



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Ben Albritton
SUBJECT: Special Session Update and Planning
DATE: April 15, 2026

The Governor has issued a proclamation convening the Legislature in Special Session from Tuesday, April 28, 2026, through Friday, May 1, 2026, for the purpose of considering legislation related to the drawing of congressional districts, creating strong consumer protections for artificial intelligence, and expanding medical freedom in our state. The proclamation is attached for your reference, along with a draft schedule for next week.

Today's proclamation amends the proclamation issued on January 7, 2026. As such, Senators do not need to return to Tallahassee next week and should instead plan to be in Tallahassee beginning Tuesday, April 28 at noon.

Congressional Redistricting

As I have shared previously, the Senate is not drafting or producing a map for introduction during the special session. It is our expectation that pursuant to the proclamation issued by the Governor and consistent with the process undertaken during the 2022 Special Session on Congressional Reapportionment, a proposal will be transmitted from the Governor's Office to the Senate for our consideration. I will share that information with Senators when it becomes available.

When the Senate receives a proposal from the Governor, President Gaetz intends to file it as a Senate Bill for consideration during the special session. It is my expectation the Governor's Office will present his proposal before the Senate Committee on Rules on April 28th. The Rules Committee is comprised of more than half of the Senate. Senators not on the Rules Committee are encouraged to attend the meeting in order to hear the presentation from the Governor's Office, or to watch remotely via the Florida Channel.

In the meantime, the only ongoing work related to midterm redistricting taking place in the Senate is being coordinated by Jay Ferrin in my office. I asked Mr. Ferrin to ensure the specific systems needed for redistricting legislation, which have been dormant since 2022, are operational when we receive a proposal from the Governor's Office and to accommodate any potential amendments Senators may want to draft.

As a reminder, Senators should be aware that in prior cycles, significant litigation has followed passage of new maps. The Florida Supreme Court has previously limited the scope of legislative privilege when it comes to redistricting.^[1] Sitting legislators may be compelled to produce records or be subject to questioning under oath about conversations with colleagues, with legislative staff, or with outside parties who may attempt to persuade the Legislature to pass maps that favor or disfavor a political party or incumbent.

Insulation from Partisan Interests

Florida's Constitution includes strict guidelines for what information the Legislature can and cannot consider when drawing new congressional districts. Regardless of the forum or format, we can only consider thoughts and feedback in keeping with constitutional standards. Senators should take care to insulate themselves from partisan-funded organizations and other interests that may intentionally or unintentionally attempt to inappropriately influence redistricting.

Record Retention

Senators should continue to adhere to the records retention policy as directed by Art. I, s. 24 of the Florida Constitution, s. 11.0431, F.S., and Senate Rule 1.48. Senators may receive correspondence or communications from outside individuals and groups. Senators and staff should be mindful correspondence, emails, texts, and other electronic communications related to the enactment of new districts, whether sent or received on official Senate accounts or devices or personal email accounts or devices, may be of permanent or archival value and any such records should be preserved accordingly.

Medical Freedom

Senator Yarborough will file legislation identical to Senate Bill 1756, The Medical Freedom Act, which the Senate passed during the regular session. As you are aware, this legislation creates a conscience exemption from vaccine requirements for children attending K-12 schools and authorizes the sale of ivermectin without a prescription as a behind-the-counter medication. To ensure parents have relevant and timely information needed to make important decisions about their children's health care, the bill requires parents be provided with specific material before a vaccine can be administered to a child and when applying for an exemption. The bill also makes permanent Florida's existing ban on discrimination based on a person's mRNA vaccination status and protects Floridians from forced vaccinations during emergencies.

Artificial Intelligence

President Pro Tempore Brodeur will file legislation identical to Senate Bill 482, Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights, which was sponsored by Senator Leek and passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support during the regular session. As you are aware, with an emphasis on safeguarding Florida's children, the bill addresses current consumer transparency challenges, threats to child safety, and other potential impacts arising from technological advances in artificial intelligence.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. I look forward to seeing everyone later this month.

^[1] See *League of Women Voters of Florida v. Florida House of Representatives*, 132 So. 3d 135 (Fla. 2013).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SENATE MEETING TIME ALLOCATIONS

Special Session D
April 27-May 1, 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
April 27, 2026	April 28, 2026	April 29, 2026	April 30, 2026	May 1, 2026
		10:00am-6:00pm SITTING	10:00am-6:00pm SITTING	10:00am-Sine Die SITTING
	12:00-1:30pm SITTING 2:00-6:00pm (Group VIII) Rules 110S 15 minutes after completion of Group VIII-until completion Special Order Calendar Group 110S			

REMEMBER: THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR IS PRINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE.
THIS TENTATIVE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PROCLAMATION

STATE OF FLORIDA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TALLAHASSEE

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SENATE
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3(c)(1) of the Florida Constitution permits the Governor to convene the Legislature in Special Session during which only such legislative business may be transacted as is within the purview of this Proclamation, or of a communication from the Governor, or as is introduced by consent of two-thirds of the membership of each house of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2026, I called a Special Session scheduled to commence at 12:00 p.m., Monday, April 20, 2026, and extending no later than 11:59 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Special Session is to consider legislation relating to the drawing of congressional districts for the State of Florida and any legal challenges thereto, including the appropriation of additional funding for such litigation; and

WHEREAS, the advancement of artificial intelligence provides the opportunity to optimize business practices and foster innovation; however, artificial intelligence platforms have caused harm to individuals and to society; and

WHEREAS, Florida leads the nation in parental rights; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has the responsibility to protect Floridians, especially minors, from the dangerous and deceptive practices of large technology companies that wield artificial intelligence platforms; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature must act to safeguard the rights and well-being of our citizens by establishing an Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, Florida was the beacon of sanity during the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting freedom over fear; and

WHEREAS, no Floridian should face discrimination based on mRNA vaccine status; and

WHEREAS, every family in Florida possesses the fundamental right to parental informed consent related to the vaccine status of their minor child; and

WHEREAS, it is now prudent to amend the call of the Special Session originally scheduled to commence on April 20, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of the State of Florida, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 3(c)(1) of the Florida Constitution, do hereby proclaim as follows:

Section 1. The proclamation on January 7, 2026, calling the Legislature of the State of Florida for a Special Session relating to consideration of legislation for the drawing of congressional districts for the State of Florida and any legal challenges thereto, including the appropriation of additional funding for such litigation, is amended to include consideration of legislation relating to (1) protecting Floridians from the dangers of artificial intelligence including an AI Bill of Rights for Floridians, and creating, as necessary, public records exemptions related to investigations of alleged artificial intelligence harms and (2) medical freedom, similar to Senate Bill 1756, which passed the Senate in March.

Section 2. The call to the Legislature of the State of Florida for this Special Session is further amended to commence at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2026, and extend no later than 11:59 p.m., Friday, May 1, 2026.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed to this Proclamation amending the call to the Legislature in Special Session at the Capitol, this 15th day of April, 2026.




RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

2026 APR 15 PM 5:10
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED