

Budget Done!

Special Session 2026F to convene on Property Tax Impact on Local Service will be severe!

The Briefing for Wednesday, May 27, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, May 2, 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

NBA Conference Finals –

Spurs vs OKC - Thunder leads series 3-2 - Game Six Thursday!

NYC vs Cleveland – Knicks sweep series – 4-0

Governor DeSantis Calls Special Session on Property Tax

Special Session 2026F will convene on Monday and run through Wednesday

Governor Ron DeSantis announced he will issue a proclamation calling a special legislative session beginning Monday to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot eliminating property taxes on homesteaded property, beginning with a \$250,000 homestead exemption increase and phasing toward full elimination.

What We Know

What happens will shape how counties deliver essential services for years to come. County officials may wish to come to Tallahassee to attend the Senate Appropriations committee to underscore the severity of the impact on your local services.

The revenue loss will be significant. Exempting the first \$250,000 of homestead value, with full elimination to follow on a legislative schedule, would sharply reduce the funding behind services residents see every day. Public safety alone is the largest expenditure category in 55 of Florida's 67 counties.

The creation of a state trust fund itself signals that local governments would no longer be able to generate sufficient revenue to pay for essential services. Having local services rely on a state grant program funded by state taxpayers is a fundamental change to how local government is financed, and it deserves more than a three-day special session to fully understand the breadth of the impacts to local services. There is no specific provision for Fiscally Constrained counties. Of concern will be whether the State will continue to offset the revenue impact with a state appropriation.

Senator Albritton has indicated that the Governor's proposal will be filed in the Senate as Senate Joint Resolution 2-F and Senate Bill 4-F. Albritton indicated that the proposed legislation will be scheduled

for consideration in the Committee on Appropriations on Monday and then considered by the full Senate on Tuesday, and, if necessary, Wednesday.

Flier Outlining the Governor's Proposal

Pursuant to the Governor's call, the Legislature will convene in Special Session F on Monday, June 1, 2026, to consider a joint resolution placing a constitutional amendment on the November ballot that, if approved by voters, would significantly reduce property taxes for Florida homeowners.

Here's What the proposals will do:

- Exempt homestead properties from taxation. **Begins by exempting the first \$250,000 of a homestead's value from taxation and requiring, through law, a schedule for full elimination.**
- Ensuring for core services. Requires local governments to use remaining property taxes solely for core public needs including public safety, **education**, infrastructure, and natural resources.
- Protect small businesses. Limits future property tax assessments on businesses and creates a more stable tax environment for local businesses.
- Ensure fairness for Florida residents. Requires any person who establishes Florida residency after January 1, 2027, to maintain Florida residency for up to five years prior to receiving the increased homestead exemption.
- Create a state trust fund to assist with core local services. **Establishes a trust fund to provide grants to local governments to assist with the continuation of core local services.**

Although no specific resolution for the special session, nor a specific proposal has been distributed at this time, it is anticipated soon.

REPORTS AND DATA ON ADVALORUM TAXES

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

[Link to Florida Policy Institute Report](#)

[Report on Millage Rates and Taxes Levied](#)

[Data Sets on County Tax Roll Components](#)

[Florida Association of Counties Property Tax Report](#)

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

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

Proposed Budget and Related Documents will be considered on Friday

The Budget was officially laid on the desk yesterday at 11:41 a.m., along with the Implementing Bill, the Conforming Bills, and the Tax Package, officially beginning the 72-hour cooling-off period.

Links to the related documents are provided below. The **HIGHLIGHTED** documents are word searchable using (CtrlF). Be sure you are looking at the **Highlighted link** i to see the actual language proposed.

List of All Budget Bills for FY 2026-27

Updated May 26, 2026

Number	Title	Type	Conference Report
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<u>HB 5001E</u>	General Appropriations Act	GAA	<u>Amendment 385885</u>
<u>HB 5003E</u>	Implementing the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act	Implementing	<u>Amendment 570187</u>
<u>HB 5201E</u>	Collective Bargaining	Conforming	<u>Amendment 950539</u>
<u>HB 5205E</u>	Retirement	Conforming	<u>Amendment 688691</u>
<u>HB 5301E</u>	Health Care	Conforming	<u>Amendment 051191</u>
<u>HB 5403E</u>	Correctional Facilities Financing and Capital Improvements	Conforming	<u>Amendment 614045</u>
<u>HB 5601E</u>	Higher Education	Conforming	<u>Amendment 932327</u>
<u>HB 5701E</u>	Petroleum Cleanup Programs	Conforming	<u>Amendment 366199</u>
<u>HB 7031E</u>	Taxation	Conforming	<u>Amendment 027605</u>
Release Date	Related Resources		
5/26/26	<u>Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)</u>		
5/26/26	<u>School Readiness Program Reimbursement Rates</u>		
5/26/26	<u>Florida's Balanced Budget Holds the Line on Spending, Maintains Strong Reserves</u>		
5/26/26	<u>Budget Summary - HB 5001E Conference Report Fiscal Year 2026-2027</u>		

Senior Senators Announce Retirement

- **State Sen. Shevrin Jones**, a Democrat from Miami Gardens who was set to lead his caucus during the 2028 legislative cycle, will not seek reelection in November.
- **Sen. Tina Scott Polsky** announced she would not seek another term in the Broward- and Palm Beach-based seat.
- **Sen. Ed Hooper** announced his decision to retire from the Senate, effective November 3, 2026.

