

## **April 7 – Local Chamber Federation Advocacy Committee Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Agenda Preview
- II. Upcoming Chamber Federation Events
- III. Advocacy Status and Situation Report
- IV. Session Week 6 Outlook
- V. Ongoing Advocacy Efforts
- VI. Open Discussion and Q&A

# Local Chamber Advocacy Committee Survey Results

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What are the most important issues that should be addressed during Session this year?

1. Property Insurance
2. Affordable Housing
3. Business Rent Tax
4. Tort Reform
5. Childcare

# 2025 Session by the Numbers



Session (March 4 – May 2, 2025)

- 157 Legislators
  - House – R: 86, D: 33
  - Senate – R: 27, D: 11



Special Session 2025A (January 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>)

Special Session 2025B (January 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>)



Special Session 2025C (February 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>)

Bills Filed (including special session): 1,947

- FBA Bills Filed: 106



Bills Passed (incl. Special Session): 2

- FBA Bills Passed House/Senate: 0
- FBA Bills Signed by Governor: 0



Florida Chamber Testified 108 Times



99 Different Your Vote Matters Letters Sent



1,054 Votes Scored

302 Florida Chamber meetings with legislature



Pro-Biz bills filed: 72



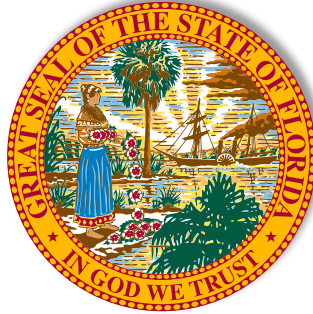
Anti-Biz bills filed: 34

**2026 Constitutional  
Amendment Watch**

Adult Personal Use of  
Marijuana Filed (AGAIN!)



# 2025-2026 Proposed Budget



Florida House 25-26 Proposed Budget	Governors 25-26 Proposed Budget	Florida Senate 25-26 Proposed Budget
<b>Total proposed: \$112.9 B</b>	<b>Total proposed: \$115.6 billion</b>	<b>Total proposed: \$117.3 billion</b>
Total FTEs: 106,780	Total FTEs: 113,026	Total FTEs: 112,842
24-25 YoY Reduction: \$5.7 B	24-25 YoY Reduction: \$2.4 B	24-25 YoY Reduction: \$.1 B

## House Budget Takeaways:

- \$4.4 B lower than the Senates budget
- \$2.7 B lower than the Governors budget
- Cuts 7,021 FTEs

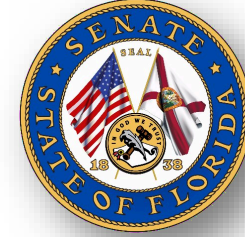
## Governor's Budget Takeaways:

- Reduction of BRT by 1%, saving taxpayers \$1.6 B
- \$830 million in debt reduction
- \$14.6 B in total reserves

## Senate Budget Takeaways:

- Includes 4% pay increases for all state employees
- \$600 million in debt reduction
- Cuts 967 FTEs

# 2025-2026 Proposed Budget Benchmarks



Florida House 25-26 Proposed Budget	Governors 25-26 Proposed Budget	Florida Senate 25-26 Proposed Budget
Quick Response Training Program: \$7.5 M	Quick Response Training Program: \$7.5 M	Quick Response Training Program: \$7.5 M
Economic Development Tools: \$22.5 M	Economic Development Tools: \$24 M	Economic Development Tools: \$22.5 M
Job Growth Grant Fund: \$0	Job Growth Grant Fund: \$75 M	Job Growth Grant Fund: \$75 M
VISIT Florida: \$80 M	VISIT Florida: \$80 M	VISIT Florida: \$80 M
SPACE FL: \$17.5 M	SPACE FL: \$17.5 M	SPACE FL: \$20.5 M
SPACE FL Infrastructure Fund: \$6 M	SPACE FL Infrastructure Fund: \$6 M	SPACE FL Infrastructure Fund: \$0
DOT 5 yr Work Program: \$13.8 M	DOT 5 yr Work Program: \$13.8 M	DOT 5 yr Work Program: \$12.98 M
SAIL: \$71.2 M	SAIL: \$227.7 M	SAIL: \$71.2 M
SHIP: \$163.8 M	SHIP: \$176.6 M	SHIP: \$182.6 M

