

# Which state, federal seats are also up for election?

In addition to local races, Taylor County voters will get a chance to cast a ballot to decide a number of state and federal races later this year, including for state representative, Florida governor and state cabinet offices, as well as seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

Additionally, in Florida's Third Judicial Circuit, two circuit judge seats are up for election this year, with Judge Mark E. Feagle seeking re-election to his seat and Assistant State Attorney John Weed currently the only candidate running for the seat currently held by Judge Greg Parker, who has announced he is not seeking re-election.

State Rep. Jason Shoaf (R) is currently unopposed in the race for his District 7 seat in the Florida House of Representatives.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis cannot run for re-election due to term limits, and there are currently 45 active candidates filed to run for his seat, including 14 Republicans and 13 Democrats.

In the race for Florida Attorney General, incumbent James Ulthmeier (R) has filed to run, along with fellow Republican Steven Leskovich and Democrats Jim Lewis and Jose Javier Rodriguez.

For Chief Financial Officer, incumbent Blaise Ingoglia (R) has filed to run, along with three

other Republicans -- Frank William Collige, Joe Gruters and Kevin M. Steele -- and no-party-affiliation (NPA) candidate John Daniel Smith.

For Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, there are currently four filed candidates, including Republicans Richard Earl Olie Jr. and Matt The Welder, Democrat Chase "Andy" Anderson Romagnano and no-party-affiliation (NPA) candidate Kyle Chaderwick Gibson.

For the U.S. House District 2 seat, there are currently 10 candidates who have filed to run to succeed Congressman Dr. Neal Dunn, who announced earlier this year he would not be seeking re-election.

The candidates include four Democrats -- Huy-Yen Cam Bailey, Brice Barnes, Amanda Marie Green and Nicholas Zateslo -- and six Republicans (Keith Gross, Nick Justin Lewis, Jim

Norton, Evan Power, Austin Rogers and Audie Rowell) who will first square off in an Aug. 18 primary before the winners move on to the general election in November.

Meanwhile, U.S. Senator Ashley Moody (R) is seeking to retain her seat and currently has 10 challengers, including six Republicans and four Democrats.

## Hall was on council from 2014-22

**HALL**  
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Williams in both elections, receiving 58% of the vote in 2014 and 57% in 2018.

In 2022, Hall lost to Brynes by just 14 votes -- 134 votes (52.76%) to 120 votes (47.24%).

Hall is the eighth local candidate to file to run in the upcoming 2026 election

cycle. Other county and city races up for election this year (and filed candidates) include:

- Taylor County Commission District 2: Incumbent Jim Moody;
- Taylor County Commission District 4: Incumbent Pam Feagle and challenger Wendy Slaughter;
- Taylor County School

- Board District 1: Incumbent Bonnie Sue Agner;
- Taylor County School Board District 2: Incumbent Brenda Carlton;
- Taylor County School Board District 4: David Alan Stephens (Incumbent Danny Lundy has announced he will not seek re-election).
- Perry City Council District 5: Incumbent Ward Ketring.

# Commission votes to move forward, seek appraisal

**SPRING WARRIOR**  
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Commission Chair Jamie English raised concerns over the long-term viability of the arrangement should the Fish Camp be sold to new owners unwilling to accept a similar deal.

As such, he recommended the county move quickly to make improvements to a second, older ramp located on the county-owned property that would allow launching without encroaching on the Fish Camp's property.

Shortly after the initial discussion in January, the Fish Camp property was listed for sale by the owners for \$799,000.

The commission approved the lease agreement in March, under which the county will pay Hall \$100 for a six-month period, as well as \$2 from each daily user pass collected at the public boat ramp, for the public use of the small section of property.

At that time, English noted the Fish Camp was listed for sale and again raised his concerns about the county's continued ability to have access to the section of Fish Camp property necessary to launch boats at the current ramp.