Headlines Around The State

NBC 6: Florida's new congressional map to remain intact, judge rules

FlaPol: Judge says Florida can use new congressional map for Midterms, voting rights groups appeal

FlaPol: Shevrin Jones considers run for Congress — only if Frederica Wilson is ready to retire

Democrat: Alleged FSU gunman in court as judge grills lawyer over trial delays

CBS Miami: Supreme Court rejects Florida's attempt to sue California and Washington over immigrant truck drivers

WLRN: Florida sees drop in first quarter tourism

Daily News: Why Florida may lead nation in insurance subsidies lapse

FlaPol: Citrus County places temporary halt on data centers

FlaPol: Unemployment rate increases for fourth straight month in Florida

WLRN: Record tons of sargassum arriving in Southeast Florida, Florida Keys, Caribbean
WLRN: New documentary film takes audiences up close into the world of Burmese python hunting
Democrat: Leon County jail nurses might finally see paycheck this week
Bradenton Herald: What to know about Florida lawmakers' \$114 billion deal for a new state budget
News4JAX: No gas tax cut, but Florida lawmakers line up breaks on guns and outdoor goods
FlaPol: 'Continuing the fight': Lauren Book launches campaign for SD 30, expediting hopeful return
Sun-Sentinel: Sen. Tina Polsky says she won't run for reelection; current and former lawmakers look at running

FlaPol: Tina Polsky won't seek re-election in November, opening Senate seat
Floridian: Hardee County Sheriff Vent Crawford Endorses Jay Collins for Governor
Floridian: Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly Endorses Agricultural Commissioner Wilton Simpson for Re-Election

Democrat: Florida 'sprinkle lists' steer millions for pet projects from behind closed doors
FlaPol: Budget conference: No across-the-board raises for state employees, though insurance premiums remain low

FlaPol: Budget conference: Lawmakers want to spend millions on affordable housing
Sun-Sentinel: Broward County delays vote on controversial Live Local project in Hollywood

Times: 5 Florida races we're watching after redistricting

FlaPol: Florida ranks among the best states for military veterans to retire
TCPalm: Florida adjusts red snapper fishing rules after judge halts season
News4JAX: Florida lawmakers (finally) complete budget deals, set for vote Friday

Democrat: Florida lawmakers agree on almost \$115 billion state budget
Democrat: Florida property tax overhaul could dismantle children's safety net
FlaPol: Budget conference: State prosecutors, public defense lawyers to get pay bumps and more jobs, but there's a huge disparity

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Lawmakers steer millions toward South Florida projects
Times-Union: 'Harassing, bullying': charges fly between JAA, next council president
FlaPol: FWC Python Challenge accepting registration for July event in Everglades

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.

ON THE DOCKET

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

- BISCAYNE BAY WATERS - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is hosting a meeting of the Biscayne Bay Commission to discuss matters pertaining to the protection of the vital natural resources within Biscayne Bay. Location: The meeting will be streamed on the Florida Channel.
- BROWARD COLLEGE TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Broward College Board of Trustees is holding a workshop. Location: Willis Holcombe Center 111 East Las Olas Boulevard, Room 1208 Fort Lauderdale.
- BAY COUNTY TRANSIT PLANNING - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Bay County Transportation Planning Organization is meeting. Location: Bayway Public Transit System Administration Facility, 1010 Cone Ave, Panama City.
- SOUTH FLORIDA - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The South Florida State College Board of Trustees will hold a budget workshop meeting, followed by a regular board meeting. Location: Highlands Campus, 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park, FL

THURSDAY, MAY 28

- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Commission for Independent Education will hold a meeting on degree granting institutions. Location: Visit: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ppQe6S6gSLiTFDOsIIDy5A
- **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PLANNING** - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council/LEPC District 9 is meeting. Location: Marco Island Fire and Rescue, 1280 San Marco Rd., Marco Island.
- VISIT FLORIDA - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Visit Florida Board of Directors is meeting. Location: Loews Royal Pacific Resort, Universal Orlando, Coral Sea Ballroom, 6300 Hollywood Way, Orlando.
- GULF COAST - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees will hold a meeting. Location: Gulf Franklin campus
- **APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING** - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Apalachee Regional Planning Council is meeting. Location: 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100, Tallahassee.

- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- HEARTLAND PLANNING - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization is meeting. Location: BGA Adams Road, LLC, 1220 Adams Road, Fort Meade.
- SELECT FLORIDA - Thursday, 3 p.m. - The Select Florida Board of Directors will hold an online call to consider the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. Location: Visit: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/5d210db0-9458-4024-bf91-30df125b99ca@931da019-f64e-4908-b0f6-92f46f78c512>
- **NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING** - Thursday, 7 p.m. - North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting, following committee meetings. Location: Drury Inn and Suites, Mockingbird Room, 4000 Southwest 40th Boulevard, Gainesville.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

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- Last scheduled day of the budget special session.

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

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



Chris Doolin

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com