# Chamber Priority Bill: Eliminating Business Rent Tax

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Chair of the Ways & Means Committee, Wyman Duggan, receiving his 2024 Honor Roll Award alongside Chad Kunde, Carolyn Johnson and Eric Carr.

## PCB WMC1, filed as HB 7031: Sales Tax Reduction

(Ways & Means Committee Bill)

- Permanently reduces Florida's sales tax rate to 5.25%
- Reduces the Florida-only business rent tax, which helps level the playing field with other businesses across the country

### House Bill References:

- House Ways & Means Committee (16-0)

➔ • House Floor 04/09/25

# Session Week 6 Outlook

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## Monday, April 7

- HB 47 – Child Care and Early Learning Providers (McFarland): Health & Human Services Committee, 4/7/25, 3:30 pm, 17 H

## Tuesday, April 8

- HB 681 – Apprenticeships Program Funding (Hunschofsky): Education & Employment Committee, 04/08/25, 8:00 am, 102 H
- HB 733 – Brownfields (Anderson) State Affairs Committee, 04/08/25, 8:00 am, 17 H
- SB 736 – Brownfields (Truenow): Rules, 4/8/25, 9:00 am, 412 K
- SB 832 – Former Phosphate Mining Lands (Burgess): Rules, 4/8/25, 9:00 am, 412 K
- SB 1730 – Affordable Housing (Calatayud): Rules, 4/8/25, 9:00 am, 412 K
- SB 7016 – Initiative Petitions Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution (Ethics and Elections): Fiscal Policy, 4/8/25, 2:00 pm, 412 K

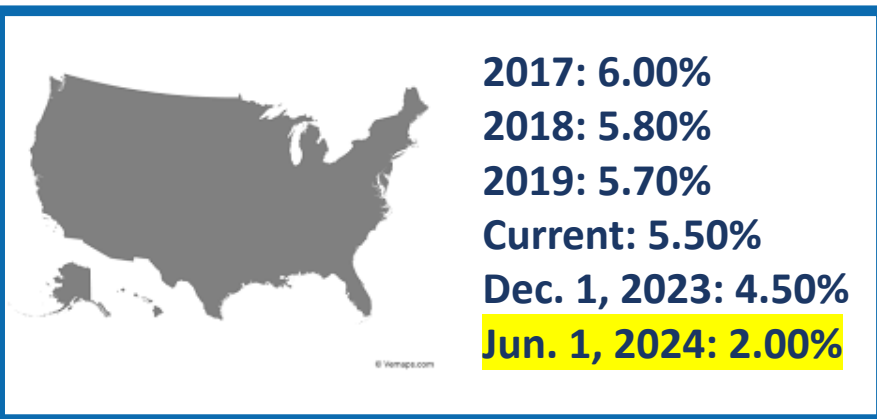
## Thursday, April 9

- SB 184 – Affordable Housing (Gaetz): Senate Session, 4/9/25, 10:00 am
- SB 1516 – Aerospace Industry (Wright): Session, 4/9/25, 10:00 am
- HB 7031 - Sales Tax Rate Reductions (Ways & Means): House Session, 4/9/25, 1:00 pm
- HB 27 - Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact (Hunschofsky): House Session, 4/9/25, 1:00 pm
- HB 883 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice (Shoaf): House Session, 4/9/25, 1:00 pm

# Business Rent Tax: **Unfinished Business**



- Florida is the only state in the nation that imposes a sales tax on businesses renting or leasing commercial property, known as the Business Rent Tax.
- This tax puts Florida at a disadvantage compared to every other state in the nation as it is exclusive to Florida.
- Florida Chamber has led the effort to reduce and eventually fully eliminate this Florida-only tax for over a decade.



