



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON**  
*President*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Ben Albritton  
**SUBJECT:** Tax Relief  
**DATE:** March 31, 2025

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As you know, Wednesday is the halfway point in session. Over the last four days the Florida House and Governor DeSantis have put forward different tax relief proposals, each totaling \$5 billion. For our part, the Senate has a lot to consider. In my view, we should be open-minded to an “all of the above” approach.

I applaud Governor DeSantis for pursuing an innovative concept, and I like the idea of being able to provide some immediate relief to homesteaded property owners in advance of a more comprehensive effort to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot for voters to consider. I like that the House’s proposal is broad-based and would provide immediate relief for Floridians who rent, as well as those who own property. These are both significant ideas, worthy of our thought and consideration. However, at this point, I believe it is prudent that a final tax cut package of this size be predominantly nonrecurring, while permanent tax cuts are explored during the interim.

Cutting taxes now does little good if they have to be raised two years from now to address budget shortfalls. No one wants a repeat of the Great Recession, and we’ve done our best to avoid that by reigning in spending, paying down debt, and setting aside significant reserves. There are cumulative impacts to every tax cut. We need to do our due diligence and understand those impacts, combined with the projected budget shortfalls already on the horizon. Florida is not Washington, D.C., California, or New York. We take great pride in our balanced budget, low taxes, and responsible fiscal planning that have made our state the envy of the nation.

At the end of the day, I’m not comfortable passing a budget that is balanced for this year, but likely creates major shortfalls down the road. 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

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every family, hurricane response and recovery, and of course public safety. We owe it to taxpayers to get this right.

Over the next five weeks, I look forward to working with the House and Governor DeSantis on a compromise that ensures historic relief for Florida taxpayers, while maintaining sound financial planning for the future. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on their proposals and ideas for a blended or compromise approach.