State Legislative Committee Week Digest

Committee Week 2 October 13-17, 2025

Prepared by: Hillsborough County Government Relations & Strategic Services

Overview

The second week of legislative committee meetings saw a continuation of agency and committee action reports and further discussion on issues anticipated to be addressed in the upcoming 2026 state legislative session. Of significant note, Florida Senate Republican Caucus officially selected Senator Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) as President-designate for the 2026-2028 legislative term. Secondly, the Florida House released eight individual proposals addressing property tax reform. This newsletter touches on this, and other key matters of interest addressed during Committee Week 2.

Major Issues Discussed

County Commission Districts

The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee conducted a panel discussion on county commission districts, specifically the pros and cons of single member vs. countywide districts. Commissioners from Bay, Bradford, Madison, Pinellas, and Polk, along with the Executive Director of the Florida Association of Counties gave testimony about how their boards are apportioned and serve their constituencies. No formal action was taken by the Subcommittee. However, the Government Relations team will monitor and report to the Board on any legislation filed affecting county commission district. Here is a link to a video replay of the meeting.

State Senator Jim Boyd Designated as Next Senate President

The Senate Republican Caucus convened to officially select Senator Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) as the President-designate for the 2026-2028 Legislative Term. Senator Boyd is the current Senate Majority Leader and represents part of southern Hillsborough and northern Manatee counties. The ceremony can be viewed on The Florida Channel.



House Releases Property Tax Proposals

The Florida House unveiled eight joint resolutions for consideration as a result of the work of the House Select Committee on Property Taxes. These proposals provide an array of options for consideration in the 2026 state legislative session, and ultimately, by the voters in the 2026 general election. None of the House joint resolutions listed below affect school ad valorem taxes, only those collect by cities and counties. Also of note is that joint resolutions are not subject to action (approval or veto) by the Governor and therefore only within the purview of the Legislature. In summary:

- HJR 201 Eliminates non-school homestead property taxes
- HJR 203 Phases out non-school homestead property taxes over a ten-year period via an annual additional exemption of $100,000
- HJR 205 Exempts Florida residents over the age of 65 from paying non-school homestead property taxes.
- HJR 207 Creates a new homestead exemption for non-school property taxes equal to 25% of the assessed value of the house.
- HJR 209 Creates an additional $100,000 exemption on non-school property taxes for homestead property owners who have property insurance
- HJR 211 Eliminates the cap on portability, allowing a homeowner to transfer their entire accumulated Save Our Homes benefit to a new home regardless of value
- HJR 213 Limits the growth in assessed value of non-school homestead property taxes to 3% over three years for homestead property and 15% over three years for non-homestead property
- HB 215 Requires a 2/3 vote for any increase in the millage rate and allows newly married couples to combine their accumulated Save Our Homes benefits

To date, the Florida Senate has not released any property tax reform proposals. The Government Relations team will monitor and report on these and other actions regarding property tax reform pursuant to the Board's 2026 State Legislative Agenda.



Finance & Budget

The Joint Legislative Auditing Committee met to discuss, among other issue, audit findings of educational and local government entities. Of note, the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District was cited regarding an audit finding regarding internal control over financial reporting (see page 191 of the committee packet). Here is a link to a video replay of the meeting.

Rulemaking

The Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability received a presentation on rulemaking and the new rule review process under the Administrative Procedures Act as addressed in SB 108 from the 2025 state legislative session. This updated information will be important as agencies promulgate and generally address rules that may address local governments in the future. Here is a link to a video replay of the meeting.

Confirmation Hearing on Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Governing Board Executive Appointments

The Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections voted 5-0 in support of the executive appointments of Jim Turner of Sarasota, and Nancy Watkins of Tampa, to the governing board of Southwest Florida Water Management District. This is the second stop for these nominations after the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government voted unanimously in support of the nominations in Committee Week 1.

Key Statistics and Dates

To date, 233 bills have been filed as of the end of Committee Week 2. This is an increase of 75 filed fills in one week. Many more will be filed in advance of the bill drafting and bill filing deadlines.

Important Session Dates:

- November 3-7, 2025 — Committee Week 3
- November 17-21, 2025 — Committee Week 4
- November 21, 2025 — House Member Bill Submission Deadline and Appropriation Project Request Form Submission Deadline.

- December 1-5, 2025 — Committee Week 5
- December 8-12, 2025 — Committee Week 6
- January 7, 2026 — House Member Bill Final Draft Form Deadline.
- January 9, 2026 — House Member Bill Filing Deadline and Appropriation Project Request Form Publication Deadline.
- January 13, 2026 — Regular Session convenes 12:00 noon, deadline for filing bills for introduction per Article III, section 3(b), State Constitution; Senate Rule 3.7(1)
- January 16, 2026 — House Attestation Form Submission Deadline.
- March 13, 2026 — 60th day – Last day of Regular Session

Contact Information

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