

GRAYROBINSON

# 2025 Session Wrap-Up

City of Port St. Lucie

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SEPTEMBER 2025

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# Today's Presenter

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Chris Carmody

Shareholder

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# The Players

The Florida Legislature is a bicameral body comprising the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate. It convenes annually to pass laws, set the state budget, and shape policies affecting Floridians.

- 120-member House and 40-member Senate
- Senate: 27 Republicans; 10 Democrats; 1 NPA; 2 Open Seats
- House: 86 Republicans; 33 Democrats; 1 Open Seat

- Both chambers controlled by Republican supermajorities, facilitating the consideration of legislation aligned with conservative priorities.



# Office of the Governor

The Cabinet



Ron DeSantis  
GOVERNOR



Jay Collins  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Wilton Simpson  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



James Uthmeier  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Mary Clare  
Hubbard  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR



Jason Weida  
CHIEF OF STAFF



Leda Kelly  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF  
POLICY AND BUDGET



Blaise Ingoglia  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



# The Florida House



Daniel Perez  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



Lawrence McClure  
BUDGET CHAIR



Tyler Sirois  
MAJORITY LEADER



Wyman Duggan  
SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE*



Sam Garrison  
RULES CHAIR AND  
SPEAKER DESIGNATE



Fentrice Driskell  
MINORITY LEADER



# The Florida Senate



Ben Albritton  
SENATE PRESIDENT



Ed Hooper  
BUDGET CHAIR



Jim Boyd  
MAJORITY LEADER



Jason Brodeur  
PRESIDENT *PRO TEMPORE*



Kathleen Passidomo  
RULES CHAIR



Lori Berman  
MINORITY LEADER



# Future Leaders



Sam Garrison

FLORIDA HOUSE  
SPEAKER-DESIGNATE  
2026-2028



Jennifer Canady

FLORIDA HOUSE  
SPEAKER-DESIGNATE  
2028-2030



Mike Redondo

FLORIDA HOUSE  
PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE  
2030-2032



Jim Boyd

FLORIDA SENATE  
PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE  
2026-2028



Jay Trumbull

FLORIDA SENATE  
PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE  
2028-2030



# St. Lucie County Delegation



Senator  
Erin Grall  
DISTRICT 29



Senator  
Gayle Harrell  
DISTRICT 31



Representative  
Dana Trabulsy  
DISTRICT 84



Representative  
Toby Overdorf  
DISTRICT 85



# Special Sessions & Building Tensions

Gov. Ron DeSantis called Special Session 2025-A in mid-January to cover:

- Illegal Immigration
- Condominium Law Reform
- Hurricane Relief
- Election/Petition Initiative Reform

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House and Senate leaders called the special session “unnecessary” and “premature,” convening and – nearly immediately – adjourning.

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Legislature convened its own special session (2025-B) focused only on illegal immigration. There, they passed a bill that the Governor subsequently threatened to veto.

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Following two weeks of deadlock between the Legislature and Governor, consensus was reached and a third special session was called (2025-C) to pass a bill that the Governor signed into law shortly after.

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Despite consensus reached on immigration, tension between the Legislature and Executive Office continued on a number of different topics.

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1959 Total Bills Filed

# By the Numbers

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A snapshot of activity; key stats from  
the 2025 Legislative Session.



1959

Total Bills Filed

269

Total Bills Passed

# By the Numbers

---

A snapshot of activity; key stats from  
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# By the Numbers

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A snapshot of activity; key stats from the 2025 Legislative Session.

1959

Total Bills Filed

269

Total Bills Passed

246

Bills Signed by Governor



# By the Numbers

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A snapshot of activity; key stats from the 2025 Legislative Session.

1959

Total Bills Filed

269

Total Bills Passed

246

Bills Signed by Governor

11

Bills Vetoed by Governor

# By the Numbers

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A snapshot of activity; key stats from the 2025 Legislative Session.

1959

Total Bills Filed

269

Total Bills Passed

246

Bills Signed by Governor

11

Bills Vetoed by Governor

0

Bills Awaiting Presentation



# By the Numbers

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A snapshot of activity; key stats from the 2025 Legislative Session.

