



The Briefing for Monday, April 20, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, April 13, 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

Special Session to Convene Next Tuesday –

On the agenda – Congressional Redistricting; Artificial Intelligence; and, “Medical Freedom”.

Text of Proclamation Calling Special Session 2026D

The Special Legislative Session has been pushed back one week. Special Session 2026D is now scheduled to convene Tuesday -April 28. “Bill of Rights” and a controversial “medical freedom” measure failed during the Regular Session. The proclamation on January 7, 2026, calling the Legislature of the State of Florida for a Special Session relating to consideration of legislation for the drawing of congressional districts for the State of Florida and any legal challenges thereto, including the appropriation of additional funding for such litigation, is amended to include consideration of legislation relating to (1) protecting Floridians from the dangers of artificial intelligence including an AI Bill of Rights for Floridians, and creating, as necessary, public records exemptions related to investigations of alleged artificial intelligence harms and (2) medical freedom, similar to Senate Bill 1756, which passed the Senate in March.

Congressional Redistricting – What's proposed?

Although included in the call for Special Session 2026D - the governor still hasn't released a proposal.

AI Bill of Rights – What's proposed?

Although included in the call- no proposed legislation has been filed as of today!

Medical Freedom – What's proposed?

No bill has been proposed at this time – however, the Governor references SB 1756.

[Here is text of Staff Analysis of SB 1756 filed in the Regular Session.](#)

Property Taxes – What's proposed?

Although the Governor is pushing for voters to consider whether they want to abolish property taxes on primary homes during the 2026 election. While DeSantis has indicated that a special session might be needed to address property taxes, he didn't include it on within the call of 2026D. There is an alternative - Florida's Constitution sets out the requirements of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. The **Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (TBRC)** is an official state

commission established with the authority to "...examine the state budgetary process, the revenue needs and expenditure processes of the state, the appropriateness of the tax structure of the state, and governmental productivity and efficiency."

The [Florida Constitution](#) requires the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission to convene every 20 years. The Commission is scheduled to convene in 2027.

The Budget – Any progress? Mixed messages!

With the Legislature unable to agree on the budget for FY 26-27 – the appropriations bill will have to be finished prior to July 1. During the Regular Session, the Senate approved a roughly \$115 billion budget, compared to the House's \$113.6 billion proposal. Recent announcements from both the Senate and House indicate a mixed message! The Senate leadership (Senators Albritton and Hooper) indicate that progress is being made on spending allocations and conversations are progressing. Hooper said the Senate has significantly reduced its position, while criticizing the House for not adjusting its numbers. House budget chief Lawrence McClure pushed back, saying he does not recognize the figures Hooper cited and noting the two have not spoken directly since March 13.

ACHA Announced Availability of Rural Health Infrastructure Grants

The DeSantis administration has posted [grant applications](#) for rural health infrastructure grants awarded to the state by the federal government. With more than 1 million people living in rural areas in Florida, the \$209M grant breaks down to a \$199 per resident.

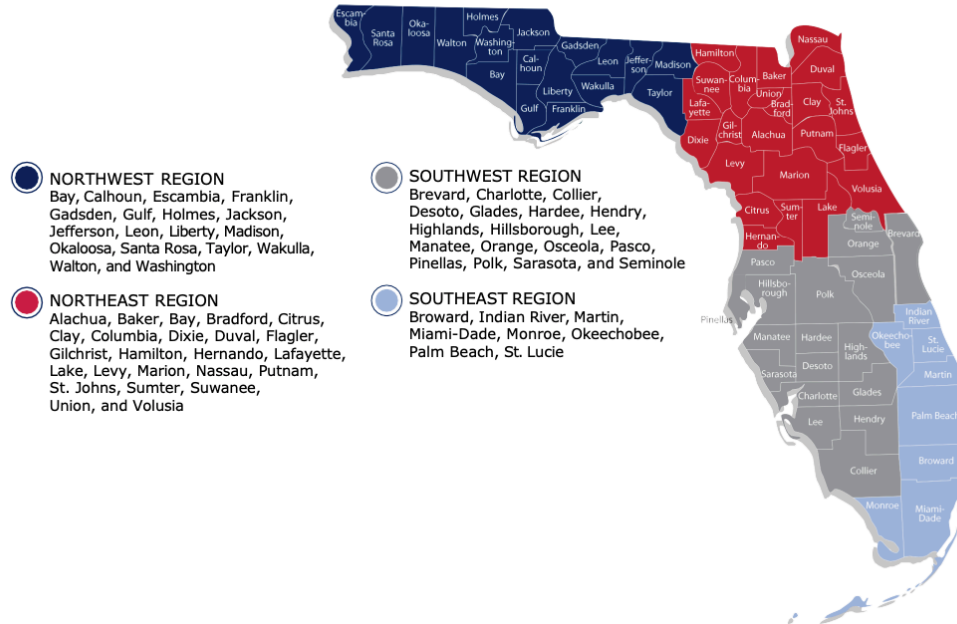
This announcement covers the first round of grant opportunities, focusing on infrastructure necessary to monitor success and track expenditures and deliverables. Specifically, the funds can be spent for:

- Grant management technologies.
- Independent evaluation services to monitor compliance, data governance, and the efficacy of the initiative.
- Technical assistance services for grant sub-awardees.
- Education and outreach services to assist Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries in selecting an integrated health plan.

