



The Briefing for Wednesday, May 20, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, May 18, 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

Budget Still Unresolved

Governor Talks Property Tax – No details!

NBA Conference Finals – Game 1 in both conferences go to overtime!

Spurs lead OKC – 1-0 / NYC lead Cleveland – 1-0

IN MEMORIAM

**Lynn Moxley Melvin
Bradford School Board Member**

[Link to Obituary](#)



It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Bradford County School Board Member, Lynn Moxley Melvin, who peacefully passed away on May 16, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. Lynn served her community with distinction and dedicated her career to the children and families of Bradford County. Read her full obituary and learn how to honor her memory. A Celebration of Life which will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 5:00pm at the Bradford High School Auditorium .

Governor DeSantis Discusses Property Tax – No specific proposal!

Concerns regarding Impact on Services becoming a focus

Still without a public proposal to offer, Gov. Ron DeSantis renewed push to amend Florida's Constitution came during an afternoon roundtable in Brevard County, and just hours after his predecessor, former Gov. Rick Scott, cast doubt on the wisdom of cutting the tax without predetermined revenue backfills.

The Governor outlined a slew of property tax-related suggestions included expanding homestead exemptions, banning local governments from raising costs on small businesses, and preventing out-of-state transplants from immediately qualifying for homestead exemptions. On Monday, DeSantis said property taxes Florida retains should only pay for “public safety, police, fire, education,” and other “core things.” This comes after reports that local governments collect nearly **\$60 billion** in property taxes today versus \$32 billion in 2019.

During the regular session, the House passed a bill that would have fully ended non-school property taxes for homesteaded properties beginning on Jan. 1, 2027. The Senate never considered a property tax measure.

DeSantis plans to call a special session over the summer to cut property taxes, sometime after the state’s current special session on the budget but before mid-August — the deadline to print out proposals for the November ballot.

U.S. Senator Rick Scott has expressed concern that the conversation does not include replacement revenue.

The Florida Policy Institute Research Shows Impact of Property Tax cut on Local Governments

[Link to Florida Policy Institutes Report](#)

The Florida Policy Institute, a non-partisan organization, **estimated** that eliminating property taxes for homesteaded properties would cost \$18.5 billion. It found that 36% of property tax revenue comes from taxes levied on homesteaded properties.

Additional Data Reports on 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](#)

Negotiations on State Budget Continues at Leadership Level

Specific Issues remain unresolved

In Education - Funding for FEFP, Capital Outlay, Regional Consortia, Declining Enrollment provision Schools of Hope among other items remain unresolved.

The Senate has reduced its proposed funding for Florida’s controversial Schools of Hope program from \$6 million to \$3 million, while the House is seeking to eliminate funding entirely as budget negotiations continue during a Special Session. The program allows charter schools to take over under-enrolled traditional public-school buildings rent-free, drawing criticism from school officials, teachers’ unions and Democrats who argue it disrupts existing schools and creates unfunded burdens. The Florida Board of Education recently tightened oversight rules, limiting operators to five applications.

The 2026 Florida Python Challenge

[Registration](#) is now open!

The python removal competition begins at 12:01 a.m. on July 10, 2026 and ends at 5 p.m. on July 19, 2026. Learn more about **[opportunities to remove pythons year-round](#)** outside of the ten-day Florida Python Challenge™.

Upcoming Meetings for School Officials

June 10 – 12, 2026 FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference, Tampa, FL

[View the Tentative Agenda](#)

Small District Officials will meet Thursday morning.

On Thursday Morning – June 11th – the FSBA Small District Council will meet to conduct Annual Business. The Small School District Council Consortium will also meet after the FSBA SDC concludes its business. The meeting is scheduled in Audubon D/E/F

Upcoming Meetings for County Commissioners

On June 23-26, the Florida Association of Counties will convene its 2026 Annual Conference in Orlando. [Tentative Agenda for FAC Annual Conference](#)
Small County Coalition to Meet at FAC Annual Conference

The Small County Coalition will convene on Wednesday morning for its Annual meeting. The Small County Coalition meeting is not listed on the FAC agenda but will be held 7:00am-8:30am on Wednesday.

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 20

-- Legislative

- BUDGET CONFERENCE - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - **If noticed**, House and Senate budget committees will update proposals throughout the day for the various sections of the fiscal year 2026-2027 spending plan.