1959

Total Bills Filed

269

Total Bills Passed

246

Bills Signed by Governor

11

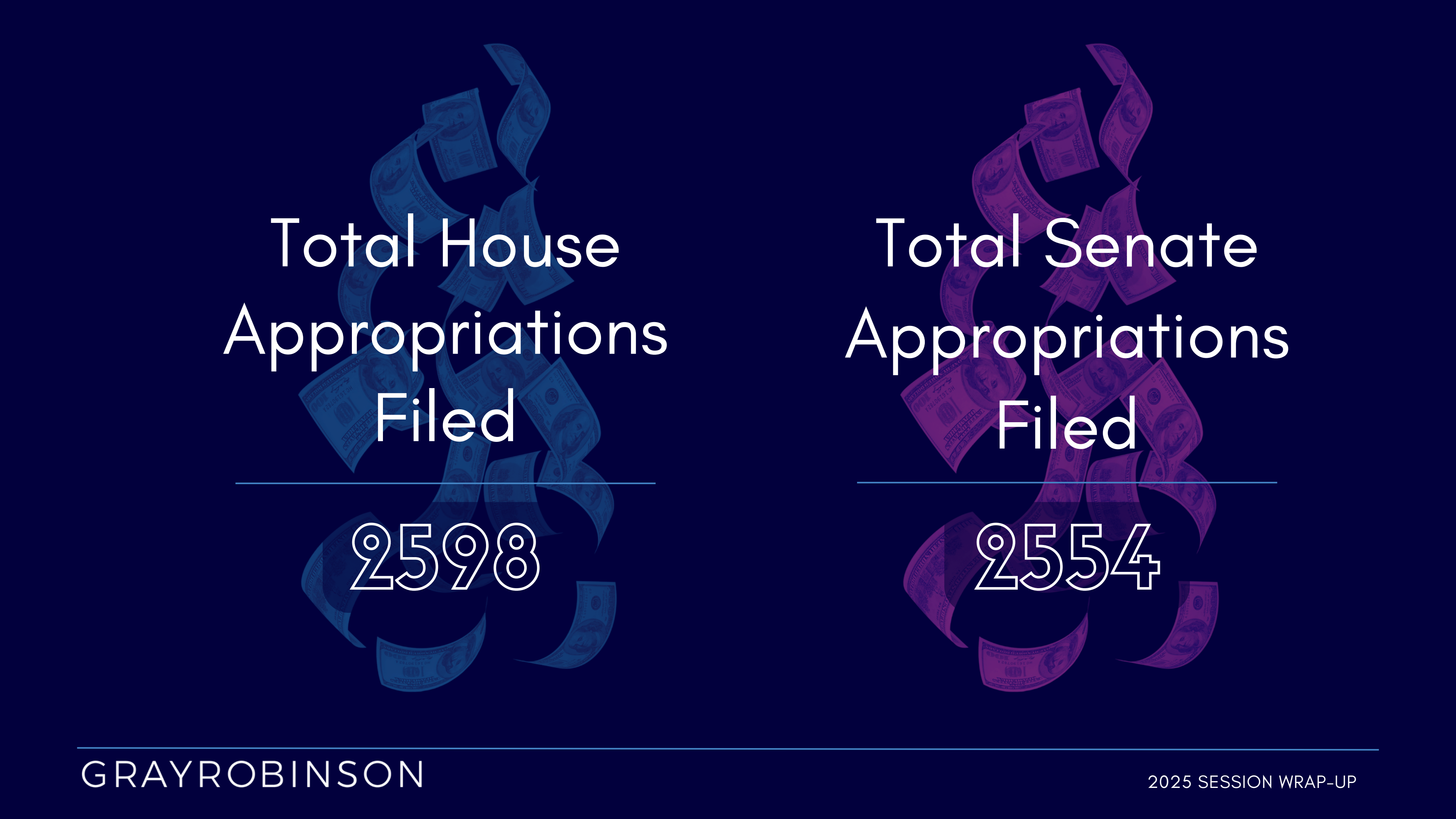
Bills Vetoed by Governor

0

Bills Awaiting Presentation

3

Bills Allowed to Become Law Without Signature



# Total House Appropriations Filed

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2598

# Total Senate Appropriations Filed

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2554



# Priority Issues

The elected leaders' political and policy goals. Typically align with pressing party platforms, fiscal responsibilities, and/or current socio-economic challenges.

- Ensure a sustainable state budget while addressing revenue needs and controlling spending.
- Promoting tax and regulatory reforms to foster business investment and infrastructure projects.

