



The Briefing for Tuesday, May 12, 2026

The Last Briefing was Sunday, May 10, 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

Legislature Kicks Off Special Session on Budget

All proceedings can be watched live on [The Florida Channel](#)

Special Session 2026E has started. This marks the second consecutive year legislators have been unable to reach an accord on a new budget during their regular 60-day session. Last year, a drawn-out battle over tax cuts and spending levels pushed legislators all the way into June, just days before the end of the fiscal year. This year, disagreements continued; state House Speaker Daniel Perez asserted that the Senate wanted to spend too much money, even though a three-year financial forecast said Florida could have a budget deficit after this year,

Congratulations Kathy Mizerek!

Kathy Mizereck [is retiring](#) as Senior Policy Advisor for Education in the Senate President's Office after 49 years of service. Kathy has had a prolific career working for the Senate, the House, the Governor's Office, and the DOE. Well done! Reserve a place for Kathy in the Education Hall of Fame! Thank you for your service!

Todd Bonlarron joins private sector consulting firm!

After retiring from Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, Todd Bonlarron has been hired by Capital City Consulting as the managing partner of its Palm Beach operation. Todd has been an effective fixture in the legislative process for decades. Congratulations!

The NBA Conference Semifinals schedule

(2) San Antonio vs. (6) Minnesota - Series tied 2-2

Game 5: Minnesota at San Antonio | Tuesday May 12 (8 ET, NBC/Peacock)

(1) Detroit vs. (4) Cleveland - Pistons lead series 2-2

Game 4: Detroit at Cleveland |Wednesday - May 13

(3) New York vs. (7) Philadelphia - Knicks win series 4-0

Next Game – Conference Finals against OKC or Laker.

(1) Oklahoma City vs. (4) Los Angeles - Thunder win series 4-0

Next Game – Conference finals against San Antonio or Minnesota

Florida Legislature begin Special Session on FY26-27 State Budget

Florida legislators returned today to the Tallahassee to finalize the 2026-27 spending plan after Memorial Day. After preliminary procedures, the Conference process will begin to resolve the issues that separate the two chambers.

The Senate approved a proposed \$115 billion budget earlier this year, while the House backed a smaller \$113.6 billion version. The final budget will shape funding for schools, hospitals, prisons and local projects statewide. It is anticipated that the legislature will reduce overall spending. Once negotiations conclude, lawmakers must comply with a required 72-hour review period before passing the budget and sending it to DeSantis, who holds line-item veto authority.

Special Session 2026E convenes Today!

<u>Issues of Importance to Small Counties</u>	<u>Issues of Importance to Small School Districts</u>
<i>Revise F.S. 218.67 – Distribution for Fiscally Constrained counties –Update distribution formula with new metrics</i>	<i>Maintain the base funding component of \$250,000 per districts as part of the Safe School Formula.</i>
<i>Full formula funding for both the Supplemental Distribution and the Emergency Distribution for eligible counties.</i>	<i>Provide significant increase in School transportation funding</i>
<i>Full funding of Payment In Lieu of Taxes .</i>	<i>Fund recommended projects in the Special Facility Construction Program — Baker, Bradford, DeSoto, Gadsden, Hardee, Hendry, Holmes, Lafayette, Union, and Wakulla.)</i>
<i>Increase funding for Small County Road Programs including funding for “Farm to Market Roads“ program.</i>	<i>Provide a Declining Enrollment Supplement in the FY 26-27 budget and a provision to address the decline of enrollment between FY 25-26 and FY 26-27.</i>
<i>Fund the Job Growth Grant Program</i>	
<i>Fund - Libraries, Rural Hospitals, Rural Infrastructure, Broadband, and, other programs important to small counties and rural areas.</i>	<i>Provide increased Regional Education Consortia per member district allocation to the Panhandle Area Educational Consortia; North East Florida Educational Consortia; and, Heartland Educational Consortia.</i>

