

# **2026 Legislative Summary Local Government Finance**



## **Florida Government Finance Officers Association**

This is an update prepared on June 8, 2026, covering items of interest in the 2026 Special Florida Legislative Sessions

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## I. PASSED BILLS

### i. Budget Implementing Bills

The following bills all take effect on July 1, 2026, and expire on June 30, 2027.

**(HB 5003E, McClure)**

This bill provides for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee to provide grants to local governments for derelict vessel removal.

**(HB 5205E, Maggard)**

This bill adjusts Florida Retirement System contribution rates for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

### ii. Property Taxes

**(HB 7031E, Duggan)**

- This bill provides for various sales tax holidays (only valid for fiscal year).
- The bill requires a unanimous vote or  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote (depending on governing body size) for dependent special districts to levy property tax if no property tax was levied in the prior year.
- The bill limits property tax assessments for:
  - o Agricultural land packing houses.
  - o Mobile home parks.
  - o Property owners with specified military deployments.
- Effective date: July 1, 2026.

**(HJR-1F, State Affairs Committee)** This bill, if approved by 60% of voters in a November 2026 Constitutional amendment referendum, would significantly increase the homestead exemption as follows:

- Increase the homestead exemption from \$50,000 to \$150,000 beginning January 1, 2027, and to \$250,000 beginning January 1, 2028.
- Require the Legislature to establish a schedule for the full elimination of homestead property taxes.
- Exclude school district levies from the increased exemption.
- Reduce the cap on annual assessment increases for non-homestead properties from 10% to 5%.
- Allow property tax revenue to fund operations of county and municipal governments, including constitutional county officers, county commissions, city governments, and expenditures approved by local elected officials, unless a specific expenditure is prohibited by State law.
- A special district may, upon approval by referendum by the electors of the district, increase the amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation. By general law, the legislature shall provide the manner in which a referendum may be called; the frequency with which such referendum may be held, which may not be more than once in a 12-month period; a ballot statement and question of such referendum; and other requirements for the referendum not inconsistent with this paragraph.
- The amount of assessed valuation exempt from taxation shall be adjusted annually for inflation beginning on January 1, 2028, and each year thereafter, using the percent change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, all items 1967=100, or successor reports for the preceding calendar year as initially

reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, if such percent change is positive.

- Require new Florida residents (after January 1, 2027) to wait five years before qualifying for the increased exemption.

Effective date: January 1, 2027, unless otherwise indicated (several provisions are effective January 1, 2028).

**(SB 4F; Avila)**

This bill amends various portions of Chapter 200, F.S., regarding rolled back rate calculation.