



# Seminole County 2025 Legislative Update

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# Session Stats

**1,951** bills were filed this session.

**269** bills passed **both** chambers.

**246** bills were signed into law.

# State Budget Highlights

## A Smaller Budget this Session:

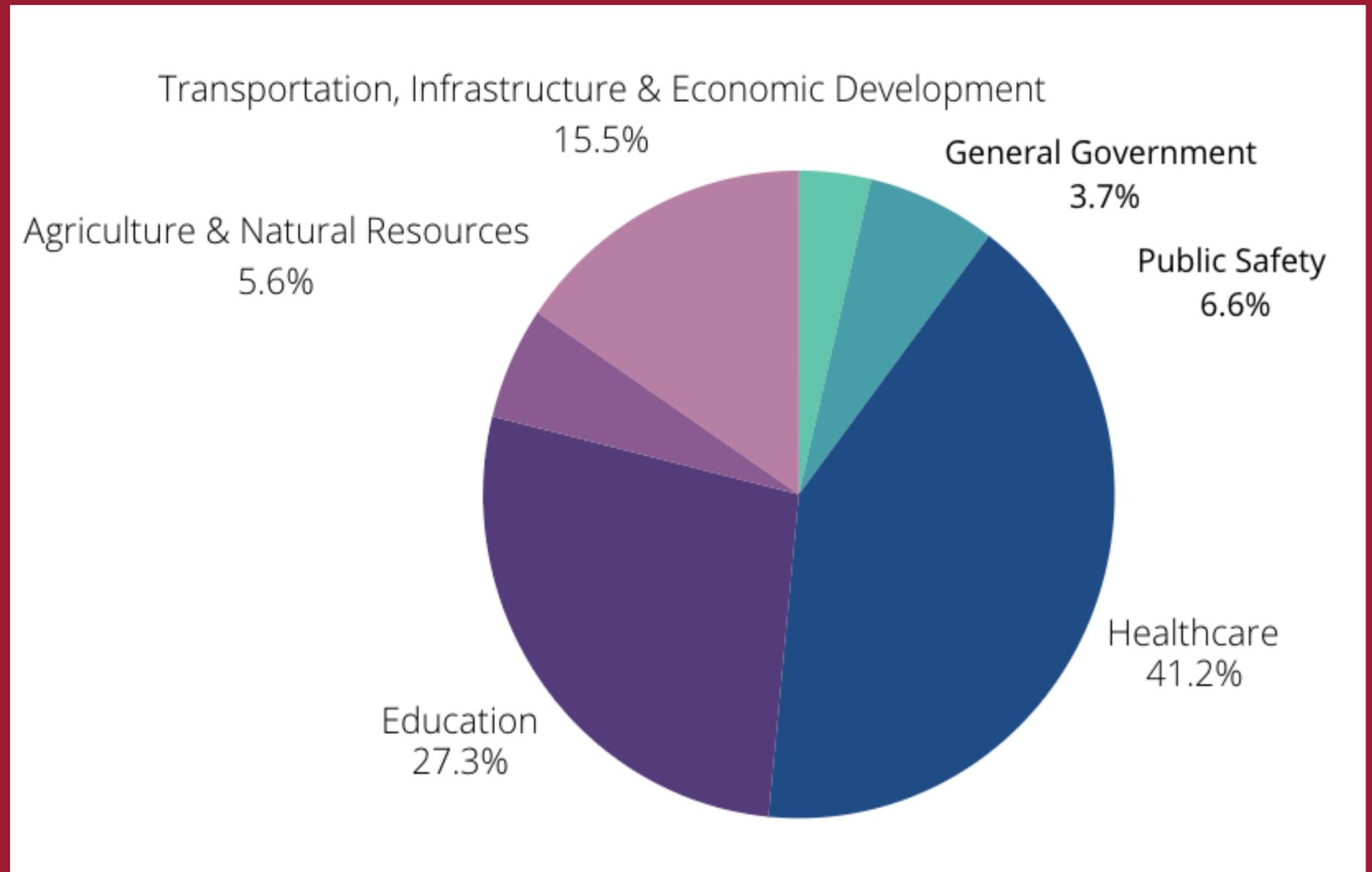
-Budget negotiations between the House and Senate yielded a \$115.1 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

-This includes **\$15.7 billion** in reserves.

-Governor Ron DeSantis exercised his line-item veto power and slashed **\$1.35M in member projects this session, a record.**

## Good news!!

The Seminole County Little Wekiva River Sedimentation Basin project was fully funded at **\$1.5M.**



# Budget Highlights

The budget for Fiscal Year 25-26 totals **\$115.1 billion** and includes **\$15.7 billion** in reserve funding.

