

The Arrington Articles

Budget Breakdown

Hello <<First Name>>,

Lawmakers have finally reached an agreement and voted on Friday to send the state budget to the Governor's desk.

Below is a breakdown of the overall budget, the projects secured for our district, and what these investments mean for our community.

Please note that all projects remain subject to the Governor's veto authority, and we will provide additional updates once the budget is officially signed. Additionally, Governor DeSantis has called lawmakers back to Tallahassee for an additional Special Session focused on property taxes from June 1st through the 3rd. Below is a summary of his proposal and the process for this reform.

PARA ESPAÑOL

Weekly Question

*Do you support a complete removal of
property taxes?*

Yes

No

District 25 Projects

We had **21** district projects secured in the budget this year, totaling over **16,300,000** in direct investments in our community!

- **Boggy Creek Shoal and Vegetation Removal - \$3,500,000**
One-time removal of shoals and invasive vegetation within Boggy Creek to restore water conveyance to East Lake Toho.
- **Osceola County Courthouse Courtroom - \$2,250,000**
Funding for a new courtroom and judicial chamber to accommodate new judgeship.
- **C-31 Canal Bank Stabilization - \$1,500,000**
Stabilize nearly 7,000 linear feet of eroded canal bank along the C-31 canal linking East Lake Toho and Lake Toho, that will restore the canal to its intended capacity.
- **Osceola County Waterlin Blvd Interchange - \$1,250,000**
Construction of 2 ramps at the Waterlin Boulevard Interchange, which will provide critical new access to Florida's Turnpike in southern Osceola County.
- **The School District of Osceola County (SDOC) - Environmental Center Boardwalk - \$1,000,000**

Funding for the enhancement of educational and restroom structures along the boardwalk at the SDOC Environmental Center. This enhancement will also supplement the existing classroom space at the head of the boardwalk.

- **School District Osceola County (SDOC) AAA High School Aquatic Center - \$1,000,000**

Funding for a state-of-the-art aquatic center that will provide students and the community enhanced opportunities for competitive swimming, water safety education, physical fitness, and recreation. It will also include dedicated areas for students with sensory differences or physical impairments. The facility will be open to the public when not used for school events and lessons.

- **Kissimmee Police Evidence Room Expansion Project - \$750,000**

Construct a new facility that will increase capacity from 3,500 sqft to 10,000 sqft, significantly improving the department's ability to manage, process, and store evidence in a secure and efficient manner.

- **Junior Achievement of Central Florida HVAC System - \$750,000**

The funds provided through this appropriation will be used to purchase the needed heating, ventilating, air conditioning (HVAC) system for the planned Junior Achievement Center to be located in Lake Nona, FL. The Center will host the JA BizTown program which teaches free enterprise and how an economy works by placing 5th and 6th graders from Orange and Osceola County school districts into a simulated town.

- **School District Osceola County (SDOC) 24/7 Security Operations Center - \$750,000**

Create an Safety Security and Emergency Management stand-alone center as a central point of all safety, security and emergency management communications for the school district.

- **Kissimmee - East City Drainage Canal Improvement - \$500,000**

Address severe and repetitive flooding in the Kissimmee East City Ditch area by constructing a new bypass to replace a failed private drainage system.

- **Hope Partnership – Community Safety and Stability Project - \$500,000**

Funding will be invested to improve community safety and stability and provide necessary services to households seeking economic self-sufficiency.

- **Osceola Council on Aging Senior Connected Care Program - \$500,000**

Provide home and community-based services to senior citizens by expanding adult day care, home delivered meals and home cleaning and repair services.

- **City of St. Cloud - Hopkins Park Community Center - \$500,000**

Construction of a new community center, with associated stormwater infrastructure that houses an important after-school program in a historically disadvantaged area of the city.

- **Came to Believe Recovery Addiction Recovery Pilot Program - \$300,000**

Came to Believe Recovery (CTBR), a specialized addiction recovery provider, will conduct 3-day recovery retreats throughout Florida partnering with agencies such as local rehabilitation centers, missions, public offerings and the Salvation Army.

- **The Transition House Homeless Veterans Program -**

\$300,000

To provide substance use treatment services specifically dedicated to homeless Veterans who are not currently receiving VA benefits.

- **Breakthrough Osceola (RISE) - \$250,461**

Funds will establish Breakthrough Osceola, a program that helps youth avoid hospitalizations, SIPP placements, and foster or justice involvement.