	<i>Establish and fund a supplemental grants program within the three regional consortia to address program and funding for critical priorities that emerge within districts in the respective region.</i> <i>Provide funding for the declining enrollment for school districts where there was a decline in Unweighted FTE between 2024-25 and 2025-26 school year.</i> <i>Provide operational program relief for school districts currently in a declared state of financial emergency. (Glades and Union)</i> <i>Segregate Funding of the Voucher Program outside of the FEFP.</i>
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Bills filed for consideration in Special Session 2026E

Listed below are the bills that have been filed for consideration. Bill numbers are active links to additional information. There are staff analyses available by going to the bill number on the www.Flsenate.gov or www.Flhouse.gov

Bill Numbers are linked to information and PDF of bills

Senate Bills Filed		House Bills Filed	
Bill #	Topic	Bill #	Topic
SB 0002E	Retirement by Mayfield	HB 5205E	Retirement by Maggard
SB 2500E	Appropriations by Hooper	HB 5001E	General Appropriations Act by McClure
SB 2502E	Implementing the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act by Hooper	HB 5003E	Implementing the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act by McClure
SB 2504E	State Employees by Hooper	HB 5201E	Collective Bargaining by Maggard
SB 2506E	Fuel Taxes by Brodeur	HB 7031E	Taxation by Duggan
SB 2508E	State Agency Law Enforcement Radio System by Brodeur		
SB 2512E	Judges by García		
SB 2514E	Pre-K-12 Education by Burgess		
SB 2516E	Higher Education by Harrell	HB 5601E	Higher Education by Busatta
SB 2518E	Health by Trumbull	HB 5301E	Health Care by Andrade
		HB 5203E	Government Administration by Miller

	HB 5207E	Department of Management Services by Abbott
	HB 5403E	Correctional Facilities Financing and Capital Improvements by Maney
	HB 5501E	Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions by Shoaf
	HB 5701E	Petroleum Cleanup Programs by Snyder

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

On The Docket This Week

TUESDAY, MAY 12

SPECIAL SESSION ON BUDGET TO BEGIN

--- Legislative -

- SENATE SESSION - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Senate gavels in the special session on the budget.
- Senate Chambers, the Capitol.
- HOUSE SESSION - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The House gavels in the special session on the budget.
- House Chambers, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- SUWANNEE RIVER WATER - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Suwannee River Water Management District Board of Directors is meeting. - District Headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak.
- ST. JOHNS WATER - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board is meeting. - District Headquarters, 4049 Reid Street, Hwy 100 West, Palatka.
- UF COMMITTEE - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The University of Florida Board of Trustees Committee on Governance, Government Relations and Internal Affairs will meet virtually. - Call in: (305) 224-1968, ID#: 964 456 59839
- VISIT INDUSTRY SERVICES - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The Visit Florida Industry Services Committee will hold a meeting via Zoom to discuss the DNEXT Future Study. - The meeting will be streamed on The Florida Channel.
- FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 12 p.m. - The Florida State College at Jacksonville Board of Trustees will discuss the school's investment performance review and fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. - FSCJ Administrative Offices, 501 West State St., Jacksonville.
- NEW COLLEGE BOT - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The New College of Florida Board of Trustees will hold a meeting. - Sudakoff Conference Center, 5845 General Dougher Pl, Sarasota, FL 34243.

- FAMU SPECIAL DRS COMMITTEE - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - FAMU's Special Committee on the Developmental Research School will hold a virtual meeting.
- <https://famu.zoom.us/j/93798870644?pwd=rHb1Z4JcfYeS3kTEpD10afLAWUafbD.1>

