Village of ESTERO

October 7, 2026
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

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LAW OFFICES
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FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

	COUNT	% OF PROJECTS REACHING STAGE	FUNDS
Number of Projects Requested	5,654		$ 12,496,768,702
Number of Projects in Chamber Proposals	2,765	48.90%	$ 2,947,008,081
Number of Projects in Conference Report	2,719	48.09%	$ 4,339,757,618
Number of Projects Vetoed	1,008	17.83%	$ 4,337,432,618

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 ESTERO APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

ITEM	REQUEST
Estero Williams Road & Atlantic Gulf Drive Improvements	$ 800,000
Estero Facility Alternative Irrigation Source	$ 800,000
Estero Parkway Water Reuse Main Extension	$ 800,000
Estero Sunny Grove Waste Water Extension Project Phase 2	$ 800,000

ESTERO REQUESTS FUNDED FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

ITEM	FUNDED
Estero Parkway Water Reuse Main Extension	$ 400,000
Estero Sunny Grove Waste Water Extension Project Phase 2	$ 800,000
Estero Williams Road & Atlantic Gulf Drive Improvements	$ 800,000

2026 GENERAL ELECTION
Tuesday, November 3rd

Florida Cabinet Candidates

Governor-Elect
Congressman Byron Donalds (R) v. Former Congressman David Jolly (D)
Attorney General
AG James Uthmeier (R) v. Former State Representative Jose Javier Rodriguez (D)
Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson (R) v. Joey Atkins (D)
Chief Financial Officer
Blaise Ingoglia (R) v. Former State Senator Annette Taddeo (D)

Florida Legislature Races

Florida Senate	18 of 20 seats are being contested
Florida House	92 of 120 seats are being contested

2026 BALLOT: PROPOSED FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1

Budget Stabilization Fund

Official Ballot Language: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the budget stabilization fund from 10% to 25% of general revenue collections, require the Legislature to transfer the lesser of $750 million or the amount required to reach 25% of the general revenue collections each year unless certain conditions are met, and allow the Legislature to withdraw funds for critical state needs.

What is a Yes vote?

A yes vote would allow Florida to build up a larger "rainy day" savings account, shifting more state revenue into reserves. It would raise the fund cap from 10% to 25% of net general revenue and would require the state to automatically deposit up to $750 million a year into it until that cap is reached. The state would have a bigger financial cushion, but it would be harder to tap for routine spending, and funds would be more difficult to withdraw by requiring a 2/3 vote of the Legislature.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2

Exemption of Tangible Personal Property on Agricultural Land From Taxation

Official Ballot Language: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to exempt tangible personal property habitually located or typically present on land classified as agricultural, used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land from ad valorem taxation. If approved this amendment would first apply for tax years beginning January 1, 2027.

What is a Yes vote?

A yes vote lowers property tax bills for farmers, ranchers and agritourism operators by removing some equipment and property from the tax rolls. Tangible personal property habitually located on agricultural land, or used for producing agricultural products or for agritourism (things like farm equipment, machinery, or infrastructure tied to those activities) would not be taxed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3

Increased Homestead Exemption; Lower Cap On Increases In Non-homestead Property Assessments

Official Ballot Language: This amendment increases the homestead exemption, for all non-school taxes, to $150,000 in 2027 and $250,000 in 2028, and adjusts for inflation thereafter. It requires the Legislature to prescribe a uniform procedure for counties and municipalities, for their respective levies, to increase the homestead exemption up to full assessed value, and allows special districts, subject to referendum approval, to do the same. Persons who are not Florida residents on December 31, 2026, will receive the existing homestead exemption upon qualifying for a homestead exemption, with the increased homestead exemption beginning with the fifth year of exemption, to the extent permitted by the U.S. Constitution. This amendment reduces the annual cap on assessment increases for non-homestead properties from 10% to 5%. This amendment requires counties and municipalities to use property taxes solely for public safety, education and schools, infrastructure, natural resources, bond debt service, retirement benefits for employees, and operations and administration. Other expenditures may be approved by county officers or county or municipal governing bodies unless prohibited by general law, notwithstanding Article VII, Section 9(a) of the Florida Constitution, which allows counties and municipalities to levy property taxes for their respective purposes. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2027.

What is a Yes vote?

A yes vote would lower property tax bills for homeowners. Homestead exemption would increase to $250,000 of a home's assessed value and cap annual assessment increases at 5% instead of the current 10%. Counties and cities would receive less money from property taxes overall, and also would be restricted in how they could spend property tax revenue to a defined list of core uses (public safety, infrastructure, schools, etc.) instead of discretionary spending. School levies wouldn't be covered by the change.

THREE YEAR STATE REVENUE PROJECTIONS

2026 Long-Range Financial Outlook Summary General Revenue Fund ($Millions)		Year 1 FY 2027-28	Year 2 FY 2028-29	Year 3 FY 2029-30
Revenues Available		**53,455**	**54,782**	**56,011**
Unused Reserve from Prior Year		**10,890**	**9,220**	**5,497**
Expenditures	Minimum Reserve	(2,085)	(2,137)	(2,184)
	Recurring Base Budget	(49,105)	(51,275)	(53,208)
	Previously Authorized Appropriations	(342)	(344)	(345)
	Critical Needs Budget Drivers	(1,906)	(2,728)	(2,271)
	Other High Priority Needs Budget Drivers	(3,333)	(3,304)	(3,254)
	Ending Balance After Expenditures	**7,575**	**4,215**	**246**
Revenue Adjustments	Tax and Fee Changes	(673)	(1,150)	(1,628)
	Trust Fund Transfers and Redirects	233	295	358
	Revenue Adjustments	**(440)**	**(855)**	**(1,270)**
Projected Surplus / (Deficit)		**7,135**	**3,360**	**(1,025)**

Note: totals may not add due to rounding.

Strategic actions taken by the Legislature in the 2026 Session significantly improved the state's near-term financial position relative to last year's Outlook. For Fiscal Year 2027-28, the 2026 Outlook shows a **projected surplus of $7.1 billion** compared to the projected deficit of $1.5 billion in the 2025 Outlook.

Similarly, a **surplus of $3.4 billion is projected** for Fiscal Year 2028-29 compared to a projected deficit of $6.6 billion in the 2025 Outlook. Reduced spending levels combined with a modest level of revenue adjustments for Fiscal Year 2026-27 had ripple effects throughout the Outlook that led to the improved ending balances.

Despite these gains, the 2026 Outlook projects **a deficit** of just over $1 billion in Fiscal Year 2029-30.

2027 SESSION LEGISLATIVE PRESIDING OFFICERS



SENATE PRESIDENT
JIM BOYD
(R-Brandenton)



HOUSE SPEAKER
SAM GARRISON
(R-Fleming Island)

2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION DATES

Interim Committee Week Schedule:

November 30 – December 3, 2026
January 4 – January 7, 2027
January 11 – January 14, 2027
February 1 – February 4, 2027
February 8 – February 11, 2027
February 15 – February 18, 2027

First Day of Session March 2, 2027

QUESTIONS?