



On this day in 1860, the 1st Pony Express reached Sacramento, California
The westbound rider and mail packet completed the approximately 1,800-mile journey and arrived in Sacramento, beating the eastbound packet's arrival in St. Joseph, Missouri by two days and setting a new standard for speedy mail delivery.

The Briefing – Wednesday – 4-13-22

The last Briefing was Monday – 4-11-22

The Briefing is compiled **2-3 times a week** to provide information to County Commissioners and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and School Board members, Superintendents, and staff in districts that are members of the Small School District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates.

For Questions Email – Cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

The Quick

Small County Coalition Executive Committee Reviews Status of Small County Coalition Sets Calendar of Activities

Officers and Executive Committee members of the Small County Coalition met by Zoom Tuesday afternoon to review the status of the Coalition and plan activities for the coming year.

22-23 Calendar of Events

Status of the Coalition:

Membership - The membership of the Coalition is at 40 counties - the highest level ever.

Success of Legislative Effort - The Legislative effort was successful on key priorities – Funding for Economic Development, Broadband, Roads, Fiscally Constrained programs. Over the next few months, Legislative priorities will be fine-tuned accommodating continuing priorities

Communication and Information – Coalition members are well informed receiving timely information in the form of “almost daily” briefings. A new updated Website will soon come on-line.

Coalition Leaders - The elected leaders of the Coalition are active and engaged. - There will be elections at the upcoming annual meeting.

Relationship with the Florida Association of Counties - The members of the Coalition are active at all levels of the Florida Association of Counties – ensuring responsiveness by the state association to small county policies.

Relationship to the Florida Legislature – the relationship with the legislature is based on the work of Coalition members with the House and Senate members representing small counties. This relationship is successful in achieving member priorities. In addition, the Coalition recognizes members of the legislature with Awards and Recognitions to facilitate dialogue, recognition, and support.

Moving Forward on Expansion of Broadband Internet

In an effort to continue supporting and encouraging local communities in the effort to focus on Internet Service, the Briefing is linking in a report issued by Florida TaxWatch the past January. The report is entitled - [Closing the Digital Divide: The Expansion of Broadband Internet Service to Unserved Areas of the State.](#) The Report outlines the State of Florida’s recent efforts to implement Legislation passed in the 2020 and 2021 Legislative Session.

Forming A Local Technology Planning Team

Excerpt from TaxWatch Report

“Perhaps the most critical part of Florida’s effort to expand broadband Internet service to unserved and underserved areas is the coordination between DEO and the local technology planning teams (LTPTs). Each county administrator, county manager, or a selected designee is responsible for recommending members for DEO to vet and appoint to their LTPT, to ensure its membership represents local stakeholders in broadband expansion. The following industry sectors must be represented on each LTPT: • Libraries; • K-12 education; • Health care providers; • Private businesses; • Tourism; • Community organizations; • Agriculture; • Economic development organizations; • Local governments; • Parks and recreation; and • Internet service providers.

Each LTPT will work with their respective communities to:

- Understand their current broadband availability;
- Locate unserved and underserved businesses and residents;
- Identify assets relevant to broadband deployment;
- Build partnerships with broadband service providers; and
- Identify opportunities to leverage assets and reduce barriers to the deployment of broadband Internet services in the community.

To facilitate this coordination, DEO has developed a broadband planning “toolkit” that includes the following nine steps:

- Step 1: Engage Stakeholders --- involves onboarding community leaders and representatives from the designated industry sectors;
- Step 2: Assemble the Team --- each designated team leader submits recommended industry sector representatives to DEO;
- Step 3: Identify Community Priorities --- involves developing an understanding of the broadband-related strengths and weaknesses in the county or region and establishing benchmarks for evaluating future progress;
- Step 4: Harness the Data --- involves surveying public opinion regarding community needs, broadband utilization, and expansion efforts;
- Step 5: Consider Digital Inclusion --- ensures that communities have access to robust and affordable broadband connections, Internet-enabled devices, and the skills to explore, create, and collaborate in a digital world;
- Step 6: Assess Resources and Infrastructure --- compares existing resources with needs to identify gaps in broadband infrastructure;

- Step 7: Engage Local Internet Service Providers --- involves brainstorming to identify how each industry sector or area can best address challenges to increase the availability and accessibility of broadband throughout the state;
- Step 8: Evaluate Solutions --- intended to refine options presented to the Local Technology Planning Team; and
- Step 9: Develop and Execute Solutions --- identify and refine concepts to meet broadband planning goals with local service providers.”

For additional information contact the Office of Broadband -DEO; ACCESS 67 a program of the Florida Association of Counties; or, the Small County Coalition.

