



2026

FGFOA

Annual Conference

June 13-17, 2026

Loews Sapphire Falls Resort
at Universal



FGFOA 2026 Annual Conference

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Loews Sapphire Resort at Universal Orlando

Speakers



Sam Wagoner

Legislative Advocate | Florida
League of Cities



Jason Harrell

Chief External Affairs Officer |
FICPA



2026 Legislative Session

The Never Ending Session (s)

- 2026 Regular Session: January 13- March 13 (60 days)
 - Unable to agree on budget (2nd consecutive year)
 - Ended regular session; will return for special on budget
- Special Session D on Congressional Redistricting, AI, and Medical Freedom: April 28 – May 1
- Special Session E on Budget: May 12 - 29
 - Budget completed May 29th.
- Special Session F on Property Tax: June 1 - 3
 - Property Tax Reform will be placed on Nov. Ballot



2026 Regular Session at a Glance

- Continuation of last year's session
- Lots of "fundamental differences" between the leaders
- Many big issues
 - Property Tax Rural Renaissance
 - Local Gov Budgeting Decoupling
 - Data Centers AI
- State budget not completed in 60-day regular session



Major Issues for the CPA Profession

- HB 333 / SB 364 – Public Accountancy
 - Promotes Innovative Pathways to CPA Licensure
 - Strengthens and Enhances Practice Privileges
 - Streamlines Florida’s Licensure by Endorsement Process
 - Increase Efficiencies in the Licensing Process
- HB 607 – Industries and Professional Activities
 - Eliminates Licensing Boards for a host of professions including CPAs
 - Eliminates Continuing Education requirements for a host of professions including CPAs



State Budget Stalemate

- House Budget: \$113.5B
- Senate Budget: 115B
- Around \$1.4B difference to be negotiated.
- "Fundamental differences" on key issues.
- Reduce spending now to prevent future deficits.



Special Session Begins After Period of Negotiations

- On March 13, the Legislature adjourned without the completion of a state budget.
- What follows is a period of silence and inactivity, with work going behind the scenes as the House and Senate tried to come to agreement on budget allocations.
- In late April, the Legislature announced joint allocations and dates for the Special Session on the budget May 12 - May 29.
- The legislature will only take up issues related to the State Budget, the deregulation efforts are not expected to resurface.
- **Legislature agrees to final budget (Passed May 29th).**



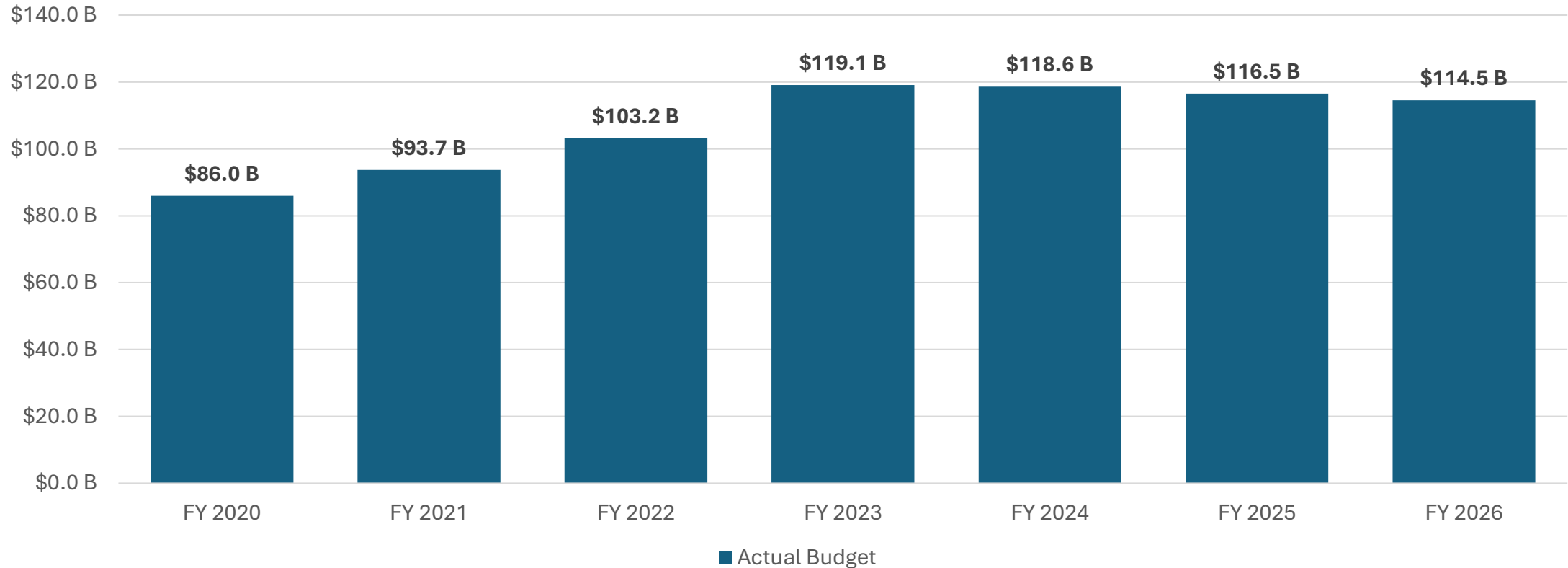
Fiscal Year 2026-27
GENERAL REVENUE FUND ALLOCATION¹