Two weeks later, at the board's March 6 meeting, County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton raised the possibility of using a portion of the county's federal RESTORE

Act funds to potentially purchase the Fish Camp property.

Last summer, the county closed on the 3.95-acre Spring Warrior boat ramp property for \$550,000, paid for by \$435,000 in federal RESTORE Act funds and \$115,000 in local funds.

The Spring Warrior purchase used the county's "Pot 3" RESTORE Act funds, which are the result of penalties, fines and fees assessed following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill being paid out to coastal counties over a 15-year period.

Other "Pot 3" projects include the renovation at Hodges Park, whose budget amendment was finally approved last December by U.S. Treasury after an 11-month wait, and supplementing the funds necessary to conduct canal dredging along the county's coast.

The commission previously considered using a portion of the funds to examine the potential construction of transportation bypass routes to alleviate traffic at the Keaton Beach and Steinhatchee boat ramps, but have tabled those projects in order to use the allocated funds for dredging. The county is currently seeking a grant amendment through U.S. Treasury to shift those funds to the dredging work.

At the March 6 meeting, Pemberton told the board she was speaking on behalf

of County Grants Writer Melody Cox.

"She (Cox) was on a recent telephone call with the Gulf Consortium, and she was informed -- just in general conversation about the boat ramp site -- that the Fish Camp property could potentially be purchased with Restore Act funding, if that's the will of the board," Pemberton said.

"I merely wanted to bring it up to the board," Pemberton said. "In order to qualify for Restore Act funding, the first step would be a "Yellow Book" appraisal to see what that potential value is. Because, if you recall, we cannot utilize Restore Act funding for over that Yellow Book value."

Yellow Book refers to the "Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions," which is the authoritative source for real property valuation in federal land acquisition cases.

In the case of the boat ramp property, the final Yellow Book appraisal was \$435,000, but the sellers' asking price was \$550,000, so the county supplied \$115,000 in local funds to make up the difference and complete the purchase.

"So, my question is simply, do you want us to perhaps get an appraisal and evaluate if that is a public site that the board would like to acquire or not?" Feagle said.

"Would you explain the benefits?" Commissioner Pam Feagle said.



The Spring Warrior Fish Camp property (shown inside red outline above) is located adjacent to the county-owned Spring Warrior boat ramp property (top of photo) purchased by Taylor County last year and includes a section of land used by those towing trailers to launch and load their boats.

"It will give us an acre of land right there at our property," Commissioner Jim Moody said. "Plus, a house that can be rented out. Using the Restore Act money to do it would be a blessing for Taylor County."

"That area is about an acre of high ground," Moody said. "That would solve our backing up to the boat ramp problem."

"What would be the ballpark cost on that versus the cost of bringing the other boat ramp site back to life?" English said.

"We need it too, really," Moody said of the second ramp. "We need both of them."

"I'm not going to say

it's an easy process," Pemberton said. "I think we all know by now that anything involving Treasury or RESTORE Act funding is a process. But, because we have not completely closed out the Spring Warrior boat ramp acquisition process, I was told that it would be maybe about a two-month period once the application is submitted to get approval. Now, I'm just going to say double that, please, because I've never known anything to happen that quickly."

"There are several steps we would need to go through. We would have to get the Yellow Book appraisal. And, then

we would have to have a willing seller letter from the owners pledging that they're willing sellers and they will not sell to another entity while we go through this process," Pemberton said.

Pemberton suggested that if the commissioners were interested in pursuing the possibility, they could authorize staff to secure a Yellow Book appraisal of the property and see if the owners were willing to accept that amount.

Commissioner Michael Newman made a motion to move forward with the process. Moody seconded, and the measure passed unanimously.

## LEGALS

(Continued from page 10)

requirements of the Board and most advantageous to the Board.

Any questions concerning specifications should be directed to Dan Anderson or Holly English at the Finance Office, 318 North Clark St. Perry FL. 32347, Telephone (850) 838-2500 option 7 or 8.

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting sealed bids for **ROADSIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY MOWING**.