Special Session 2022C

After vetoing SB 102 (Establishing the Congressional Districts of the State) from the 2022 regular legislative session, Governor Ron DeSantis issued a proclamation March 29 calling the legislature back to Tallahassee April 19-22, 2022 for the 2022C special session on congressional redistricting.

[Special Session 2022C Proclamation](#)

Joint Memorandum re: [Special Session 2022C](#) 03/29/22

[Governor's Veto Letter for SB 102](#)

Legislative Leaders defer to DeSantis on the Congressional Map

In a [joint memorandum](#) from Senate President Simpson and House Speaker Sprowls, the House and Senate have [decided to defer to the Governor’s office to produce a congressional map](#) for review. Typically, the once-a-decade redistricting efforts are spearheaded by the Legislature. However, after The Governor’s veto last month, legislative leaders are requesting DeSantis take the lead on defining districts that will pass muster in the eyes of the Governor and the stakeholders who will be watching closely. According to the memo, the hope is Governor’s office staff will present their recommendations to legislative committees. This deferral has never occurred in the history of the State and is highly unusual that the legislative branch would allow the Governor to engage in this manner. It is reported that the Governor plans to offer a map that is “race-neutral” which will eliminate at least one and possible two districts which favor minority candidates.

Broward School District Challenges Funding Cut!

Broward School District is vowing to fight back after [funding was pulled due to the district’s lack of cooperation](#) with the state’s rules against mask mandates. The Legislature set aside \$200 million in funding to reward schools that receive an “A” grade, or improve a letter grade – except for the 12 districts that chose to mandate masks in response to Covid. Broward County Superintendent, Vickie Cartwright, says the district will apply for the funding and allow the Dept. of Education to have the final say; the results could lead to a legal challenge. Meanwhile, [Hillsborough County School District will try to replace the lost funds](#) with federal funding.

Upcoming Meeting of State Associations

June 8-10 -	FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference – Tampa
June 9 -	Small District Breakfast – Annual Joint Business Meeting of the FSBA Small District Council and the SSDCC

June 28 - July 1 -

FAC Annual Conference - Small County Coalition Annual Meeting - Orlando

The Small County Coalition will meet for breakfast on Wed. – June 29th

Headlines from Around the State

Herald: DeSantis says he wants 'race-neutral' congressional districts when new map is drawn

Sentinel: Federal trial over Florida congressional districts is set for May 12

FlaPol: Alternative congressional maps for Florida must be filed in federal court Monday

WLRN: Judge upholds abortion waiting period in Florida

Sentinel: Florida judge approves 24-hour wait for abortions, ending 7 years of legal limbo

The Floridian: Scott Introduces Antisemitism Measure in Senate

The Capitolist: House Clerk Report: Al Lawson leads Reps in proxy voting; hasn't cast an in-person vote in 2022

Yahoo News: Marco Rubio stumps in Pensacola; advocates for burn pits health care bill for veterans

TCPalm: Mast to file new legislation to end Lake Okeechobee discharges to coastal estuaries

FlaPol: Jared Moskowitz adds a Colorado Congressman to his pile of endorsements in congressional bid

FlaPol: Providers still waiting for state to deliver \$1.2B in supplemental Medicaid funds

WLRN: Judge dismisses 60 potential jurors in Parkland shooter sentencing trial

Herald: Surfside became known for deadly condo collapse. Now the town looks to champion reforms.

WUSF: Gas prices across Florida take a 10-cent dip

WUSF: A former U.S. Special Operations commander from the Tampa area is in Ukraine training soldiers

Herald: A collector, granddad: Five things you may not know about FIU's Interim President Ken Jessell

Sun-Sentinel: Brightline and Tri-Rail step up security after New York subway shooting

PNJ: Garcon Point wildfire under investigation; state says 'situation should not have occurred'

Sentinel: Orlando, Tampa and St. Petersburg mayors offer to 'welcome and assist' refugees from Ukraine

WLRN: Meningococcal warnings issued after Florida outbreak

NBC Miami: FDOH Broward Recommends Meningococcal Disease Vaccinations Amid Florida Outbreak

WLRN: DeSantis signs law expanding financial aid for foster care youth, caregivers

CBS Miami: DeSantis Defends Lack Of Legislation On Building Safety Following Surfside Building Collapse

Sentinel: Experts disagree on how to manage Florida's massive growth

NWF Daily News: Gubernatorial candidate Nikki Fried making campaign stops in Florida Panhandle

My News 13: State legislator who fought addiction watches trial against Walgreens

FlaPol: Jimmy Patronis vows to fight Washington if re-elected

The Capitolist: Patronis: Major banks are beginning to think that a recession is a real possibility