## Affordable Housing:

- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (**SHIP**) program: **\$163.8 million**

## Transportation Funding

- Small County Outreach Program (SCOP): **\$9 million**
- Ready to Work Credential Program: **\$2 million**

## Cybersecurity:

**\$11.9 million** in funding from the previous fiscal year budget is appropriated for the same purpose for nonrecurring assistance to local governments for the development and enhancement of cybersecurity risk management programs

# Budget Highlights

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## Environment

- Resilient Florida Planning Grant Program- **\$20 million**
- Drinking Water Facility Construction Loan Program - **\$845 million**
- Wastewater Treatment and Stormwater Management Revolving Loan Programs -**\$1.5 billion**
- Small County Wastewater Treatment Grant Program - **\$8 million**

## Tourism & Economic Development

- Visit Florida- **\$80 million**
- Job Growth Grant Fund - **\$50 million**

# Key Legislation- Passed

## **Emergency Preparedness and Response - SB 180**

- Makes a variety of changes relating to local and state emergency preparedness and response. Includes restrictions on county or municipal regulations after certain natural emergencies.
- **Status: Passed**

## **Bonuses for Employees of Property Appraisers- HB 307**

- The bill allows property appraisers, in addition to tax collectors, to budget for and pay a hiring or retention bonus to an employee if approved by the Department of Revenue.
- *Note: While these expenditures must be approved by the Department of Revenue, the financial responsibility for covering them ultimately falls on the County.*
- **Status: Passed**

## **Affordable Housing- SB 1730**

- Expands Live Local Act applicability to portions of any flexibly zoned area, such as a planned unit development permitted for commercial, industrial, or mixed use.
- Provides for priority docketing and prevailing party attorneys' fees capped at \$250,000 in lawsuits brought under the Live Local Act.
- Exempts Wekiva Protection Area and Everglades Protection Area from the Live Local Act, effective upon becoming law
- **Status: Passed**

# Key Legislation Passed

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services- SB 700

- Preempts local governments from restricting the installation of housing for agricultural workers on land classified as agricultural. A standalone bill including this preemption passed the legislature in 2024 but was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.
- Prohibits the use of any fluoride in public water systems
- **Status: Passed**

## Local Government Land Regulation - SB 1080

- Requires local governments to specify the minimum information required for certain zoning applications;
- Process an application for a development permit or order within certain prescribed timeframes;
- And issue a refund to an applicant if the local government fails to meet those timeframes.
- **Status: Passed**

## Platting Ingoglia – SB 784

- \* Local governments are required to review, process, and approve plats through administrative authority.
- **Status: Passed**

# Key Legislation- Failed

## **TDT Funding Changes - SB 1665, SB 7034, HB 1221**

- Would have created an eight-year sunset period for local options taxes pending results of any future referendum created under these provisions.
- Would have dissolved all tourist development councils. 75% of TDT revenue would have offset to county property taxes, less outstanding dept payments.
- **Status: All bills failed**

## **Term Limits for Members of County Commissions and District School Boards- HB/HJR 679**

- Proposed an amendment to the state constitution establishing 8-year term limits for members of county commissions and district school boards.
- **Status: Failed**

## **Suits Against the Government - HB 301**

- Increases statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state & its agencies & subdivisions.
- **Status: Failed**

## **Community Redevelopment Agencies - SB 1242/HB 991**

- Would have required all CRAs to sunset by their charter expiration or by September 30, 2045.
- Would have barred CRAs from initiating new projects or issuing new debt after October 1, 2025.
- Would have prohibited the creation of new CRAs.
- **Status: Failed**

# Tax Package

## **HB 7031- Taxation**

Each session, the Legislature passes a comprehensive tax relief package. Contains provisions for tax relief and changes to tax policy including:

- Repeals the “business rent tax” beginning October 1, 2025.
- Creates a permanent Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday each year for the entire month of August.
- Provides a sales tax holiday for hunting, fishing, and camping equipment from September 8, 2025, through December 31, 2025.
- Directs the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) to study the state’s property tax system and submit a report that provides policy options to the Legislature by November 1, 2025. The bill appropriates \$1 million of nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to EDR to complete the study.

# Property Tax Reform

## House Select Committee on Property Taxes

Proposal 1: Require every city, county, and special district to hold a referendum at the next general election on eliminating property taxes on homestead properties.

Proposal 2: Create a new \$500,000 homestead exemption for all non-school taxes, increased to \$1 million for residents aged 65+ or those with homestead exemptions for 30+ years.

Proposal 3: Authorize the Legislature to increase homestead exemptions to any value by general law.

Proposal 4: Change assessment increase limitations for homestead properties from the lower of 3% or CPI annually to 3% over any three-year period for all taxes; for non-homestead properties, change from 10% annually to 15% over any three-year period for non-school taxes.

Proposal 5: Eliminate the ability to foreclose on homestead property due to a property tax lien.

# Other Issues

- **Continuation of issues from last Session**
- **Relationship between Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker**
- **DOGE efforts across local government**
- **Local government assessment score?**
- **2026 Campaigns**

# What's Next?

## 2026 Session Dates:

- **Committee Weeks** will begin the week of October 6th, 2025, and continue through the week of December 8th, 2025
- **Appropriations Project Request form submission deadline** is November 21, 2025
- **Regular Session** begins January 13th, 2026





Questions?

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