The Briefing for Tuesday, March 31, 2026

The Last Briefing was Thursday, March 26, 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](#)

March Madness Moves To Final Four

2026 NCAA Women's Final Four on April 3

Michigan vs UCLA -9:00pm	So. Carolina vs U Conn – 7:00pm
Men's Final Four Games – Saturday - April 4	
UConn vs Illinois - 6:09 p.m	Arizona vs Michigan - 8:49 p.m.

Sad News

We are sad to share the news of the passing of Dale Malita. We don't have information other than that he passed last Friday. Dale was well-know and well respected consultant and professional. Protocol is an important part of the legislative process and Dale was always respectful of others. His work with local governments and his advocacy for rural areas was significant. Personally, I credit Dale's work as being foundational to the creation of the Small County Coalition. He was humble, a good guy, and a friend. Our condolences are expressed to his family, his partners, and to his clients. We will share more when information is available.

Speaking to the Choir as Property Tax Proposal Looms!

The consideration of the elimination of ad valorem on homesteaded property is one of the most consequential decisions in modern Florida history. Ad Valorem taxes are the primary funding source for local services provided through cities and counties across the state. The impact will reduce the primary funding structure for local governments to address local programs. For the past year, the Governor and the Florida Legislature have put forward the notion of revising Florida's Property Tax through a reduction or elimination of the Homestead tax currently in place.

To date, there has been no agreement on what the proposal will be. The House has offered a number of proposals and settled on one that would eliminate ad valorem taxes on homesteaded properties. The House proposed Joint Resolution was not considered in the Senate. Neither the Governor nor the Senate have offered any proposal. It is anticipated that the matter will be resolved in a Special Session”.

Although discussions have indicated that law enforcement and first responder services will be maintained – no implementing legislation has been offered that outline what will happen if Florida voters approve whatever proposal is offered. Of particular concern is the impact on rural counties. Services that are not specifically protected in whatever proposal is offered will be on the ‘chopping block”. Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Road work, Animal Shelters, Veteran and Senior Citizen services to name a few.

Without having a specific proposal – we can only anticipate what the outcome will be!

As local governments across the state move into the budget process, it will be important to be mindful of a revenue reduction resulting from the potential passage of a constitutional amendment. Local governments are currently in the process of identifying programs that are “discretionary”. As budgets for FY 26-27 take form – it is important that local governments reach out to their local community to make sure that the public understands and engages on supporting or communicating what programs are important to the local community. Many of these so-called “discretionary” programs are essential to the local citizens. Hopefully, the message is will be clear and reach people that care about their communities!

What say you?

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 Association of Counties Property Tax Report](#)

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

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

[Fiscal Structure & Revenue Resilience of Florida Municipalities](#)

Finished Business

237 Bills passed both chambers

 **[Summaries of All Bills That Passed the 20256 Regular Session.docx](#)**

Unfinished Business

Consideration of Property Tax Proposals

General Appropriations

Status of funding important to Small Counties

 [26-27 - Budget Proposals Small County Programs .docx](#)

Word Searchable Appropriation Proposals

Senate Budget Proposal - [SB 2500](#)

House Budget Proposal - [HB 5001](#)

Rural Renaissance

Unfinished Issues

Modification of Fiscally Constrained Formula
Increased funding for Regional Education Consortia
Establishment of Rural District Supplement Program

Education Funding

Status of K-12 Funding

[House FEFP CProposal for 26-27](#)

[Senate FEFP Proposal](#)

Education Provisions in the GAA.

[Comparison of House and Senate Current Budget Provisions](#)

Unfinished Issues

Providing additional funding for School Transportation
Accountability and Transparency in Scholarship Programs
Special Facility Construction Funding
Regional Consortium Funding
Safe Schools Funding/Formula
Funding for Declining Enrollment – current year and 26-27

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

[Sentinel: Robert F. Kennedy Jr. stops in Miami to announce healthy hospital menu initiative](#)

[DBNJ: Florida loses in court \(again\). Wildlife advocates cheer wetlands ruling.](#)

[DBNJ: No more candy, soda? Florida SNAP to ban sweets in April. What to know](#)

[FlaPol: 'Florida is a red state': Byron Donalds not worried about November despite Dem Special Election wins](#)

[WUSF: Hope Florida Foundation approves draft audit prepared for legislative leaders](#)

[WUSF: Florida attorney general candidate José Javier Rodríguez on 'fighting for the little guy' and more](#)

[News4JAX: Lawmakers hope new law spurs affordable housing, but some leaders say it weakens local government control](#)

