

Godby WR is seizing his opportunity in breakout year

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TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

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'EXTINCTION LEVEL EVENT'



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks during a press conference at the Florida Capitol on Nov. 4 in Tallahassee, addressing the results of the 2026 midterm elections and the future of his administration's priorities. SARAH CHEATHAM/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

DeSantis says GOP wipeout's a political 'meteor strike'

John Kennedy
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis said election results ending GOP control of Congress and the defeat of his party's candidates for governor in states once thought unreachable for Democrats was "the political equivalent of a meteor strike."

But the so-called blue wave of Democratic victories rebuking President Trump and his policies across the nation failed to fully develop in Florida, with Republicans retaining the state's top offices in close contests.

"The one state that was able to hold the line and withstand that (wave) was right here in the free state of Florida," DeSantis said during a Nov. 4 news conference.

In a free-ranging, half-hour back and forth with reporters, DeSantis took plenty of credit for the success Republicans found in Florida, Trump's home state. Among the moves the governor said that helped his party was his push for a property tax-cutting ballot measure.

Amendment 3 was a vote-driver for GOP, DeSantis says

Amendment 3 was approved with almost 62% support from voters in a year when affordability was on the minds of many voters.

"Had Amendment 3 not been on the ballot, I don't know if we turn out the voters that we ended up turning out," DeSantis said. "People wanted to vote 'yes' on that and then many of them ended up voting Republican, later on down the ballot."

Elsewhere across the country, DeSantis said Republicans underwent a tectonic shift, losing in Texas the governor's race, U.S. Senate race and other statewide contests for the first time in decades.

DeSantis predicted that Democrats will end up with 56 U.S. Senate seats

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Minority is the majority: What it may mean to city

New mayor, commission makeup means new vision

Ethan Hicks
FSView

After years of attempts and near-misses, the progressive wing of the Democratic Party has finally clinched their long-sought majority on the Tallahassee City Commission, reversing the balance of power that has been in place for the past six years.

Two of the three progressive candidates for city office won their races. When the new members take office later this month, the city commission will for the first time in six years have a new governing majority.

City Commissioner Jeremy Matlow, who has led the progressive movement since he was first elected in 2018, narrowly beat former lawmaker Loranne Ausley for mayor with nearly 51% of the vote. P.J. Perez, another member of the progressive slate, enjoyed the most comfortable margin of victory in all the city races, beating Tom Derzypolski with over 64% of the vote.

Former City Commissioner Dot Inman-Johnson, the third member of the progressive slate, narrowly lost to the Seat 5 incumbent, Dianne Williams-Cox.

Previously, Tallahassee's City Commission had been locked into a 3-2 split on many of the biggest issues facing the city, from the budget and taxes to the sale of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare's hospital to Florida State University.

Mayor John Dailey, who opted not to seek a third term, Commissioner Curtis Richardson and Williams-Cox made up a more business and developer-friendly majority. Matlow, now mayor-elect, and City Commissioner Jack Porter constituted the progressive minority.

The controversial divide between the two sides has been in place since 2020, the last time a new member, Porter, was elected. With the election of Matlow as mayor and Perez,

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Special session: Lawmakers will rewrite FL property tax laws

James Call
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Gov. Ron DeSantis said Nov. 4 he will call Florida lawmakers into special session before year's end to rewrite state property tax laws and implement a voter-approved constitutional amendment that could reshape local government finances for decades.

The special session will require an outgoing governor and lame-duck Legislature to write the rules for one of the most significant tax policy changes in modern Florida history. Lawmakers are expected to decide how Amendment 3 will be implemented, whether local governments will receive state assistance to offset revenue losses and how to prevent cities and counties from replacing property taxes with new fees.

"We've got to do it," DeSantis said Wednesday morning, referring to implementing Amendment 3. "It has to be implemented by Jan. 1, per the amendment."

The Amendment 3 special session gives DeSantis, who leaves office in January, one final opportunity to shape a proposal he spent more than a year

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