- Advance measures to enhance law enforcement efforts, including stricter immigration policies.
- Invest in education reforms and workforce training to prepare Floridians for future opportunities.



# Ron DeSantis, Florida Governor

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## Property Tax Relief

The Governor called for a constitutional amendment to significantly reduce (and potentially eliminate) property taxes in Florida. He also proposed a \$1,000 property tax rebate to all Florida homestead property owners as part of the budget/tax cut plan. The Legislature has not provided either of these.

## State Engagement in Combatting Illegal Immigration

Addressed in special session(s).

## "Continuing to Lead"

The Governor's State of the State Address, which kicked session off in March, focused heavily on Florida leading the way in policymaking and setting a conservative agenda.

## Cementing (and Defending) Legacy

As session wore on, much of the Governor's focus turned toward efforts to solidify his base of support around the state and defend his administration from mounting criticism in the legislature.





# Ben Albritton, Senate President

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## Rural Renaissance

One of the very first bills passed by the Florida Senate during session, the bill makes substantial policy changes and financial investments into Florida's rural counties. Transportation, broadband, educational, health care, and economic investments were all central to the omnibus bill.

## Florida Citrus

A citrus grower himself, the Senate President made it clear that the decline of the industry would not continue on his watch, and significant investment was proposed to uplift farmers, respond to diseases, plant more trees, and market Florida's product.

## Empowering Members

The President sought to lead a Senate that encouraged members to think and vote freely, allowing for independence of committee process.



# Daniel Perez, House Speaker

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## Sales Tax Reduction

The House, early in session, proposed a permanent reduction in the state sales tax – from 6% to 5.25%.

## Spending Cuts

Perez, consistent from his first day as speaker, has called for significant cuts in spending to reduce Florida's state budget. This was reflected in the House's budget proposal, which had \$5 billion less in total spending than that of the Florida Senate.

## Targeted Repeal of Tort Reform

In 2023, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, major tort reform legislation. The House moved several bills during the 2025 session that, if passed, would have unwound some of these reforms.



# The Budget

Florida's annual budget is a comprehensive financial plan crafted during each legislative session in Tallahassee. It is the one constitutionally mandated piece of legislation that the House and Senate must pass. The new fiscal year began July 1, 2025.

- Florida law mandates expenditures not exceed revenue.
- Includes education, healthcare, transportation, public safety, and environmental initiatives.

- Lawmakers negotiate allocations and may amend funding levels.
- Governor can approve or use veto power to remove specific appropriations.

