



# Daytona Regional CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

02/15/2023

### *Framework for Freedom Budget*

With Florida's Legislative Session starting in less than a month, Governor DeSantis has released his Framework for Freedom Budget. The Framework for Freedom Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 totals \$114.8 billion, with the General Revenue portion representing \$42.4 billion.

Included in the Framework for Freedom Budget is a recommended record tax relief for Florida Families. In the governor's first year of his second term, he has a \$2 billion tax cut plan for Florida families, in addition to the \$500 million Toll Relief Program, that began January 1, 2023.

The Framework for Freedom budget covers Taxpayer Savings, Florida Retirement System, State Pay Package, Education, Environment, Transportation and Economic Development, Health and Human Services, Public Safety, Military Support and Government Operations.

### **Tax Breaks**

- Permanent sales tax exemption for baby and toddler necessities(\$138.7 million) and cribs and strollers(\$3.9 million).
  - Permanent sales tax exemption on gas stoves for \$7 million.
- Permanent sales tax exemption for over-the-counter pet medications for approximately \$33.6 million.
  - 1-year sales tax exemption for cosmetic and toiletries for \$72 million.
- 1-year sales tax exemption for dental and oral hygiene products for \$45.3 million.
  - 1-year sales tax exemption on children's books for \$17.3 million.
  - 1-year sales tax exemption on children's toys for \$132.7 million.
- 1-year sales tax exemption on children's athletic equipment for \$42.5 million.

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#### Tax Breaks

- 1-year sales tax exemption on household items under \$25 for \$138 million.
- Two Back-to-School sales tax holidays, one in the fall and one in the spring as students return to school from winter break, to save Florida families over \$210 million.
  - 14-day Disaster Preparedness sales tax holiday to save Florida families \$27.1 million.
- 15-week Freedom Summer sales tax holiday to save Florida families more than \$224 million.
  - 1-year sales tax exemption on pet foods for \$170.2 million.
- 7-day Skilled Worker Tool sales tax holiday to save Florida workers \$13 million.
  - 1-year sales tax exemption on ENERGY STAR appliances for \$82.4 million.
  - Two-year extension for the exemption on natural gas fuel tax for \$1.2 million.

**Education** has been a focus of Governor DeSantis, and his budget continues to support teachers, parents, and students. Under Governor DeSantis, Florida is #1 in the nation's education freedom and higher education.

Several important investments include:

- \$1 billion, an increase of \$200 million, in funding to provide salary increases for new and veteran teachers and other eligible instructional personnel.
- \$1.6 billion in funding for early child education, including more than \$451 million for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK).

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- Historic \$26 billion in funding, of which \$14.1 billion is record state funding for the K-12 public school system.
- The appropriated funding covers the costs associated with the current projected enrollment of over 3 million students.
  - \$1.5 billion in state operating funding for the Florida College System.
  - \$3.1 billion in state operating funding for the State University System.
- \$125 million in total funding to reward quality nursing education programs to address nursing shortages.
  - \$5 million in funding for the Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program.
- \$1 million in funding for the Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement to help cover the cost of law enforcement officers moving to Florida.
  - \$100 million for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty at state universities.
  - \$15 million for the institutional overhaul and restructuring of the New College of Florida.

### **Read Governor's full budget proposal**

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