

Tallahassee Tidbits

The Legislature is slowly preparing for the 2024 Regular Session and October saw the commencement of committee weeks with a slew of agency reports and budget forecast updates. Bill drafts are starting to trickle in for consideration and members in the Florida House of Representatives face a November 14 deadline to file their annual legislative appropriation requests. This month, we will review a few tidbits that are driving the policies and politics of Tallahassee in advance of what is widely expected to be a slow legislative session come January.

Property Insurance Reform Likely Off the Menu

While property insurance costs continue to dominate headlines – and ravage pocketbooks – across the state, the Legislature is not expected to take up significant reform legislation during the 2024 Regular Session. Instead, the Legislature is satisfied to give time for generational reform efforts advanced in 2023 to take hold and eventually stabilize the market. There are some positive signs on the horizon, including a softening reinsurance market and proposals for depopulation of policies from Citizens Insurance Corporation. Of course, property insurance is a highly volatile market and one speedbump could rush the Legislature to further action in the near term.

New Leadership Crowned in the House and Senate

In recent weeks, the Republican majorities in both chambers of the legislature have designated their leaders for the 2025-2026 legislative cycle. Representative Danny Perez (R – Miami) was selected by his peers to serve as the Speaker of the House for that term. Further, he will chair efforts by Republicans to protect and bolster their supermajority in the House during the 2024 elections. Across the rotunda, Senator Ben Albritton (R – Bartow) has been designated by Senate Republicans to preside as the Senate President in 2025-2026. Similarly, he will head their campaign efforts to protect and expand the Republican supermajority in the Senate during the 2024 election cycle.



2024 State Elections in Focus

While legislators prepare for an upcoming session, the campaign machinery in Florida politics never sleeps.

FRSA Members Deliver PAC Checks to Candidates

Pictured L-R: FRSA Legislative Counsel Chris Dawson, Lee Collier, Sen. Corey Simon and Ralph Davis, President, Streamline Roofing & Construction Inc.



Pictured L-R: David Crowther, President CFS, Rep. Tiffany Esposito and Tammy Hall, CFS Director of Marketing. Rep. Tiffany Esposito stopped at CFS Roofing Services to tour their offices and was presented with a campaign check from FRSA's Political Action Committee.



Fundraising Leaders in the Florida House and Senate House of Representatives

Rep. David Smith	R-Winter Springs	District 38	\$114,042
Rep. Allison Tant	D-Tallahassee	District 9	\$101,982
James St. George	R-St. Johns County	District 19	\$76,690
Rep. Lindsay Cross	D-St. Petersburg	District 60	\$76,649
Danny Nix	R-Punta Gorda	District 75	\$71,100
Rep. Vicki Lopez	R-Miami	District 113	\$69,090
Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman	R-Tampa	District 65	\$63,289
Jay Shooster	D-Boca Raton	District 91	\$62,055
Rep. Anna Eskamani	D-Orlando	District 42	\$60,740
Rep. Michelle Salzman	R-Pensacola	District 1	\$57,670

Senate

Sen. Corey Simon	R-Tallahassee	District 3	\$155,810
Rep. Keith Truenow	R-Tavares	District 13	\$64,800
Sen. Ed Hooper	R-Clearwater	District 21	\$54,960
Former Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith	D-Orlando	District 17	\$50,454
Rodney Jacobs	D-Miramar	District 35	\$43,850
Rep. Stan McClain	R-Ocala	District 9	\$41,500
Sen. Gayle Harrell	R-Stuart	District 31	\$39,200
Former Rep. Mack Bernard	D-West Palm Beach	District 24	\$35,050
Sen. Blaise Ingoglia	R-Spring Hill	District 11	\$33,625
Rep. Randy Fine	R-Brevard County	District 19	\$26,600

Recent campaign finance reporting shows that Florida legislators have been hard at work out on the campaign trail in preparation for the 2024 election season. Candidates in both chambers faced reporting deadlines in recent weeks and the resultant data shows strong fundraising numbers for both Representatives and Senators alike. The top hauls in both chambers are listed in the tables at left.

FRM

Chris Dawson is an Attorney and professional Lobbyist for GrayRobinson's Orlando office and is licensed to practice law in both Florida and Alabama. He primarily focuses on lobbying and government relations for public and private sector clients at the executive and legislative levels of state government. He is credentialed as a Designated Professional Lobbyist by the Florida Association of Professional Lobbyists. Chris also holds two degrees in Civil Engineering and has experience in construction litigation and design professional malpractice defense.

Note: The totals include contributions to campaign accounts and do not include contributions to political committees linked to many candidates.



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