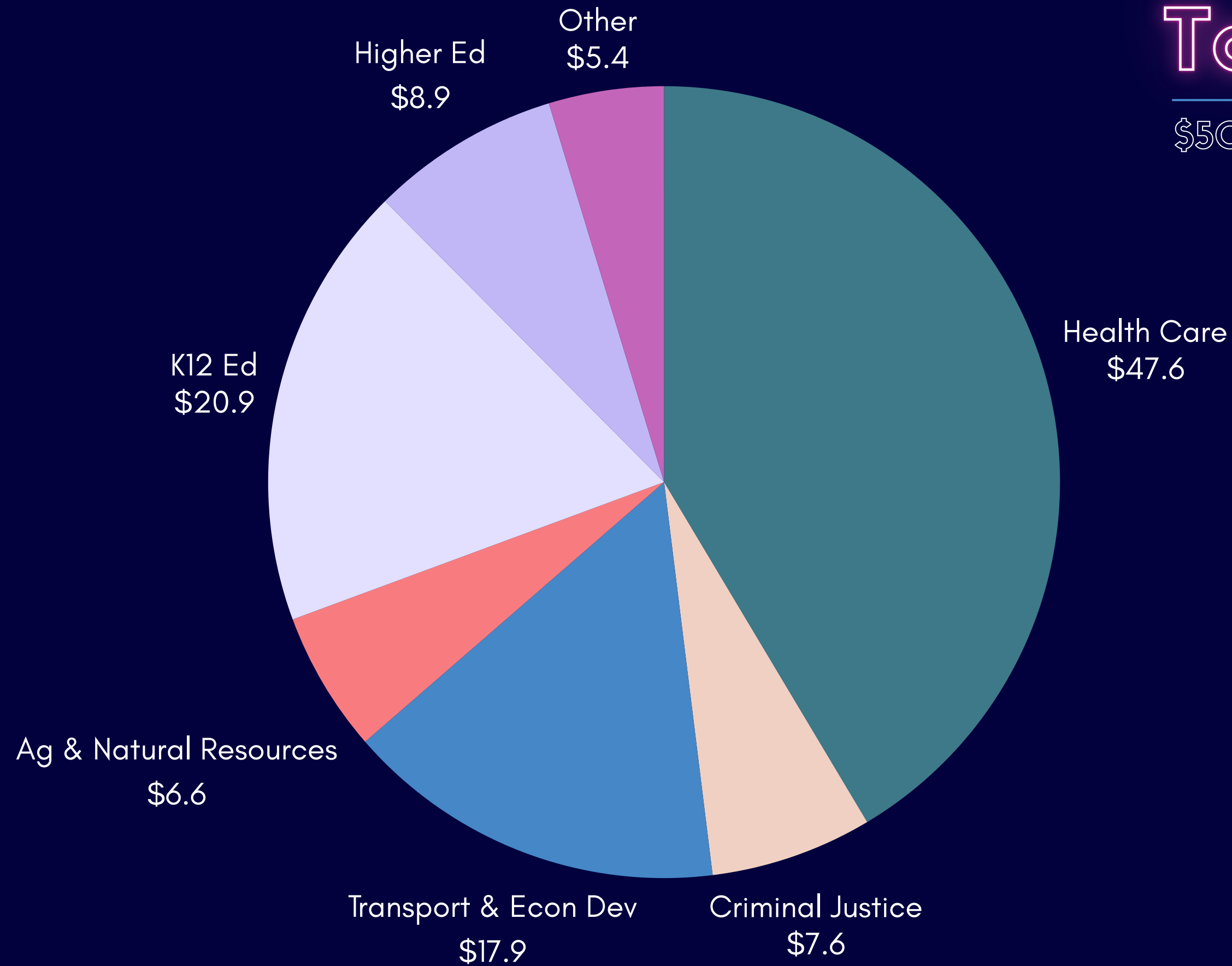


# The Budget

LOADING...

