

State Legislative Committee Week Digest

Committee Week 1

October 6-10, 2025

Prepared by: Hillsborough County Government Relations & Strategic Services

Overview

The first week of committee meetings of the Florida Legislature consisted of agency presentations on activities and budget matters, on-site tours, and discussion on issues of interest anticipated to be addressed in the upcoming 2026 state legislative session. This newsletter touches on a few key issues of interest addressed during Committee Week 1.

Major Issues Discussed

Impact Fees

The [House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee](#) conducted an overview and panel discussion of impact fees. Representatives of the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities, Association of Florida Community Developers, and Florida Home Builders Association gave testimony on how impact fees are assessed and used. It is anticipated that legislation regarding impact fees will be filed in the 2026 state legislative session. The government relations team will monitor the issue and advise the Board if legislation is filed. In the meantime, [here](#) is a link to a video replay of the meeting.

Finance & Budget

The [Senate Appropriations Committee](#) received a presentation on Florida's long-range financial outlook from Amy Baker, the Coordinator of the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR). The [information relayed to the Committee](#) will inform early spending projections in advance of newer and more timely data that will be offered during session in advance of budget decisions and allocations. This presentation is like the one made by EDR to the House Select Committee on Property Taxes on September 22.



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

The [Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government](#) conducted public hearings on the executive appointments of Jim Turner of Sarasota, and Nancy Watkins of Tampa, to the governing board of Southwest Florida Water Management District. The subcommittee voted 9-0 to advance their nominations.

State Representative Sam Garrison Nominated as Next House Speaker

The Florida House Republican Conference convened to nominate [Representative Sam Garrison](#) (R-Fleming Island) to serve as Speaker of the House for the 2026-2028 legislative term. The ceremony can be viewed [here](#).

Key Statistics and Dates

To date, 158 bills have been filed. Many more will be filed in advance of the bill drafting and bill filing deadlines.

Important Session Dates:

- October 13-17, 2025 Committee Week 2
- 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



Looking Ahead

Committee Week 2 takes place October 13-17, with further presentations and issue development by committees. Of note:

- On Monday at 3:30 p.m., the [Joint Legislative Auditing Committee](#) meets to discuss, among other issue, audit findings of educational and local government entities. Of note, the Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District is listed with an audit finding regarding internal control over financial reporting (see page 191 of the [committee packet](#)).
- On Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., the Republican Caucus of the Florida Senate will convene to officially select [Senator Jim Boyd](#) (R-Bradenton) as the President-Designate for the 2026-2028 Legislative Term. The ceremony can be viewed on [The Florida Channel](#).
- On Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., the [House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee](#) will here presentations regarding county commission districts, with testimony from the Florida Association of Counties and others.

Contact Information

For more information, or if we can be of assistance, please contact Brandon Wagner at WagnerB@hcfl.gov, and (813) 276-2640 or (813) 777-7232.