[Times: Florida county's school-zone cameras have led to nearly 34,000 license suspensions](#)
[Sun-Sentinel: Florida may have outgrown part-time legislature, experts say](#)
[WUSF: Florida Forever is on the verge of getting little funding this year](#)
[WUSF: Florida elections supervisors caution against group's unofficial registration cards](#)
[Sentinel: Bees are Florida's backbone, but the state is becoming less pollinator-friendly](#)
[FlaPol: Lauren Book to launch 11th annual Walk in My Shoes trek across Florida](#)
[Politico: The spring break battle over Florida's tourism image](#)
[FlaPol: Rick Scott says Florida 'very unaffordable' in speech to national conservative group](#)
[News Herald: TDC accepts Rep. Griffiths' contract as new Visit PCB CEO/president](#)
[Florida Phoenix: Rare divide: Florida's elected prosecutors oppose Uthmeier on arming certain felons](#)
[NYT: Florida's Immigration Crackdown, Led by DeSantis, Is Showing Cracks](#)
[Times: 'Don't do it.' Florida Republicans warned off congressional redistricting](#)
[Florida Phoenix: No recount will be required in Florida Senate District 14 race](#)
[DBNJ: In private event, state CFO criticizes Flagler County's budget](#)
[FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs sweeping land-use bill curbing local zoning control](#)
[FlaPol: Byron Donalds says GOP must redouble efforts after Special Election debacle](#)
[FlaPol: Under Live Local, communities must engage to shape projects or risk being left out entirely](#)
[FlaPol: Citrus County Chamber calls out optics of Jeff Kottkamp's appearance with CFO](#)
[Floridian: Shevrin Jones Endorses David Jolly for Florida Governor](#)
[TCPalm: Florida Republicans worried about congressional redistricting](#)
[PNJ: Santa Rosa commits to finding funds to preserve its farm land](#)

ON THE DOCKET THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

- SCF MANATEE-SARASOTA TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The State College of Florida Board of Trustees is meeting. - SCF 5840 26th St. W., in Building 7, Room 160, Bradenton.
- EDUCATION COMMISSIONER AT TIGER BAY - Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. - Florida Education Commissioner Anastasios "Stasi" Kamoutsas is the featured speaker for the Capital Tiger Bay Club lunch. - Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 W. Pensacola Street, Tallahassee.
- CSWR-FLORIDA RATES - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - The Public Service Commission is holding a virtual hearing on the rate increase proposed by CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company LLC., which provides water and wastewater service to 12,319 water and 7,859 wastewater customers across 11 systems in Brevard, Citrus, Duval, Highlands, Marion, and Volusia counties. - Visit: www.floridapsc.com/pscfiles/website-files/PDF/Publications/SpecialReports/sr--2026-03-CSWR.pdf Registration closes at noon Monday.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

- NEW COLLEGE FOUNDATION ADVANCEMENT - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The New College of Florida Foundation Advancement Committee is meeting. - The Keating Center, 441 College Drive, Sarasota.
- NORTH FLORIDA AGING - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Area Agency on Aging for North Florida is expected to discuss direct services by the agency under an emergency waiver since September 2025 and supportive services and nutrition programs available to senior adults in Jefferson County. - Monticello Opera House, 185 West Washington Street, Monticello.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

- SBA RULE MAKING - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The State Board of Administration is to consider a rule change involving the reimbursement premium formula. - The Hermitage Centre, Hermitage Room, 1801 Hermitage Boulevard, Tallahassee.
- SUNSHINE RATES - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is holding a pre-hearing conference ahead of a planned April 13-14 hearing on a limited proceeding rate increase by Sunshine Water Services. - Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- DOH EMERGENCY OVERSIGHT - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight, Emergency Medical Services Section Communications Committee is meeting online. - www.floridahealth.gov/event/emsac-data-committee-meeting-2026-02-18-c6690a4f-3c5f-5556-8ce4-2a0d7300f563/
- FLORIDA GAMING - Thursday, 12 p.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission is holding an “information gathering session” on potential future rulemaking related to cardroom operations. - Hurston Building, Room N109, 400 W Robinson Street, Orlando.
- ANIMAL INDUSTRY MATTERS - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry is holding a meeting. - The Florida Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association, 801 SW 60th Avenue Ocala.
- BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight, Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program is holding an online meeting. - Visit: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting> ID: 215 077 782 776 4 Code: Hj9Bu3LA

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

- FAMU PRESIDENT AT TIGER BAY - Friday, 11:30 a.m. - Florida A&M University President Marva Johnson is the featured speaker for the Capital Tiger Bay Club lunch. - Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 W. Pensacola Street, Tallahassee.
- CAPE HAZE RESTORATION - Friday, 5:30 p.m. - The Southwest Florida Water Management District is holding an online call on the Cape Haze Ecosystem Restoration Project. - Visit: www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/about/calendar/cape-haze-ecosystem-restoration-project-public-meeting-04/03/2026.

Here are key dates for 26-27

April 20 -	Special Legislative Session to deal with Congressional
Redistricting	Note: No information on Special Session to deal with
Budget and other	unfinished business
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!

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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