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

--- Legislative

- SENATE SESSION IF NEEDED - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Senate will meet if needed during the special session on the budget. Otherwise, the day awaits conference committees on various aspects the spending plan. - Senate Chambers, the Capitol.
- HOUSE SESSION IF NEEDED - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The House will meet if needed during the special session on the budget. Otherwise, the day awaits conference committees on various aspects the spending plan - House Chambers, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- RED SNAPPER, WILD TURKEY AND DETECTION DOGS - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will discuss a final rule to test state management of the recreational Atlantic red snapper fishery in adjacent federal waters off Florida, an overview of the Wild Turkey Management Program, and discuss the use of a detection dog to improve staff's ability to detect multiple "Species of Greatest Conservation Need," such as mink, spotted skunks, and weasels. - Caloosa Sound Convention Center, Caloosa Ballroom, 1375 Monroe St., Fort Myers.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board is meeting to consider adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. - 81 Water Management Drive, Havana.
- ST. JOHNS COLLEGE - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The St. Johns River State College District Board of Trustees will hold a budget workshop meeting at 1 p.m. Afterwards, it will hold its regular board meeting. - Administration Building at the Palatka Campus, 5001 St. Johns Avenue, Palatka, Florida.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

--- Legislative

- SENATE SESSION IF NEEDED - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Senate will meet if needed during the special session on the budget. Otherwise, the day awaits conference committees on various aspects the spending plan. - Senate Chambers, the Capitol.
- HOUSE SESSION IF NEEDED - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The House will meet if needed during the special session on the budget. Otherwise, the day awaits conference committees on various aspects the spending plan - House Chambers, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- UNDOCUMENTED COLLEGE ENROLLMENT - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Department of Education is holding a public hearing on the enrollment of undocumented students at the 28 state colleges. - Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus, 254 N.E. 4th St., Building 3, Chapman Conference, Room 3210, Miami.
- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The South Florida Water Management District. - District Headquarters, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

--- Legislative

- SENATE SESSION IF NEEDED - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Senate will meet if needed during the special session on the budget. Otherwise, the day awaits conference committees on various aspects the spending plan. - Senate Chambers, the Capitol.
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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](#)

Programs Important to Small Counties

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

Education Provisions in the GAA.

Comparison of House and Senate Current Budget Provisions

Note – the agreed to allocation for K-12 is approximately \$600 million higher than current year. Actual appropriation for FEFP and other programs will be negotiated.

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

Headlines Around The State

Sentinel: Florida's county election chiefs told to retain old congressional maps

TCPalm: Why proposed national flood insurance changes would hit Florida hardest

The Capitolist: Florida Homeowners Insurance Costs Continue to Climb, Report Finds

Times: Florida real estate bigger part of economy than any other state, report says

Post: Florida wildfires burning almost 29,000 acres impacting roads, air quality

News4JAX: Northeast Florida housing market steadies in April as inventory rises: NEFAR

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis says property tax Special Session will be scheduled sometime before the end of July

WUSF: State wants feedback on environmental repairs years after Deepwater Horizon

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis heralds longer season for recreational red snapper anglers on Atlantic coast

WLRN: A bitter harvest: The connection between Florida's 'herbicide of choice' and Parkinson's

WLRN: Decision day: Broward County school board cuts 1,000 jobs after delays to cast vote

Democrat: Leon schools may hire student recruitment firm — and there's 'no cost'

Times: Which Tampa Bay schools are closing down, and when?

Post: Miami-Dade considers closing these 9 schools as enrollment dives

TCPalm: Why are Florida insurance premiums going up if rates are going down?

News4JAX: Florida seniors face growing mental health crisis, Humana Foundation study finds

Herald: Florida lawmakers head into overtime budget negotiations — again. What to watch

Axios: Lawmakers to tackle budget and tax holidays in special session

My News 13: Florida budget delay leaves school districts waiting on education funding

Democrat: Florida state workers await decision on pay raises

WUSF: Florida adds one measles case – a second one tied to a Palm Beach County school

FlaPol: Griff Griffiths steps back, Tricia Berry steps up in HD 6

FlaPol: Anne Gerwig earns Florida League of Cities nod for home rule defense

Floridian: DeSantis Signs Legislation Regulating AI Data Centers, Protections for Ratepayers

Times-Union: USPS could let people mail guns in Florida, overturning 100-year rule

Post: Riviera Beach pays outgoing city manager almost \$190K to leave early

Democrat: FAMU to host funeral service for former interim president on campus

Here are key dates for 26-27

May 12 – 29 -	Special Session on Budget
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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