Total: \$115.1 billion

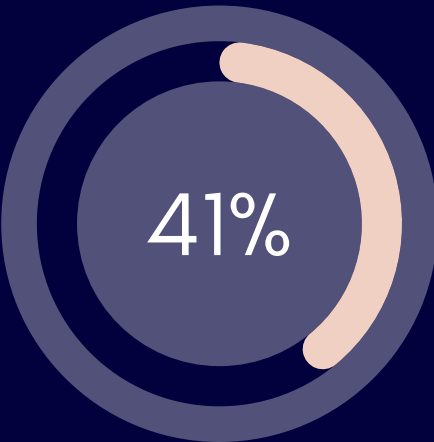
\$50.6 BILLION IN GENERAL REVENUE



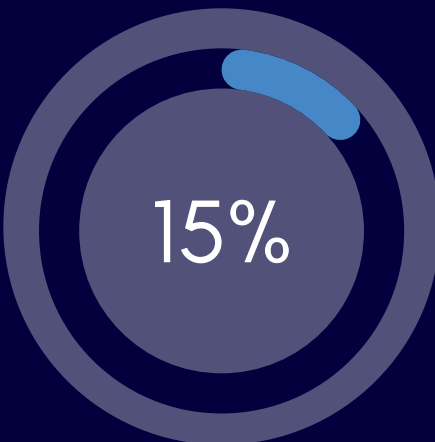


# Breakdown

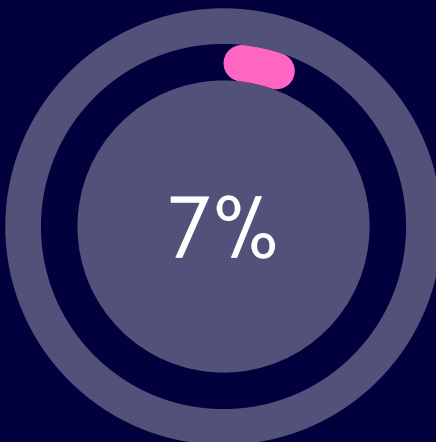
Total: \$115.1 billion



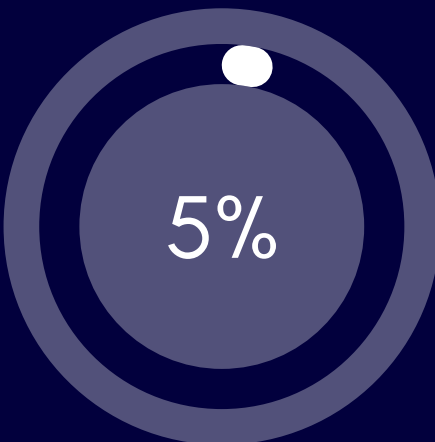
Health Care



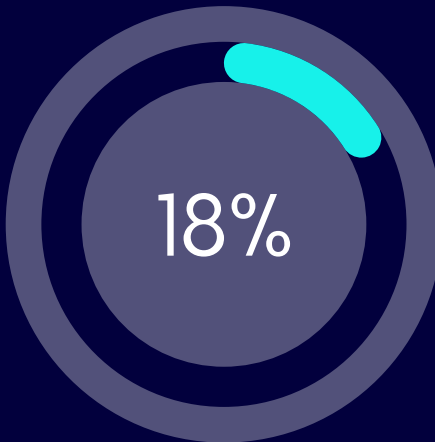
Transportation and  
Economic Development



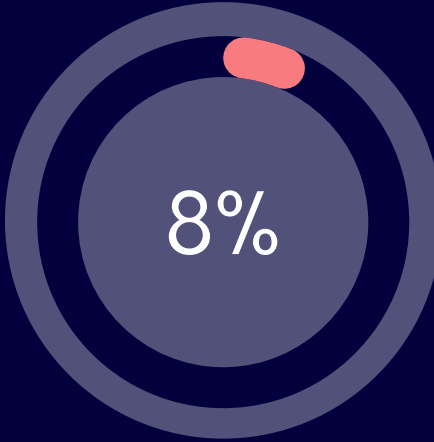
Criminal and Civil  
Justice



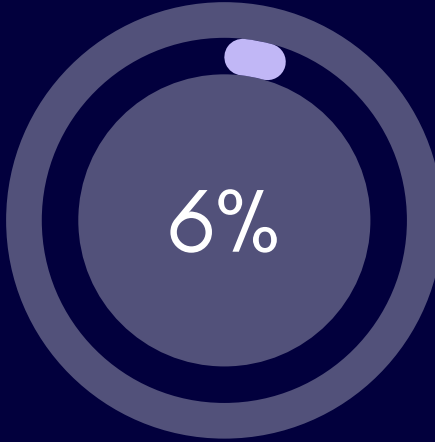
Other



K12 Education



Higher Education



Ag and Natural  
Resources

# Port St. Lucie Appropriations

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Westport Wastewater Treatment – \$2,500,000

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# Budget Highlights

FEFP per-student spending up 1.59%.

2% across-the-board pay raise for state employees (law enforcement and fire will receive between 8 and 13%).

2,200 vacant state jobs eliminated.

