



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON
President

For Immediate Release
March 13, 2026

Contact: Katie Betta
(850) 487-5229

President Albritton's Statement on the Conclusion of the 2026 Regular Session

Tallahassee—Florida Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula) today released the following statement regarding the conclusion of the 2026 Regular Session. Senators will return to Tallahassee to complete work on a balanced budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year and to place an amendment on the 2026 General Election Ballot to provide Florida voters the opportunity to reduce homesteaded property taxes in a significant way.

“With affordability top of mind for Florida families, Senators will return to Tallahassee to put a meaningful option for property tax relief on the ballot for the fall election. We also know the best thing we in state government can do to help with affordability is to keep taxes low, limiting the financial burden taxes and regulations place on Florida’s families and businesses. To do so, state government has to live within its means, pay down debt, and save for the future. As we continue our work on the budget, we will hold the line on spending, live within our means and strike the right balance between spending and saving.”

“While there is more work to do, this Session Senators maintained a laser focus on issues raised in their home communities, passing strong solutions that will now be sent to Governor DeSantis. To highlight a few successes, we passed legislation by Senator Avila to safeguard Florida communities from situations we have seen in other states when large data centers drive up demand and the price of electricity skyrockets, causing affordability issues for families. Legislation by Senator Gaetz expands the School Guardian Program to higher education campuses so qualified personnel can be prepared to respond quickly to violent threats against students and faculty. Legislation by Senator Grall will further safeguard our elections by making certain only U.S. citizens are voting. Senator Grall also spearheaded bills to make sure foreign countries of concern, terrorist organizations, and their anti-American activities are unable to influence institutions in our state. Senator Yarborough led the effort to protect taxpayers from local DEI policies that can be divisive and costly.

“Senator Wright championed a bill to improve housing options for veterans, while Senator Sharief worked to expand veterans’ access to dental care. In honor of a little girl tragically murdered in Tallahassee, Senator Martin led the effort to require that dangerous criminals stay in jail pending sentencing. To honor a police officer horrifically killed in the line of duty, Senator Leek spearheaded legislation to strengthen sentencing for crimes against law enforcement

officers. When our HIV/AIDS Medication Program faced unexpected shortfalls, Senators Brodeur, Smith, Jones, Calatayud, Garcia, Osgood and others worked together on a plan for bridge funding to ensure Floridians have access to this life-sustaining medication.

“While I’m grateful for the many successes we can take back to our communities this year, I would be remiss if I did not mention at least some additional elements of the robust agenda Senators advanced over the last 60 days. While ultimately these issues did not see final passage in the House, I am proud and grateful to our Senators for championing these important policies.

“The Senate passed legislation by Senator Simon to create a rural renaissance that is supported by the Trump Administration as the national model for rural prosperity. We passed a bill by Senator Gaetz to protect the promise of parental choice in education by enhancing transparency and efficiency for school choice scholarships. We also continued transformative efforts led by Senator Simon to support students and teachers by cutting red tape and reducing burdensome requirements on local school districts and neighborhood public schools.

“Through legislation by Senator Leek we addressed current consumer transparency challenges, threats to child safety, and other potential impacts arising from technological advances in artificial intelligence through strong consumer protections for Floridians with an emphasis on safeguarding Florida’s children. Through Senator Yarborough’s legislation we took a strong stand for medical freedom, creating a conscience exemption from vaccine requirements for children attending K-12 schools, authorizing the sale of ivermectin without a prescription, making permanent Florida’s existing ban on discrimination based on a person’s mRNA vaccination status, and protecting Floridians from forced vaccinations during emergencies.

“With Senator Gaetz’s leadership, we added guardrails to improve access and accountability within Florida’s Medicaid program. We passed important legislation by Senator Grall designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the child welfare system by promoting normalcy within foster homes. Senator Gaetz championed legislation to authorize granny flats that create affordable housing solutions for families, seniors, and renters.

“We also continued efforts started last year to improve government accountability. Specifically, we passed legislation by Senator Brodeur to modernize Long Range Program Plans so our state agencies will be better able to respond to changing situations quickly and efficiently, spending less time on paperwork and more time on their core missions. Additional legislation by Senator Brodeur made important updates to water management district planning, budgeting, and business practices to approve accountability and transparency.

“While our time to advance policy initiatives has ended, I’m proud of our Senators for their efforts on these important issues and look forward to completing our work on property tax relief and a balance state budget in the coming months.”

For more information, please visit www.FLSenate.gov.

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