AHCA has divided the state into four regions: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast and has agreed to spend \$43.9 million, \$85.6 million, \$50.2 million, and \$15 million, respectively.



Rural Health Transformation Program Regional Map



A second round of grants will be posted by the Agency of Health Care Administration for initiatives intended to improve access to health care for rural Florida. AHCA must announce both rounds of grant awards by Sept. 30 and the funds must be spent by Sept. 30, 2027. Year Two funding will equal whatever facilities spent by Sept. 30, 2027. That means, for instance, that if Florida spends only \$190 million by that time, Year Two grant funding will be \$190 million and not the \$209 million the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved.

U.S. Department of Agriculture announce creation of “Office of Seafood”

Fifty years ago, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—the primary law governing marine fisheries in U.S. federal waters—was signed into law, providing the fishing industry with long-term economic stability. However, for years, fishermen across the country have been struggling to navigate programs at USDA that can help support their businesses.

Last week the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins alongside U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum announced the creation of the new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Seafood. The office will prioritize customer service and ease of navigation for American seafood cultivators, producers, and processors to access USDA programs. With the creation of the USDA Office of Seafood, the Federal government now enters a new era of seafood policy where American fishermen will be recognized by USDA as a key part of the U.S. food supply.

One of the primary roles of the new USDA Office of Seafood will be coordinating across USDA agencies to ensure fishermen are integrated into USDA programs and working alongside the U.S. Department of Commerce and other Federal partners to revitalize the American seafood industry.

President Trump's Executive Order 14276, [Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness](#) - issued in April – 2025 - affirmed support for the commercial seafood industry. The USDA Office of Seafood is intended to play an important role in coordinating with the U.S. Department of Commerce in the development of the America First Seafood Strategy to promote production, marketing, sale, and export of U.S. fishery and aquaculture products and strengthen domestic processing capacity. For additional information, email seafood@usda.gov or visit www.usda.gov/seafood.

General Appropriations
House and Senate Budget Proposals As of End of Regular Session
Word Searchable Appropriation Proposals

Senate Budget Proposal - [SB 2500](#)

House Budget Proposal - [HB 5001](#)

Education Provisions in the GAA.
[Comparison of House and Senate Current Budget Provisions](#)

Florida Education Finance Program
Status of K-12 Funding at the end of the 60 Day Session

[Senate FEFP Proposal for 26-27](#)

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

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

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:** Florida already delayed redistricting. Consultants increasingly wonder if it will — or should — still happen at all.
- Politico:** Aspiring pot companies had big dreams for Florida. Reality has hit hard.
- WLRN:** Florida's SAVE Act does a lot. Here's how it will affect voter registration
- Floridian:** Greg Steube, Aaron Bean, and Gus Bilirakis Tackle Septic Tank Income Tax Exclusion
- Times:** Hernando school board condemns slurs against student member, who's Muslim
- News-Press:** President Trump Highway, renaming SR 80, starts in Fort Myers July 1
- Ledger:** Fort Meade mayor responds to state official's letter about data center
- FlaPol:** 'Integrity, work ethic, and vision': Aaron Bean backs Blaise Ingoglia for CFO
- Politico:** Florida's special session could burnish DeSantis' legacy — but pitfalls lurk
- Capitolist:** Congressional redistricting special session pushed back 1 week
- FlaPol:** Former Senate Appropriations Chairs see long path ahead on budget negotiations
- WSJ:** Florida's Billionaires Want More Private Schools. So They're Building Their Own.
- Times:** DeSantis admin hits Florida city over hyperscale data center proposal
- TCPalm:** 'Zero tolerance' at Florida beach bash
- Times:** Ashley Moody trails Alexander Vindman in fundraising this year for US Senate seat
- My News 13:** Two Floridians in Congress face mounting pressure to resign
- WLRN:** Florida stalls as 42,000 kids wait for affordable healthcare
- Ledger:** Fort Meade's approval still leaves hurdles ahead for data center
- Times:** Could FEMA hurricane rules wipe out Florida's mobile homes?
- Democrat:** Leon County seeks priority over city of Tallahassee laws
- WUSF:** SNAP in Florida will soon allow fewer items at checkout. Here's what to know
- WUSF:** Schools weapon detection systems removed after 10 days
- WLRN:** Florida joins growing national push to stop the spread of sewage sludge
- Politico:** DeSantis delays Florida's redistricting session and tacks on AI, vaccines
- NBC 6:** Redistricting session delayed as Gov. DeSantis adds AI, vaccines bills
- FlaPol:** Paul Renner rolls out plan to eliminate homestead taxes, cut business taxes, provide relief for renters
- WUSF:** Desantis 'flip-flop' on pro sports tax subsidies divides Republicans
- Daily News:** The invisible debris: how Hurricane Ian's trauma still haunts SW FL
- NBC 6:** Florida Gov. DeSantis considers 'little tweak' to redistricting schedule

News4JAX: 'No better person': DeSantis renames Tallahassee airport after FSU coaching legend Bobby Bowden

Times: Florida's first hyperscale data center could be thwarted by new water rule

Ledger: Fort Meade approves deal for Florida's first hyperscale data center

Democrat: Leon schools face \$30 million deficit without sales tax extension

FlaPol: Florida unemployment rate higher than national rate for first time in nearly 5 years

Democrat: Florida's wildfire season could be one of the worst in history

Times-Union: JEA pays big for natural gas plant but doesn't yet have state approval

ON THE DOCKET THIS WEEK

MONDAY, APRIL 20

- **QUALIFYING ROUND 1** - Monday, 12 p.m. - The qualifying period begins for U.S. Senate candidates, state attorney and public defender for the 20th Judicial Circuit, and judicial offices from justice of the Supreme Court to district courts of appeal, circuit court and county court. The period ends at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 24. - Department of State, Division of Elections, Bureau of Election Records, R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.
- **HURRICANE SEASON UTILITY PREP** - Monday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is to receive a briefing on the preparations for the 2026 hurricane season by electric utilities and communications services providers. - Room 105, Gerald L. Gunter Building, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee.
- **TAMPA BAY WATER BUDGET** - Monday, 9:30 a.m. - The Tampa Bay Water Board is holding a workshop and meeting on the budget. - Tampa Bay Water Administrative Offices, 2575 Enterprise Rd, Clearwater.
- **STATE FAIR** - Monday, 10 a.m. - The Florida State Fair Authority is meeting. - Florida State Fairgrounds, Bob Thomas Equestrian Pavilion; 4800 US Hwy 301 North, Tampa.
- **SEMINOLE STATE TRUSTEES** - Monday, 2 p.m. - The Seminole State College of Florida Board of Trustees is meeting. - SLM Board Room (W-200).
- **TALLAHASSEE STATE TRUSTEES** - Monday, 2:30 p.m. - The Tallahassee State College Board of Trustees is meeting. - Wakulla Environmental Institute, 170 Preservation Way, Crawfordville.
- **USF TRUSTEES** - Monday, 4 p.m. - The University of South Florida Board of Trustees is meeting. - Online

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

- MIAMI DADE COLLEGE - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College will hold its monthly meeting. The public notices stated that at the meeting the Board of Trustees may discuss potential real estate transactions. - Wolfson Campus, James K. Batten Community Room, Room 2106, 300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami.
- AVIATION WEEK MRO AMERICAS - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - Aviation Week Network's MRO Americas, the largest gathering of the aviation maintenance community begins a three-day conference and exhibition. - Orange County Convention Center, South Concourse, 9800 International Drive, Orlando.
- FAU TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees is meeting. - Williams Administration Building, Dr. Jeffrey P. & Barbara S. Feingold Board of Trustees Room, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton.
- UPPER OCKLAWAHA BMAP - Tuesday, 10 a.m. Description The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is holding an online meeting on the Upper Ocklawaha River Basin Management Action Plan. -
Visit: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4500446682013277278>
- FAMU PRESIDENT JOHNSON INVESTITURE - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - Florida A&M University is holding the investiture of President Marva Johnson, which is to be followed by a reception and concert later in the day. - Lee Hall Auditorium, Florida A&M University, 1601 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Tallahassee.
- PASCO-HERNANDO TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. - The Pasco-Hernando State College Board of Trustees is meeting. - Pasco-Hernando State College, Porter Campus Conference Center, 2727 Mansfield Blvd, Wesley Chapel.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 3 p.m. CT - The Northwest Florida State College Governing Board for the Collegiate High School and The District Board of Trustees of Northwest Florida State College will meet. - Raider Central, Building 400, Morell Room 302, Niceville Campus, 100 College Boulevard E, Niceville.
- PALM BEACH STATE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Palm Beach State College Board of Trustees is meeting. - Palm Beach Gardens Campus, BioScience Building, Room SC-127, 3160 PGA Boulevard, Palm Beach Garden.
- SANTA FE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Sante Fe State College Board of Trustees is meeting. - Northwest Campus Building S, Room 332.
- NORTH FLORIDA COLLEGE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - The North Florida College Board of Trustees is meeting. - Board Room-Building 9, 325 NW Turner Davis Dr, Madison,