Qualified firms or individuals desiring to provide the required services must submit their bid package in an envelope or similar package marked "Sealed bids for **ROADSIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY MOWING**" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, or P.O. Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348, to arrive no later than **4:00 P.M.**, local time, on **May 19, 2026**. All bids **MUST** have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Bids will be opened and bidders/respondents announced at **6:05 P.M.** local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on **May 19, 2026** in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, Old Post Office, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347.

Bid documents MUST be obtained from the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson St., Suite 102, or P.O. Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348, (850) 838-3506.

The County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all bids, to cancel or withdraw this bid at any time and

waive any irregularities in the bid process. The County reserves the right to award any contract(s) to the bidder/respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service, therefore, the County is not bound to award any contract(s) based on the lowest quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive minor defects in the process and to accept the bid deemed to be in the County's best interest. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to assign a local business preference in an amount of five (5) percent of the bid price, pursuant to Taylor County ordinance No. 2003-12. **No faxed proposals/bids/SOQs will be accepted.**

**For additional information contact:**  
Hank Evans, Director of Public Works  
587 Hwy. 27 East  
Perry, Florida 32347  
(850) 838-3528

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
**DOCTORS' MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ROOFING RETROFIT, HARDENING AND REPAIR PROJECT TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Notice is hereby given that Taylor County will receive sealed bids at the Taylor County Clerk of Court office, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry Florida 32347 (850-838-3506) until 4:00 p.m. local time on Friday, May 15, 2026, for the Doctors' Memorial Hospital Roofing, Retrofit, Hardening, and Repair Project.

Qualified firms or contractors desiring to provide the required services must submit bid packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "BID ENCLOSED

FOR THE DOCTORS' MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ROOFING RETROFIT, HARDENING AND REPAIR PROJECT" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on May 15, 2026. All bids MUST have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Respondent should submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of the bid. Bids will be opened and respondents announced at 6:00 P.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on May 19, 2026, at the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347.

The project Scope of Work includes the repair/replacement of the existing roof membrane, insulation, flashing, structural decking, and roofing load path at Doctors' Memorial Hospital, located in Perry, Florida. The re-roofing of the Hospital consists of approximately 74,129 square feet. The Scope of Work also includes the covering of the penthouses stucco walls with a new metal panel wall system. The metal wall panel area is 8,111 square feet. All bids must be submitted on a lump sum basis; segregated bids will not be accepted. In addition to the base bid there are three (3) alternates. The award will be based on the lowest, responsive bid.

Contractors and Sub-contractors may obtain electronic copies (PDF files) of the Drawings and Project Manual from Architects Lewis + Whitlock, PA, the project architects office upon receipt of a non-refundable price of fifty dollars (\$50.00) by contacting Rodney

Lewis at rlewis@think3d.net or at 850-942-1718.

Respondents will be required to have the approval of Florida Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) MIT Program staff and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) prior to being awarded a contract by Taylor County. Previous experience working with healthcare facilities or similar projects is strongly recommended.

Respondents will be required to comply with state and federal regulatory requirements, Taylor County policies and procedures, and Florida Commerce (the

funding agency) policies and grant contract requirements. It is the Respondents responsibility to fully understand and follow all conditions and specifications the Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) requires for medical facilities.

The County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all bids, to cancel or withdraw this solicitation at any time and waive any irregularities in the bid process.

The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive any minor defects in the process. No faxed bids will be accepted.

Additional information in reference to the County's bidding and procurement process may be obtained from LaWanda Pemberton, County Administrator at 850-843-5381 or at lpemberton@taylorcountygov.com.

Qualified WBE's, MBE's, DBE's, and Veteran Owned Businesses are encouraged to submit proposals. Additional technical information on the project and scope of work may be obtained from:

Rodney Lewis  
Architects Lewis + Whitlock, PA  
206 W. Virginia Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 942-1718 or at rlewis@think3d.net

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