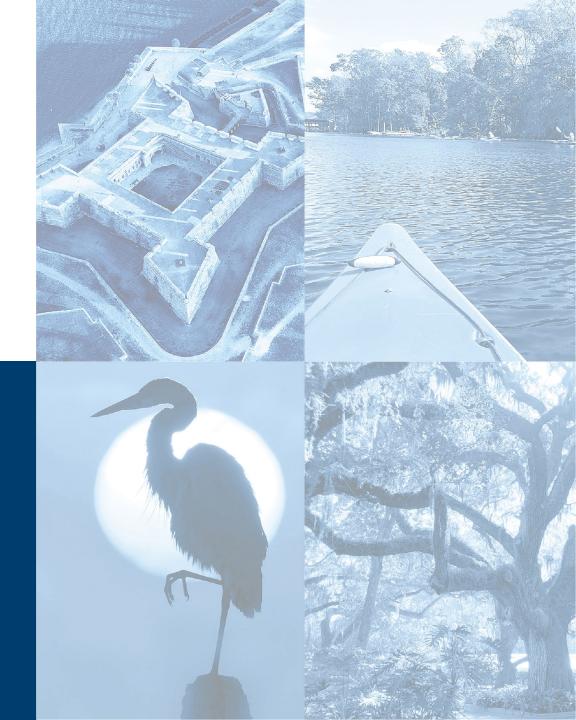


## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MID-SESSION REPORT FEBRUARY 2024



## 2024-25 State Budget



## **Governor's Budget**

\$114.4 billion

#### **House & Senate**

Budget numbers are closely aligned around \$115-116 billion.

## **Key Differences**

- Live Healthy Initiative
- State Prisons
- My Florida Home Program
- Job Growth Fund
- Visit Florida
- Conservation
- Governor's Salary

## **Significant Legislation**



#### **HJR 7017**

Increases second homestead exemption annually by change in CPI.

#### HB 1417 / SB 1638

Makes available new funding streams for water quality projects and the conservation of working lands.

#### HB 1061 / SB 536

Modifies funding model and operational requirements of CBCs.

#### **HB 1053**

Provides mandatory distances between schools and vaping retailers.



## Regional Emergency Response Capacity

- Central Public Safety Station
- All Hazards Training Facility and Unified Command Center
- District 23 Regional Medical Examiner's Office

## **Transportation**

- State Road 16
- County Road 2209

#### **Coastal Restoration**

- South Ponte Vedra Beach
- Vilano Beach Main Street



#### **Current Situation**

Routine exposure to toxic chemicals may make firefighters more likely to develop neurological disease.

## **Policy**

Expand presumptive disability to first responders diagnosed with neurodegenerative diseases.

#### **SJC Action**

- Brought awareness to issue.
- Met with Department of Financial Services.
- Pursuing State support for comprehensive research.



#### **Current Situation**

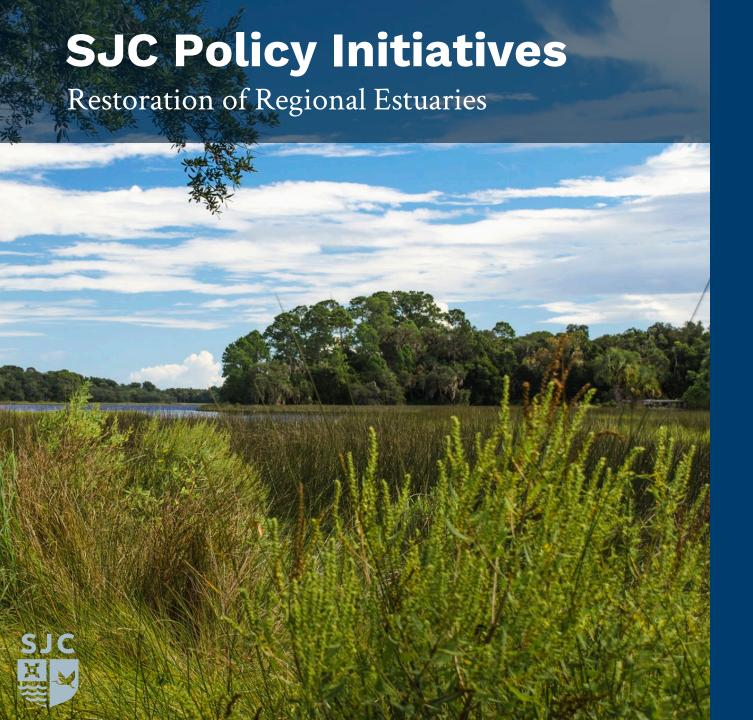
Hastings lost its statutory identity as a rural community on March 1, 2018, the day Hastings became part of unincorporated St. Johns County.

### **Policy**

Amend Florida Statutes to restore the statutory identity of Hastings as a rural community, facilitating public infrastructure investment, agricultural tourism, and the protection of working lands.

#### **SJC Action**

 Working with delegation on amendments in each chamber.



#### **Current Situation**

Need for improved regional coordination and strategy to estuary restoration.

### **Policy**

Forge a regional estuary partnership with Flagler and Volusia counties to enhance collaboration and bring additional resources to the area.

#### **SJC Action**

- Stakeholders identified.
- Meetings and discussions with DEP, delegation, and SJRWMD.
- Invitations to participate sent.



## **Museum Proposal**

- Former Florida Memorial
   University site honors the legacy
   of those who heroically led the
   civil rights movement in Florida.
- Partnership with Florida Memorial University, West Augustine CRA.
- Supported by Florida A&M
   University and the Gullah
   Geechee Cultural Heritage
   Corridor Commission.

## **Take the Survey**

Florida Museum of Black History
Task Force Public Survey



# BREAKING NEW GROUND

St. Johns County meets with the Florida Department of Education Executive Team.

According to Chancellor Dr. Paul Burns, this meeting was the **FIRST TIME** in his recollection a County Commissioner and County Administration officials from any of the 67 counties has sought a collaborative meeting with the Department of Education.









