

The Briefing

February 25, 2026

The latest from the government and leadership office of The Chamber

INSIDE

New finds this week

What is a VERTIPOINT

**Current Legislative
"Trendline" for State,
County, Local**



One Thing They Agree On

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Briefing 4 from Charlie Thorpe

The future of **Advanced Air Mobility (AAM)** is something we find that the State Legislature is in large agreement over with significant across-the-board support of legislation to fund and support the emerging technology. **Vertiports** are landing, take-off, and charging sites for electric powered **eVTOL aircraft**. Vertiports can range from simple landing pads ("Verti pads") to full facilities with passenger areas, charging stations, and connections to ground transportation networks. What does this look like in five to ten years in our region? Will these sites be confined to existing airport locations or will commercial off airport sites be options in the years to come?

Florida anticipates being an early national leader in this new aviation sector by supporting the FDOT to fund a significant portion of project costs. The State wants to add vertiports to the list of projects eligible for public-private partnerships. Also, there is a preemption desire by the State to control vertiport design, safety, and operational standards.

What this could mean locally: New opportunities for business and tourism travel, emergency response support, and future infrastructure investment and development.

I encourage Chamber membership to follow this developing issue for your potential future concerns or collaboration.

Florida Legislature • Sarasota County • City of Venice trendlines

Florida Legislature – Key Trendlines

Property Tax Reform:

The Florida House advanced HJR 203, passage of this legislation will impact local government budgets and will likely lead to shifts in fees to attempt to make up for revenue compression. Service impacts could be substantial.

Housing Supply Acceleration (SB 48):

The Senate unanimously passed SB 48 (“granny flats”), this is legislation intended to assist with the statewide support of available housing for workforce and seniors.

Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) & Vertiports (SB 1362):

SB 1362 continues progressing, see “One Thing They Agree On”...

Insurance Market Stabilization:

Citizen’s Property Insurance approved average -8.7% premium reductions.

Sarasota County – Key Trendlines

Revenue Pressures & New Tools:

County staff outlined possible Public Service Tax up to 10% and MSTUs for the Sheriff and the library system.

Commissioners reviewed options for cost savings, grant shifts and operational trims. With discussion to this point FY27 still looks like a 7.1M gap.

City of Venice – Key Trendlines

Active March Meeting Cycle and Business Impact Estimates posted. Ord 2026-06 addresses a Comp plan amendment with no expectations for impact on private business.

The City of Venice and the Venice Municipal Airport is in the “consultancy phase” regarding advanced air mobility and vertiports. Airport Director is and will be a great resource to the VACC regarding this issue.

Cross-Jurisdictional Takeaways

Revenue compression; Housing supply actions; AAM early deployment; Insurance stability.