



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Ben Albritton
SUBJECT: Extended Session Planning
DATE: May 9, 2025

Chair Hooper and I are continuing to work with our House partners to finalize joint allocations needed to complete our work on the budget as expeditiously and responsibly as possible. For your planning purposes, we do not expect to begin conference next week (May 12-16, 2025). As soon as we determine a date to start the budget conference, we will certainly let you know.

As I am sure you are aware, earlier this week Governor DeSantis expressed concern regarding the tax relief framework announced last Friday. Specifically, that the proposal for an across-the-board sales tax cut would unduly benefit tourists and foreigners and is, “dead on arrival.” From speaking with Senators, I know many of you share concerns with both the number and the policy of that framework and instead favor targeted tax relief that benefits growing families and seniors aging with dignity, including options the Senate proposed in SB 7034.

The main concerns I heard from Senators were the following:

- An across-the-board sales tax cut of one quarter of one penny is not meaningful, felt, or seen by families and seniors when compared with other available options.
- A \$2.5 billion recurring tax cut is not sustainable when combined with the projected budget shortfalls already on the horizon.
- A \$2.5 billion recurring tax cut may constrain options for the major property tax reform the Governor, House, and Senate, and most importantly – the Floridians we represent – are asking us to put forward.

Throughout the entire course of negotiations with the House, the Senate has been and remains committed to tax cuts that offer broad-based and meaningful tax relief for families, seniors, and

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small businesses. As negotiations move forward, Chair Hooper and I will continue seeking your advice and feedback. It is important to me that we develop a tax relief package that is sustainable for the long term and leaves room in our balanced budget for the voters to consider meaningful property tax relief on the ballot at the next general election. We will continue to work towards a final budget and tax relief package the House, Senate and Governor can support.