- PENSACOLA STATE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - The Pensacola State College Board of Trustees is meeting after workshops that begin at 4:30 p.m.
- - Milton Campus.
- WILLACY EXECUTION SLATED - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - Chadwick Willacy is scheduled to be executed for the 1990 murder of his Palm Bay neighbor who found him burglarizing her home. - Florida State Prison, 23916 N.W. 83rd Ave., Raiford.
- CHIPOLA COLLEGE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - The Chipola College Board of Trustees meets monthly on the third Tuesday. - Public Service Building, Appreciation Clb Dr, Marianna.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

- FLORIDA POLICY HOUSING SUMMIT - Wednesday, 7:45 a.m. - The Florida Policy Project, a think tank backed by former state Sen. Jeff Brandes, a Republican from St. Petersburg, is holding its 2026 Florida Housing Summit. Among the speakers listed are Ocala Republican Sen. Stan McClain, Lakewood Ranch Republican Rep. Bill Conerly, and Florida Commerce Department Deputy Secretary Justin Domer. - The James Museum of Western & Wildlife Arts, St. Petersburg.
- COTTON ADVISORY - Wednesday, 9 a.m. CT - The Florida Cotton Advisory Council, a division of Fruit and Vegetables within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, will discuss financial appropriations and budget requests. - Jackson County Extension Services, 2741 Penn Ave., Suite 1, Marianna.
- PALM STEERING COMMITTEE - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Department of Financial Services Florida PALM Executive Steering Committee will discuss replacing the state's accounting, payroll, information warehouse, and cash management systems. - Department of Environmental Protection, Carr Building, 3800 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- CCF TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The College of Central Florida Board of Trustees is meeting. - College of Central Florida Citrus Campus, Charles S. Dean Sr. Educational Center, 3800 S Lecanto Hwy, Lecanto.
- HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The Hillsborough College Board of Trustees is meeting. - District Administration Center, 4115 N Lois Ave, Tampa.
- SPIRIT-OF-THE-WILD MANAGEMENT PLAN - Wednesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is holding a hearing on the ten-year Management Plan for the FWC Lead Managed Portions of the Spirit-of-the-Wild Wildlife

Management Area in Hendry County. - Hendry County Court House, 141 Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle.

- EXPRESSWAY CONNECTION - Wednesday, 6 p.m. - The Central Florida Expressway Authority is meeting to discuss an approximately 15-to 20-mile expressway connection from Florida's Turnpike northeast to U.S. 192 and north to State Road 534 at Nova Road in Osceola County. - St. Cloud Community Center, 3101 17th St, St. Cloud, FL 34769
- SOUTH FLORIDA STATE TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - South Florida State College District Board of Trustees is meeting. - Highlands Campus, 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

- GLADES, UNION SCHOOL DISTRICTS - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Financial Emergency Board for the Glades County School District and the Union County School District is holding a meeting to review and discuss information about the finances of the two school districts. - Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1721-25, Tallahassee.
- UWF TRUSTEES - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The University of West Florida Board of Trustees is meeting. - Conference Center (Building 22), UWF Pensacola campus, Campus Drive, Pensacola.
- GULF COAST TRUSTEES - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees is meeting. - Gulf Coast State College, Panama City Campus, 5230 W Highway 98, Student Union West, William C. Cramer Jr. Seminar Room, 306, Panama City.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- WASTEWATER AT OLD FOLEY MILL Time : Thursday, 4 p.m. Description : The Department of Environmental Protection is holding a meeting on the industrial wastewater permit renewal application submitted by Foley Cellulose, LLC, for the continued operation of the industrial wastewater treatment system and groundwater monitoring at the former Foley Mill site in Taylor County. - Forest Capital Hall, 203 Forest Park Drive, Perry.
- NORTH CENTRAL PLANNING - Thursday, 7 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting after a series of committee meetings. - Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Suwannee Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

- CENTRAL FLORIDA TOURISM - Friday, 10:30 a.m. - The Central Florida Tourism Oversight District is meeting. - 1900 Hotel Plaza Boulevard, Lake Buena Vista, Florida.
- BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD - Friday, 11 a.m. - The South Florida Water Management District Big Cypress Basin Board is meeting. - Collier County Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor, Naples, FL 34112
- FLORIDA FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL - Friday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Division on Arts and Culture and the Florida Folklife Council are to discuss online the Florida Folklife Fieldwork Surveys and the Florida Folklife Festival. - Visit: <https://dos-myflorida.zoom.us/j/89152770608>. Meeting ID: 891 5277 0608

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

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