FlaPol: Election officials warn of deadlines as qualifying for judicial, State Attorney races nears

WLRN: Some South Florida teachers say 'Don't Say Gay' law is making them consider leaving the classroom

Herald: Mangroves vs. seawalls? Mix may be 'best of both worlds' to take on South Florida sea rise

Herald: The seawalls in Florida's future: Higher, stronger and better for marine life

Herald: Can mangroves save Miami? 'Living shorelines' a sea rise solution struggling to take root

FlaPol: Jacksonville City Council turfs term limit bill

DBNJ: Volusia County School Board terminates Superintendent Scott Fritz in 3-2 vote

Times: MOSI names new president/CEO

On the Docket

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

- **FGCU PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH BEGINS:** Florida Gulf Coast University's Presidential Search Advisory Committee will hold an initial meeting as it works to replace retiring President Mike Martin. (Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Florida Gulf Coast University, Cohen Student Union, Fort Myers.)
- **PHARMACY BOARD:** The Florida Board of Pharmacy will meet in Alachua County. (Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville, 1714 S.W. 34th St., Gainesville.)
- **PAROLE CASES:** The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet in Lake County. (Wednesday, 9 a.m., Minneola City Hall, 800 U.S. 27, Minneola. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165)
- **UNEMPLOYMENT APPEALS:** The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. (Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Code: 38535195)
- **CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNCIL:** The Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. (Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Hardee County Agri-Civic Center, 515 Civic Center Dr., Wauchula.)
- **REFUGEE ISSUES:** The Orlando Area Refugee Task Force will meet. (Wednesday, 10 a.m. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/>)
- **HEALTH INSURANCE ON TABLE:** The Florida Health Insurance Advisory Board will meet. (Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. Call-in number: 1-866-299-7949. Code: 1433866)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

- **LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** Members of the Volusia County legislative delegation are expected to discuss the 2022 session during a Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce breakfast event. The delegation is made up of Sen. Jason Brodeur, R-Sanford; Sen. Travis Hutson, R-St. Augustine; Sen. Tom Wright, R-New Smyrna Beach; incoming House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast; Rep. Webster Barnaby, R-Deltona; Rep. Elizabeth Fetterhoff, R-DeLand; and Rep. Tom Leek, R-Ormond Beach. (Thursday, 7:30 a.m., Daytona State College, Mori Hosseini Center, 1200 West International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.)

- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BOARD: The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. (Thursday, 9 a.m. https://sfwmd.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HgSOmbwuRaWKJdcLd9Vwng)
- PAROLE CASES: The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet in Lake County. (Thursday, 9 a.m., Minneola City Hall, 800 U.S. 27, Minneola. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165)
- DAYTONA STATE TRUSTEES: The Daytona State College Board of Trustees will hold a retreat, followed by a regular board meeting. (Thursday, retreat at 10 a.m., with full board at 2 p.m., Daytona State College, 1200 West International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.)
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program will hold a statewide quarterly behavioral health meeting in Duval County. (Thursday, 10 a.m., Department of Children and Families, Northeast Regional Office, 5920 Arlington Expressway, Jacksonville.)
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS: The Florida Supreme Court will release weekly opinions. (Thursday, 11 a.m.)
- PETROLEUM OFFICIAL SPEAKS AT ECONOMIC CLUB: Mike Sommers, president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute, will speak to the Economic Club of Florida. (Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Florida State University Alumni Center, 1030 West Tennessee St., Tallahassee.)
- BROWN SPEAKS AT TIGER BAY: Hyatt Brown, chairman of Brown & Brown, Inc., and a former state House speaker, is scheduled to address the Tiger Bay Club of Volusia County. (Thursday, 11:30 a.m., LPGA Country Club, Daytona Beach.)
- NORTHWEST WATER BOARD: The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. (Thursday, 1 p.m., Northwest Florida Water Management District, 81 Water Management Dr., Havana.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

- TREASURE COAST COUNCIL: The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will meet. (Friday, 9:30 a.m., Indian River State College, Chastain Campus, Wolf High Technology Center, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. <https://meet.goto.com/460588309>. Call-in number: 1-646-749-3122. Code: 460588309)

Agency Websites

- Weather – NOAA - <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- Dept. of Health – Weekly Stats on Covid - [Link to Weekly Updates](#)
- DEO Re-employment Claims - [Link to Up to date weekly employment data](#)
- DEP Algae Bloom Weekly Report - <https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloomWeeklyUpdate>
- DEP Algae Bloom Dashboard - <https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloom>
- DEO - Office of Broadband - <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-anddevelopment/broadband/office-of-broadband>
- FDOT – Florida Transportation Plan - <http://floridatransportationplan.com/>