# Tell Your Local Lawmakers to End the Business Rent Tax



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Phone: (850) 521-1200  
Fax: (850) 521-1203

www.floridachamber.com

## RE: Please Fully Eliminate the Florida-Only Business Rent Tax

Dear Members of the Florida Legislature,

The undersigned chambers of commerce, representing job creators and local businesses from across Florida, urge you to fully eliminate the Florida-only business rent tax during the 2025 legislative session.

We appreciate the efforts the Florida Legislature has made over the last several years to reduce the Florida-only business rent tax, which puts our local businesses at a competitive disadvantage compared to businesses in other states. Since 2017, the legislature has taken several steps to reduce the sales tax paid on commercial leases, but there is still more work to be done. As you know, Florida remains the only state in the country to levy this tax on local businesses, and while the business rent tax is now at two percent, that is still an approximately \$760 million burden on Florida-based businesses.

Savings resulting from elimination or significant reduction of this tax would allow local businesses to reinvest back in their business, in their employees and in their communities. Beyond the impact that the tax savings would have locally, fostering a business-friendly tax climate is pivotal for not only attracting out of state businesses, but for encouraging Florida-based businesses to expand within the state instead of seeking opportunities elsewhere. As we work to grow Florida to the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> largest global economy, it is imperative we continue to reinvest in Florida's local communities and businesses by building upon your efforts to foster the most business-friendly tax climate in the country.

Continuing to reduce or fully eliminate Florida's business rent tax is important to Florida's business community because it:

- Allows local businesses to make meaningful investments in their communities and workforce, generate new employment opportunities, and fuel business growth;
- Improves the competitiveness of local businesses by putting them on an even playing field with businesses across the country; and
- Augments Florida's business-friendly environment and fulfills the work started in 2017 by the legislature to eliminate the business rent tax.

The undersigned chambers of commerce ask you to fully eliminate the business rent tax. This will provide substantial savings to local businesses across the state that have been put at a competitive disadvantage due to this Florida-only tax and allow them to reinvest in their businesses, employees, and communities.

Sincerely,

The undersigned Chamber's of Commerce

## Act Now!

Sign on to urge lawmakers to eliminate the Florida-only Business Rent Tax:

Email \*

Email

First Name \*

First Name

Last Name \*

Last Name

Employer \*

Employer

Submit

Scan the QR code to sign on to the letter urging lawmakers to eliminate the Florida-only Business Rent Tax:



# Thank You to the Local Chambers of Commerce United in Ending the Business Rent Tax

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Accelerate Brevard: Chamber of Innovation  
Alachua Chamber  
Amplify Clearwater  
Bay County Chamber of Commerce  
Citrus County Chamber of Commerce  
Coral Springs Chamber  
Coral Springs Coconut Creek Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Delray Beach Chamber  
Destin Chamber of Commerce  
Englewood Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce  
Indian River County Chamber of Commerce  
Key Largo Chamber of Commerce  
Lakeland Chamber of Commerce  
Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Manatee Chamber of Commerce  
Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce  
North Port Area Chamber of Commerce  
Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce  
Putnam County Chamber of Commerce  
Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce  
Sanibel-Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce  
Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce  
Space Coast Black Chamber of Commerce  
St Johns County Chamber of Commerce  
St. Cloud Greater Osceola Chamber of Commerce  
St. Johns County Chamber  
St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce  
SWFL Inc  
Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber  
Tarpon Springs Chamber  
The Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce  
Venice Area Chamber of Commerce  
West Orange Chamber of Commerce  
Ybor City Chamber of Commerce

Join the Coalition to fully eliminate the Business Rent Tax by contacting Andrew Wiggins at  
[awiggins@flchamber.com](mailto:awiggins@flchamber.com) or (850) 251 3244.