Program Area	TOTAL
Administered Funds & Statewide Issues	\$476 million
Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development	\$560 million
State Administration / General Government	\$568 million
Agriculture & Natural Resources / Agriculture and Environment	\$1.38 billion
Higher Education	\$6.68 billion
Justice / Criminal and Civil Justice	\$6.96 billion
PreK-12 Education	\$16.2 billion
Health Care / Health and Human Services	\$19.2 billion
TOTAL	\$51.98 billion

Note: Total may not add due to rounding.

FY 2026 Budget (before line-item vetoes)

Actual Budget



Budget Highlights | FY 2026–27

- **\$114.5 billion total state budget**
- Budget is **below prior year spending levels**
- Includes **\$150 million in additional early state debt repayment**
- Fully funds Florida's **Medicaid** and **KidCare** programs
- Increases both **per-student funding** and the **Base Student Allocation**
- Raises annual investment in **teacher salary increases** to more than **\$1.55 billion**
- Provides **\$50 million** for the **Hometown Heroes** homeownership assistance program
- Delivers **4% pay increases** for state law enforcement officers, firefighters, and park rangers





Tax Package

Legislature Decouples from Provisions of the OBBBA

- **HB 7031 – Internal Revenue Code – Pending Governor's Approval**
- Both the House and Senate released tax packages to conform the Florida corporate income tax code to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).
- Florida keeps current treatment (Jan. 1, 2025) for certain provisions including:
 - Bonus Depreciation, R&D Amortization, Business Interest Limits, Business Meal Deductions, and Small Business Expensing.
- Florida does not adopt new federal deductions for:
 - Qualified Production Property and Domestic R&D.
- Impact:
 - Maintains Florida's current corporate income tax structure.
 - **\$3.4 Billion in Revenue Savings.**
- **The Legislature elected to conduct all other state tax changes and proposals in the special session on the state budget.**



2026–27 Tax Package HB 7031E

Sales Tax

- Sales Tax Exemptions for Propane Tanks with a capacity of 20lbs or less
- Sales Tax Exemption on Home Hardening Projects
- Back To School Sales Tax Holiday July 20 – August 20
- Sales Tax Holiday on Hunting, Fishing, and Camping Gear September 1 – December 3

Property Tax

- Caps the increase on assessments for certain mobile home parks at 3% under certain conditions
- Aligns portability provisions with the state constitution, by allowing homeowners to transfer to a new homestead from any homestead abandoned in the past 3 years.
- Adjusts notification timing for tax exemption denials to improve protest options
- Clarifies the voting threshold necessary for certain local governments to levy ad valorem taxes in their first year.
- Reduces taxes levied on gaming activities



Property Tax Update

- Property Taxes were the dominant issue of the 2026 Legislative Session.
 - Multiple proposals were introduced to reduce or eliminate property taxes on homestead property.
 - The Legislature debated major changes to local government revenue structures without identifying a guaranteed replacement revenue source.



Constitutional Amendment on Property Tax

The proposed amendment does the following:

- Exempts non-school homesteaded ad valorem taxes up to \$250k by January 1, 2028.
- Lowers the existing annual cap on non-homestead property assessments from 10% to 5%.
- Creates a residency requirement for up to five years before one can attain the expanded homestead exemption.
- Limits the remaining ad valorem funds to be used on only core services such as public safety, education, infrastructure, natural resource projects, and related government operations (i.e. constitutional officers and city administration).



HB 925 & HB 967

HB 925 – Clerks of Court: Rebalances the distribution of traffic fines by reducing the municipality's share and increasing the amount deposited into the county's fine and forfeiture fund (from 50% and 5.6% to 28.8% and 28.8%).

HB 967 – Electronic Payments Made to Units of Local Governments: requires local governments to accept credit cards, debit cards, or other electronic fund transfers. And mandates local governments to implement a method for accepting payments online.



HB 1329 – Local Government Finances

- Requires a 10% Budget Reduction Exercise.
- Requires quarterly compensation posting for ALL employees.
- Requires a Budget Summary Narrative be posted.
- Requires Budget Calendar to be posted by Jan. 30th annually.
- Effective Date – January 1, 2027.



Bills That Failed

HB 1303/SB 1572 – Department of Financial Services: The bills proposed expanded auditing authority, financial penalties for noncompliance, enhanced whistleblower protections, greater contract transparency requirements, mandatory financial ethics training, annual efficiency reporting, and new requirements for tracking and publicly posting local government contract information.

HB 103/SB 122 – Local Business Taxes: would have eliminated local governments' authority to levy local business taxes by repealing Chapter 205, F.S. Limited exceptions were included for certain gross-receipts-based taxes and county economic development programs, but the legislation would have substantially reduced local revenue authority statewide.



Questions?