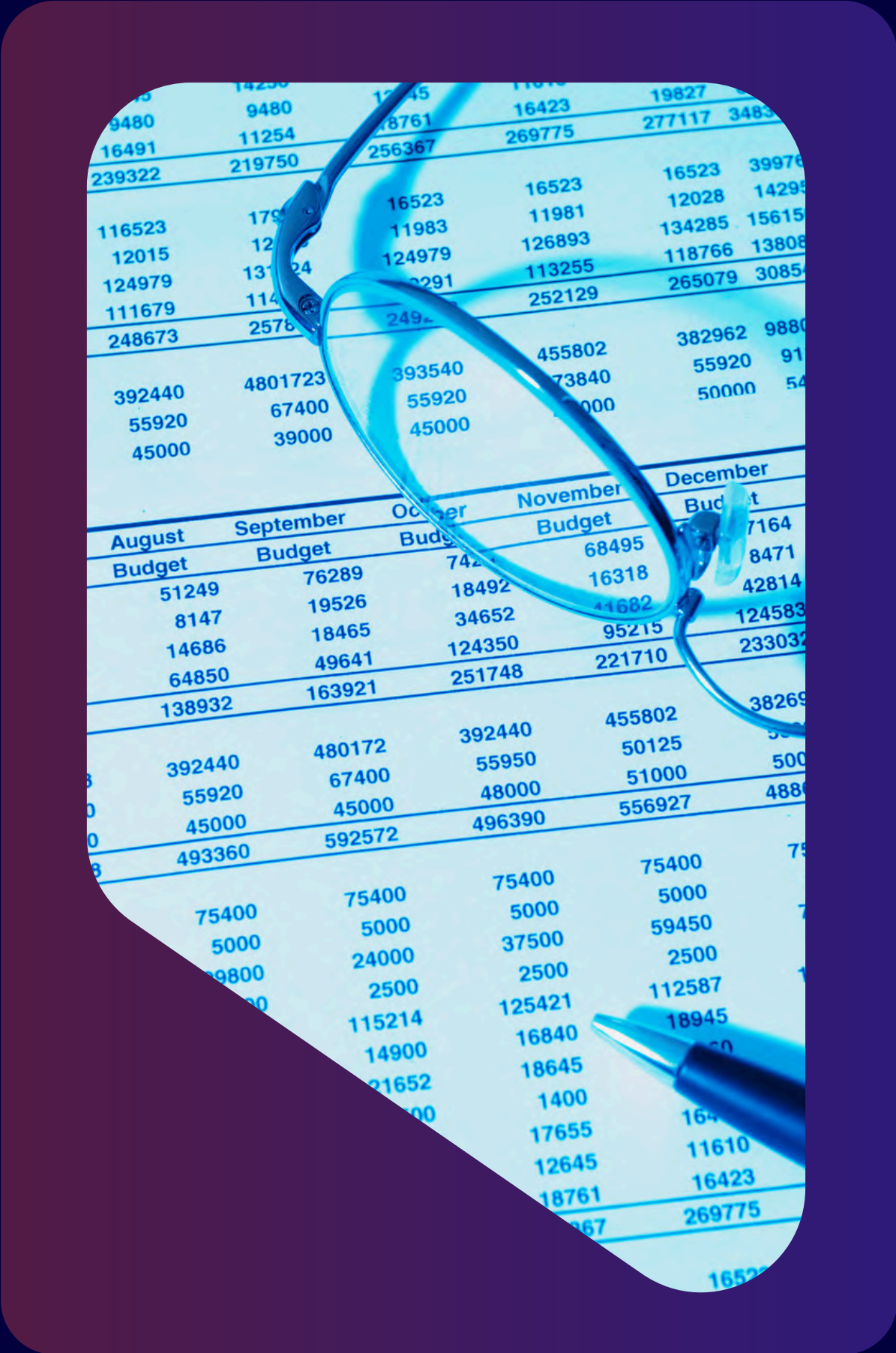
Fully funds FDOT work plan.

Fully funds Sadowski Trust Funds for affordable housing.

- \$163.8 million for SHIP and \$221.2 million for SAIL.

\$800 million for Everglades restoration and related environmental spending.

3.2% (\$3.8 billion) less in total spending than FY 2024-2025.





# Big Ticket Items

\$80 million for Visit Florida.

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\$250 million for Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.

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\$750 million into the Budget Stabilization Fund.

