

President Ben Albritton's Remarks as Prepared

3.12.26 – 5:00 p.m.

Senators, I know that after nine weeks in Tallahassee you are eager to return to your families and attend to responsibilities in your districts. To be respectful of your time, I wanted to share an update on the budget and briefly outline next steps.

It is my intention for the Senate to adjourn Sine Die tomorrow, jointly with our House colleagues, and return to Tallahassee for a Special Session on the Budget in mid-April, following the Easter and Passover Holidays. We will save the traditional Hankie Drop Ceremony for our Special Session on the Budget.

While you are at home in your districts, Chair Hooper and I will continue our work with our House partners to come to an agreement on joint allocations for the budget conference. It is not necessary for Senators to return to Tallahassee until joint allocations are reached.

We will certainly keep you updated on the progress and will provide more detailed information on special session dates as we get closer to Easter.

With affordability top of mind for Florida families, the best thing we in state government can do to help is to keep taxes low, limiting the financial burden taxes and regulations place on Florida's families and businesses. To do so, state government has to live within its means, paying down debt, and saving for the future.

As we continue our work on the budget, we will hold the line on spending, live within our means, and strike the right balance between spending and saving. We have great partners in the House who are operating in good faith based on the priorities of their Chamber. We have the greatest Governor in the Nation. We have dedicated and talented Senators from every walk of life who bring their expertise and life experience to this process.

I respect the priorities of each party, because we all have a role to play in a balanced budget that keeps Florida strong, safe and free. I look forward continued productive discussions on joint allocations in the coming weeks, and to resuming our work on the budget in the near future.