- **Re-Entry Center Safety & Security Modernization Project - \$250,000**

This project upgrades safety and security infrastructure at four community re-entry centers through the installation of modern high-resolution security cameras, encrypted two-way emergency communication radios, and electronic access-control systems utilizing staff proximity fobs.

- **Council on Aging Home Delivered Meals for Rural Seniors Program - \$200,000**

Provide over 40,000 meals to over 75 seniors residing in rural sections of Osceola County who are on the Meals on Wheels program wait-list.

- **McCormick Research Institute: Equine-assisted Therapy for Veterans with Mental Health Challenges - \$174,413**

McCormick offers therapeutic riding, adaptive groundwork, and veteran retreats and uses the unique bond between horse and human to foster healing, resilience, and confidence for veterans. Services address challenges such as PTSD, anxiety, depression, and mobility limitations. Requested funding will sustain and expand access to these life-changing programs, ensuring

continuity of care and the ability to serve more participants in the coming year.

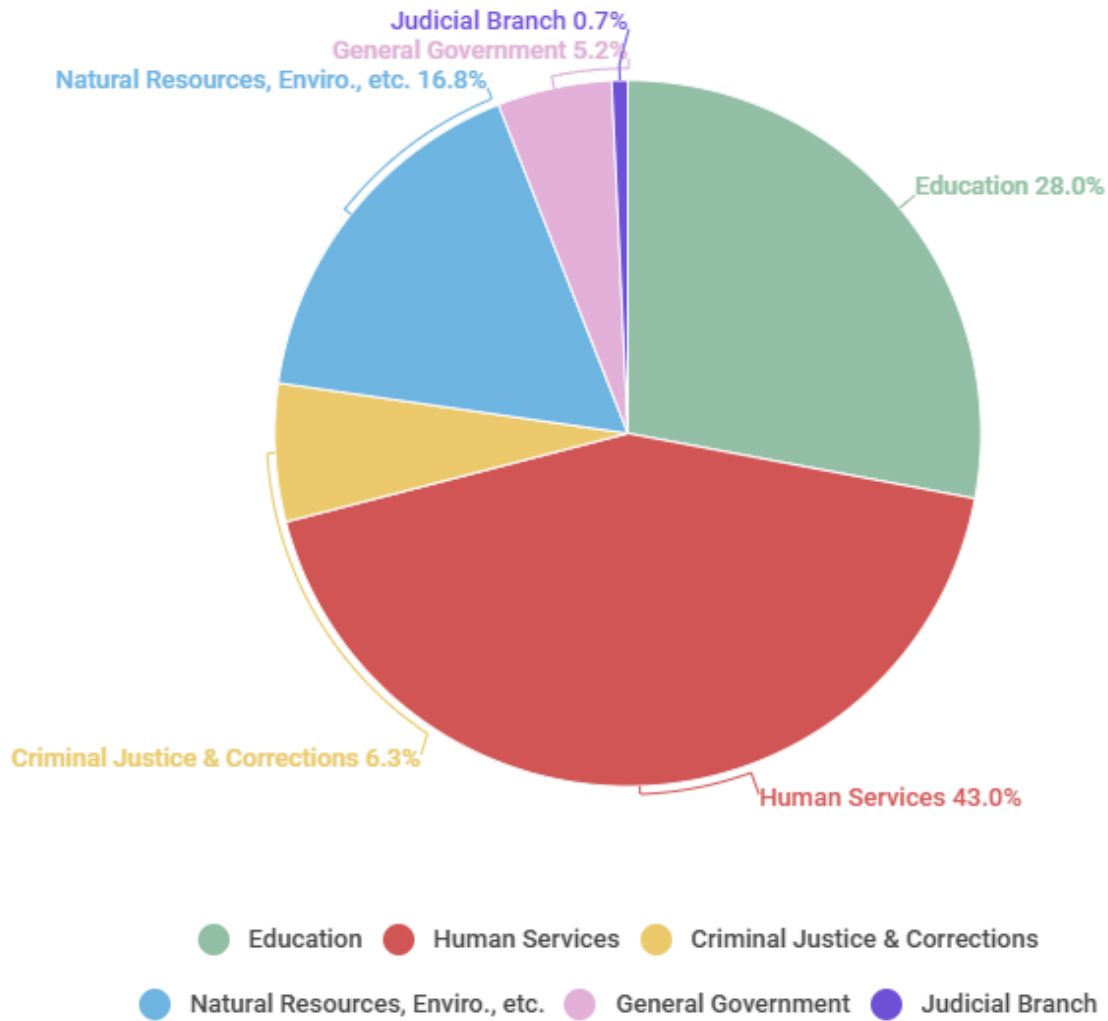
- **City of St. Cloud - Safety Alert - \$116,270**
Replace and upgrade existing network of lightning detection and warning systems.
- **Lily's Warrior Project - Outreach Programs - \$50,000**
The organization's initiatives include medical play puppets, craft and music therapy tools, and gaming resources for teens, each designed to alleviate stress and enhance patient resilience. Additionally, the organization provides hygiene care packages for caregivers, helping support their well-being and enabling them to better assist in their child's recovery.

