



The Briefing for Wednesday, May 13, 2026

The Last Briefing was Tuesday, May 12, 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

Florida's Commissioner of Education sole finalist to lead Polk State College

Education Commissioner Anastasios Kamoutsas is the sole finalist in the search for a new president of Polk State College. Polk State officials cited his legal and policy experience in education and public service at the state and local levels. The College will host Kamoutsas for a campus visit June 3, when trustees also are expected to consider hiring him as the sole finalist selected out of some 100 applicants. Kamoutsas' wife, Rachel Kamoutsas, serves as judge on the 6th District Court of Appeal, located in Lakeland, the most populous city in Polk County.

Legislature Kicks Off Special Session on Budget

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

Day 1 is in the books - Conference Committees met and exchanged initial offers.

Day 2 – committee meetings are expected to meet throughout the day to exchange counter offers:

The current plan is to have all budget conference committees wrap up their work by Friday and then "bump" all unresolved issues to the House and Senate budget chairs.

House Offer 1 from the Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development budget conference

The first House offer in the Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development budget conference zero's out elements of Senate President Ben Albritton's signature "Rural Renaissance". These items will continue to be discussed as the conference process proceeds throughout the week.

The zeroed-out list includes:

- a new Office of Rural Prosperity (\$2.48 million and 17 full-time employees),
- the Renaissance Grants Program (\$7 million),
- Rural Housing Rehabilitation (\$30 million),
- Rural Infrastructure FCO (\$45 million),
- the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund (\$5 million),
- Rural Workforce Funding (\$5 million),
- the Rural Toolkit (\$250,000), and
- the Public Infrastructure Smart Technology Grant Program (\$500,000).

Many of the programs zeroed out in the House Conference Offer 1 will come back.

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Offers Exchanged on Day 1

The following links are word searchable. Click on the links and search key words to see where program and project funding stand.

J Budget Conference - Agriculture & Natural Resources / Agriculture, Environment and General Government

- [Initial Side by Sides](#) (2 MB)
- [Senate Offer 1 - Budget, NON-Water Projects, Proviso, Back of Bill, Implementing Bill, SB 2506E](#) (2 MB)

J Budget Conference - Health Care / Health & Human Services

- [Initial Budget Side by Side](#) (262 KB)
- [Initial Projects Side by Side](#) (578 KB)
- [Initial Proviso Side by Side](#) (2 MB)
- [Initial Back of Bill Side by Side](#) (132 KB)
- [Initial Implementing Bill Side by Side](#) (168 KB)
- [Initial Conforming Bill Side by Side](#) (140 KB)
- [House Offer 1 - Budget Spreadsheet & Projects](#) (787 KB)

J Budget Conference - Higher Education / Education

- [Original Side-By-Sides: Budget Spreadsheet, Projects, Proviso and Back of Bill, Implementing Bill & Conforming Bill](#) (613 KB)
- [House Offer 1 - Budget Spreadsheet and Projects](#) (479 KB)

J Budget Conference - Justice / Criminal and Civil Justice

- [Initial Side-By-Sides: Budget Spreadsheet, Projects, Proviso and Back of Bill, Implementing Bill & Conforming Bills HB 5403E & SB 2512E](#) (2 MB)
- [House Offer 1 - Budget & Projects](#) (478 KB)
- [House Offer 1 - Proviso & Back of the Bill](#) (862 KB)

J Budget Conference - PreK-12 / Pre-K-12 Education

- [Original Side-By-Sides: Budget Spreadsheet, Projects, Proviso and Back of Bill, Implementing Bill & Conforming Bill](#) (903 KB)

- [House Offer 1 - Budget, FEFP, Projects, Proviso, Back of Bill](#) (2 MB)

J Budget Conference - State Administration / Agriculture, Environment and General Government

- [Initial Side-By-Sides: Budget Spreadsheet, Projects, Proviso and Back of Bill, Implementing Bill & Conforming Bills HB 2507E & SB 2508E](#) (2 MB)
- [House Offer 1 - Budget Spreadsheet, Proviso, Back of Bill & Projects](#) (2 MB)
- [Senate Offer 1 - SB 2508E](#) (329 KB)

J Budget Conference - Transportation & Economic Development / Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development

- [Initial Side-By-Sides: Budget Spreadsheet, Projects, Proviso and Back of Bill, Implementing Bill & Conforming Bill HB 5501E](#) (2 MB)
- [House Offer 1 - Budget & Projects](#) (770 KB)

<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</i>

	<i>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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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

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

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- HOUSE SESSION IF NEEDED - Friday, 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.

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

News4JAX: Florida homeowners eye possible changes to federal flood insurance as hurricane season nears

FlaPol: ‘America 250: A Portrait of Florida’ docuseries tells the ‘incredible story’ of Florida

FlaPol: Budget conference: House wants to eliminate funding for Ron DeSantis’ Florida State Guard

FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate split on funding Florida's preeminent universities

Democrat: Florida 'Nearest nickel' law now lets stores round and it may cost you

Times: Senate budget chief says no to Rays funding without local support

FlaPol: Budget conference: Ed Hooper throws Rays funding a curveball, but stadium deal remains in play

FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate split over funding for Florida Gaming Control Commission

FlaPol: Budget conference: House trims prison construction funding proposal amid broader DOC spending talks

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate stirs Everglades, wastewater funding in first environmental offer

Democrat: FAMU DRS committee works to boost school's grade from C to A

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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