



Gov. Ron DeSantis says he wants to provide a \$1,000 tax break to all homestead property owners in the state.. ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT FILE

Tax cuts

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a cut aimed at homestead property owners would achieve, he added.

"I want Canadian tourists and Brazilian tourists subsidizing the state and making it so Florida residents pay less taxes," DeSantis said. "I don't want to give Canadians a tax cut."

Last week, Perez, R-Miami, said his chamber will move forward with a plan to cut Florida's sales tax from 6% to 5.25%, saving consumers collectively about \$5 billion per year. The bill isn't yet public, but the \$113 billion House budget released Friday is built around that plan.

That measure isn't part of the Senate's spending plan, which is \$117.4 billion, or \$4.4 billion more than the House's plan. The two chambers will pass their respective budgets off the floor next week before entering negotiations on a final spending plan.

The sides much reach a deal before May 2, the last day of the legislative session, to avoid a special session.

In a memo sent to senators Monday, Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, said he's open to both proposals but cautioned that cutting taxes too drastically could hurt the state's ability to respond to an economic downturn in future years.

State economists project a \$2 billion surplus for the next fiscal year, but in two years that could turn into a nearly \$7 billion shortfall if current spending trends continue.

"I'm not comfortable passing a budget that is balanced for this year, but likely creates major shortfalls down the road," Albritton wrote.

"Cutting waste and inefficiency plays an important role in responsible spending; however, there is a cost associated with maintaining our transportation, clean water, and health care infrastructure, ensuring universal school choice for every family, hurricane response and recovery, and of course public safety. We owe it to taxpayers to get this right."

DeSantis pushing for tax break to go on ballot

Such a large sales tax cut could preclude DeSantis' push for a large tax cut directed at homesteaded properties to be placed on the 2026 ballot.

DeSantis said he wouldn't veto a sales tax cut, but insists on property taxes being reduced. One of the main differences between the two plans is the Legislature can reduce the sales tax on its own, while main

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R-Wauchula

methods to cut property taxes – either through an increase in the homestead exemption or imposing stricter caps on annual assessment increases – can only be done by changing the state's constitution.

Bills to put large property tax cuts on the 2026 ballot, however, haven't advanced in the Legislature.

A measure (SB 1018) from Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, R-Spring Hill, to increase the homestead exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and a bill (HB 357) from Rep. Ryan Chamberlin, R-Belleview, to create a \$100,000 exemption on all properties in the state haven't received a hearing.

Even if the bills were to pass, the proposal would require 60% of voter approval in November 2026, and wouldn't take effect until 2027.

To provide more immediate property tax relief, DeSantis wants to eliminate the state portion that contributes to property taxes: The piece that goes to public schools, known as the required local effort (RLE).

Under DeSantis' plan, state reserves would be used to backfill the elimination of the RLE for one year, and lawmakers would be required to provide a \$1,000 cut to homestead property owners. DeSantis said the proposal was just the "opening salvo" in the push to get a greater property tax cut on the 2026 ballot.

Democrats, stuck in superminority status in both chambers of the Florida Legislature, are tentatively supportive of the cut in sales taxes but want to see more specifics before committing support to Perez's plan.

"Our caucus has probably forever talked about the sales tax as a very regressive policy," House Democratic Leader Fentrice Driskell of Tampa told reporters last week. "We understand that we don't have a state income tax and we need to hear more details about where he plans to make up this \$5 billion in revenue that we're cutting."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County will conduct public hearings to consider proposed changes to the Alternative Compliance process for the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency, pursuant to the following item:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 12.1.12, APPLICABILITY, DIVISION 1, UNIFORM DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND LANDSCAPING, BUFFERING, AND TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS TABLES, ARTICLE 12, COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT CODE, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, MARTIN COUNTY CODE, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, APPLICABILITY, FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, EFFECTIVE DATE, AND CODIFICATION.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. The meetings will be held in the Commission Chambers on the first floor of the Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida, at the following times and dates:

Public hearing: **LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY**
Time and date: **7:00 PM**, or as soon after as the matter may be heard on **Thursday, April 17, 2025**

AND

Public hearing: **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
Time and date: **9:00 AM**, or as soon after as the matter may be heard on **Tuesday, April 22, 2025**

Written comments may be mailed to: Susan Kores, Director, Office of Community Development, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. Copies of the items will be available from the Office of Community Development Department. For more information, contact the Office of Community Development at (772) 221-2487.

Persons with disabilities who need accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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