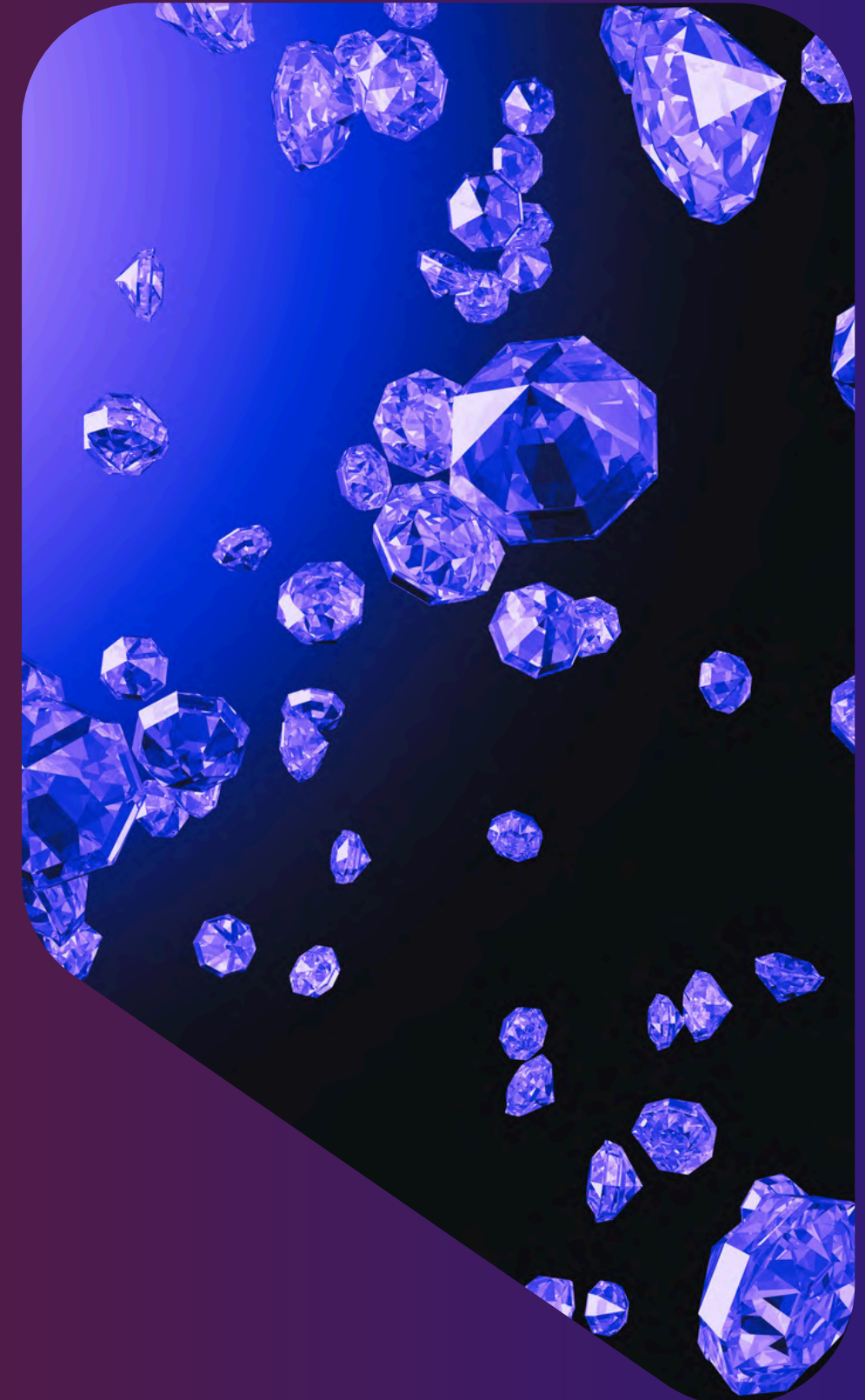
- Forthcoming constitutional amendment on 2026 ballot.

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\$580 million to pay down state debt.

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\$50 million for Hometown Heroes downpayment assistance program.



# Tax Package

*Estimated \$2.04 billion in tax cuts, including:*

Permanent, full repeal of Florida's Business Rent Tax.

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Permanent, month-long Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday every August.

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Repeal of Florida's aviation fuel tax.

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Expanded Tourist Development Tax (TDT) uses:

- Fiscally constrained Gulf Coast counties may use TDT to fund infrastructure projects.
  - All coastal counties may use TDT to fund lifeguard services.
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Permanent sales tax exemption for disaster prep and outdoor safety items (e.g., sunscreen, insect repellent, bike helmets, life jackets).

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Creates a sales tax holiday for hunting and fishing supplies.

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Eliminates sales tax on:

- Admission to Florida state parks.
  - Tickets to NASCAR races at Homestead-Miami Speedway.
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# Line Item Vetos

Total: \$1.35 billion

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Includes veto of \$750 million for transfer of General Revenue to the Budget Stabilization Fund and roughly \$567 million in line items.

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Final budget (after vetos) is only \$10 million more than the Governor's original recommended budget from January, and less than the FY 24-25 budget.

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# Tort Reform

PIP Repeal – Dead

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Phantom Damages – Dead

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“Free Kill” – Vetoed by governor on May 29

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# Local Government Legislation

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- SB 180 – Emergencies
- Implementing Bill/DOGE



# Notable Bills





# Notable Bills that Passed

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- Constitutional Amendment Reform
- Fluoride Ban
- State Parks
- Condo Law Reform
- School Start Time Repeal
- DOH Package (vaccine bans)
- Brownfields





# Notable Bills that Failed

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- Property Insurance
- Hemp regulation
- E-verify
- College/University Presidential Searches
- Gun law changes
- CRA
- DBPR De-Regulation
- Sovereign Immunity