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- FLORIDA CITRUS - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Citrus Commission is meeting. Location: Florida Department of Citrus, 605 E. Main Street, Bartow.
- TAYLOR SHERIFF'S BUDGET - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Administration Commission will hear an appeal from the Taylor County Sheriff Wayne Padgett and the Taylor County Commission on his final approved budget. Location: Florida Department of Transportation Auditorium, 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee.
- VISIT FLORIDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - The Visit Florida Board of Directors Executive Committee is holding a zoom call in advance of the May 28 Board meeting.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

--- Legislative

- BUDGET CONFERENCE - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - **If noticed**, House and Senate budget committees will update proposals throughout the day for the various sections of the fiscal year 2026-2027 spending plan.

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE - 1 p.m. - Board of Trustees workshop meeting, followed by a regular board meeting at 2 p.m. Location: Wetherell Center (Bldg. 100), Board Room (Room 402L)
- EMERALD COAST PLANNING - Thursday, 3 p.m. CT - The Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization Board is meeting at 3 p.m. after committee meetings that begin at 9:30 a.m. CT. Location: Chautauqua Hall, 95 Circle Dr, Defuniak Springs.
- KNIGHT EXECUTION SLATED - Thursday, 6 p.m. - Florida Death Row inmate Richard Knight is scheduled to be executed for the 2000 murder of Odessia Stephens and her four-year-old daughter Hanessia Mullings in Broward County. Location: Florida State Prison, 23916 N.W. 83rd Ave., Raiford.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

--- Legislative

- BUDGET CONFERENCE - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. - If noticed, House and Senate budget committees will update proposals throughout the day for the various sections of the fiscal year 2026-2027 spending plan.

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- GLADES, UNION SCHOOL DISTRICTS - Friday, 9:15 a.m. - The Financial Emergency Board for the Glades County School District and the Union County School District is holding an online meeting. Location: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/6f519573-5f83-49a9-a79b-830b2da5e9d0@63bf107b-cb6f-4173-8c1c-1406bb5cb794>
- APRIL UNEMPLOYMENT - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Department of Commerce will release the April unemployment report. Location: The Department website.
- FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL - Friday, 5:45 p.m. - The Florida State Parks hosts the 74th Annual Florida Folk Festival through Sunday starting with an open ceremony Friday evening. Location: Stephen Foster Folk Cultural Center State Park, 11016 Lillian Saunders Drive/U.S. Highway 41, White Springs.
- FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY - Friday, 10:45 a.m. - Board of Trustees meeting Location: Barnett Applied Research Center (BARC) Room 2200 and Virtual via Microsoft Teams; Dial in: 1-863-225-2351 | Conference ID: 397 954 778#

Headlines Around The State

WSJ: Does Florida Have an Affordability Problem? We Asked Sen. Rick Scott

FlaPol: Just like every other Floridian, Rick Scott wants details about Ron DeSantis' plan to axe homestead property taxes

WUSF: With Memorial Day ahead, Florida gas is nearing 50 days at over \$4 a gallon

Today: Looking to buy a home? See how Florida cities rank on affordability

News4JAX: Here we come! DeSantis reveals when Florida lawmakers may tackle property taxes

Democrat: DeSantis still wants to kill property taxes. What would happen?

FlaPol: Jay Collins unveils education agenda with focus on workforce options

Floridian: Pinellas County Officials Endorse Byron Donalds for Governor

Daily News: Florida Python Challenge 2026 dates are set. How 2025 champ scored the win

Sun-Sentinel: Boating accidents increasing in crowded Florida waters

Politico: The evangelical primary has already started. Rubio has the early edge on Vance.

Herald: Florida Keys sheriff urges calm following report Cuban drones could hit Key West

FlaPol: Jay Collins unveils education agenda with focus on workforce options

WLRN: How would a Democratic governor work with a GOP-led Legislature in Florida?

Post: Why Florida's property tax plans could upend local governments

Post: Florida public schools' enrollment decline means some won't function

Post: Florida school enrollment crisis put most vulnerable students at risk

Democrat: From closures to cuts, Leon and Florida 'public schools in crisis'

The Capitolist: Florida Budget Would Boost Per-Student Funding Amid Enrollment Decline

FlaPol: Budget conference: Controversial Schools of Hope funding divides House, Senate

Sentinel: If you're renewing your Florida driver's license, make sure you do this

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 FRED A
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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