***All projects are subject to the Governor's veto pen. We will update with the final official count after the budget is signed. ***

Budget Deep Dive

This year's budget totals to **\$114.5 billion!** A decrease of about 2 billion in spending compared to previous years.

Below we'll break down where that money is going. You can download and read the full summary: [HERE](#)



Budget by silo

Compensation Increases

4% Pay Increases for:

- State Law Enforcement Officers
- State Firefighters
- Park Rangers (DEP)

Assistant State Attorneys
\$10,0000

Assistant Public Defenders
\$3,500

Education

Total Funding: **\$35.1 billion**

- **\$1.56 billion** - Teacher pay increases
 - With 200M for teachers with at least 10 years of teaching experience in a Florida public school
- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$85 or 1.58 percent

- **\$79 million** - Declining Enrollment Supplement Fund
 - Since student enrollment dropped more than expected, this funding is meant to help school districts cover lost revenue and avoid unexpected budget problems.

Transportation

Total Funding: **\$13.3 billion**

Department of Environmental Protection

Total Funding: **\$2.46 billion**

- Everglades Restoration - **\$638.6 million**
- Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area - **\$38.6 million**
- Water Quality Improvements - **\$584.4 million**

Department of Commerce

Total Funding: **\$1.3 billion**

- Hometown Heroes Housing Program - **\$50 million**
- SHIP - **\$165.7 million**

Special Session F

Lawmakers will return to Tallahassee June 1st through June 3rd for another Special Session to address property taxes.

The joint resolutions, **SJR 2-F: Save our Homes from Excessive Property Taxes** and **SJR 4-F: Property Tax Administration** will be voted on by the appropriations committee on June 1st and taken to a floor vote on June 2nd.

Process

The Governor's proposal would first have to be approved by 60% of members in both chambers. The resolution in the Senate has been assigned to one committee, the Appropriations committee, before it will be sent to the floor for a full vote.

After the bills are voted on, this change to property tax will be on the ballot for the 2026 election as a constitutional amendment, where it will require a **60% majority** vote to pass. It will be up to you, the voters of Florida to consider the proposal.

Proposal

The Governor's proposal has three main components.

- Starting January 2027, there would be an immediate exemption to the first \$150,000 of a homestead's value from taxation.
- Starting January 2028 that exemption would increase to \$250,000.
- The legislature would be required to develop a full property tax removal by 2031.

Effects

Cutting property taxes doesn't deliver real savings, it just shifts costs onto small businesses and renters through new taxes and fees.

- Floridians will **pay more** for the local services we use every day.
- Services that we depend on — like **public hospitals, first responders, and disaster relief** — rely on property taxes.
- If those taxes are eliminated, we'll be forced to use expensive private companies or pay new fees to the government, **jacking up our everyday costs**.

District Updates

It was an honor to lay a wreath at the 116th St. Cloud Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at Mount Peace Cemetery. Thankful to come



together as a community to honor and remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

Helpful Links

Visit www.flsenate.gov to “find your Senator” and to sign up for alerts on specific legislation, committees, senators, or keywords

To view our Legislative page which includes our office contact information, sponsored legislation, along with the committees I serve on: <https://bit.ly/Arrington25>

Don't forget to sign up for our email updates: [Here](#)

Follow on all social channels **@Arrington4fl**

Watch committees or legislative session live or afterwards at www.TheFloridaChannel.org



It is an honor to serve as your voice in Tallahassee and represent Central Florida. Thank you for the trust you place in me. If you have any questions or need assistance, our office is always here to help.

Senator Kristen Arrington

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