# 2026 Issues

Redistricting

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Vaccines

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Property Tax

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Social Media

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Rural Renaissance

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Tort Reform Issues

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# 2026 Legislative Session



Committee Week 1 – October 6-10



Committee Week 2 – October 13-17



Committee Week 3 – November 3-7



Committee Week 4 – November 17-21



Committee Week 5 – December 1-5



Committee Week 6 – December 8-12



First Day of Session – January 13, 2026

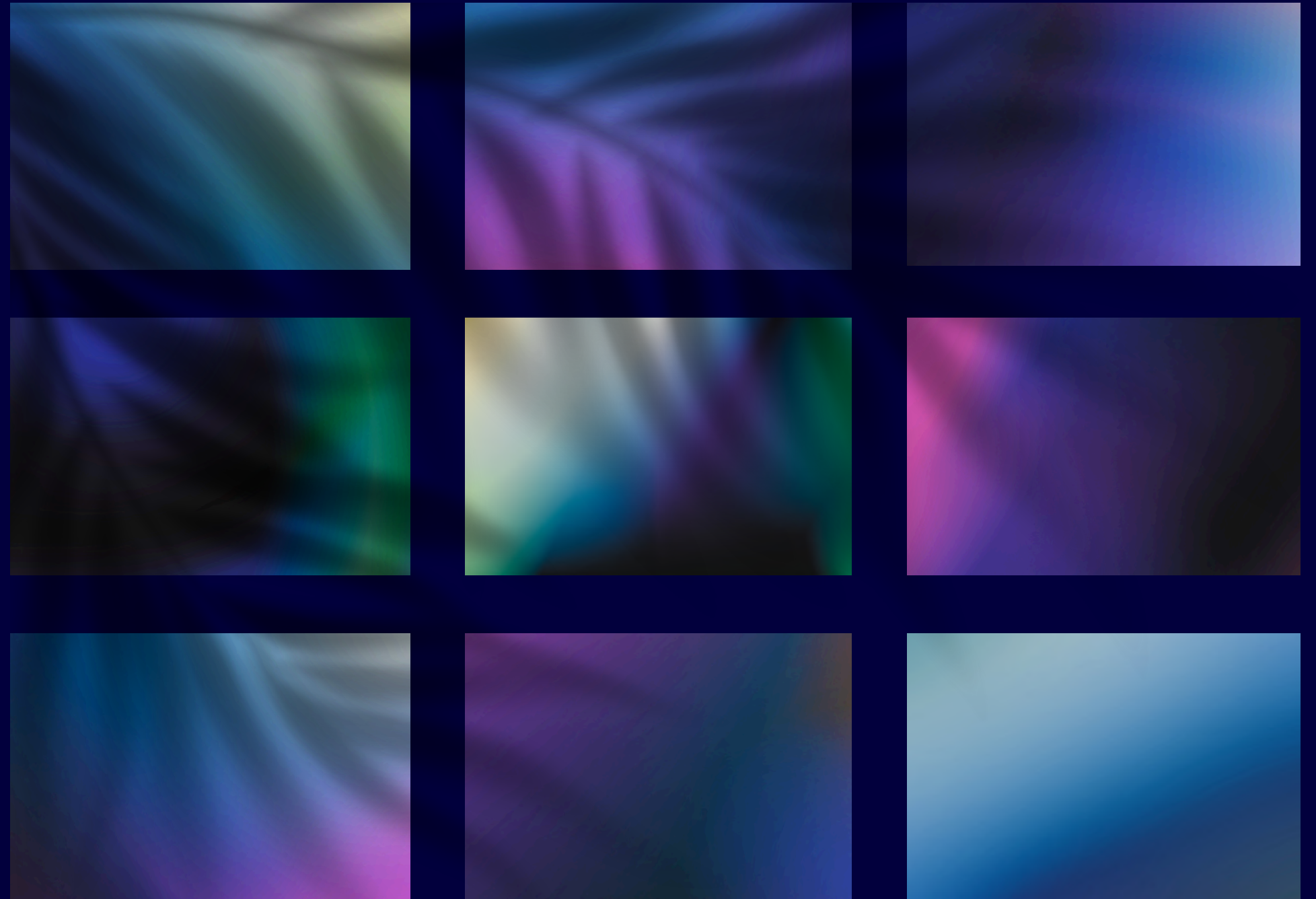


Last Day of Session – March 13, 2026



# Questions

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# Thank You

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