



On the day in [1807](#) French Emperor [Napoléon Bonaparte](#) and Russian Tsar [Alexander I](#) meet on a raft in the middle of the Neman River and sign the first [Treaty of Tilsit](#)

## *The Briefing for Friday – July 7- 2023*

*The last Briefing was Thursday- July 6, 2023*

*How's your weather – <https://weather.com/>*

### **Union Challenge to DOE Book Review Rules Rejected by Administrative Law Judge**

**Article taken from NewService of Florida**

An administrative law judge Thursday rejected a challenge to Florida Department of Education rules that are part of a move to increase scrutiny of books in schools. Judge Darren Schwartz issued a 23-page order that dismissed the challenge by the Florida Education Association teachers union. The case involved two rules designed to carry out a 2022 state law. One of the rules involves required online training for school librarians and other employees involved in selecting books for students; the other rule requires elementary schools to post online lists of reading materials. The 2022 law referred to books and materials in a “school library media center,” and the Florida Education Association argued that the Department of Education improperly applied the requirements to books and materials in classrooms. The union contended that the rules were invalid, in part, because the department had overstepped its authority. But Schwartz wrote that the department’s definition of “library media center” to include classrooms was consistent with the law. “Restricting the definition of ‘library media center’ to only central libraries, as FEA suggests, would thwart the objectives of (the law) to put safeguards in place so that only age-appropriate and non-harmful books will end up in the hands of children, and would render meaningless the statutory directives that the department has been tasked to implement,” he wrote. “It makes no sense that the Legislature would enact a law to keep age-inappropriate and harmful books out of the hands of students in central libraries, only to allow such books to be available to students down the hall in classrooms where such books may be even more available to children. It is unequivocal that the department had specific rulemaking authority to promulgate the rules; that the department had discretion to define terms in the rules as part of its rulemaking authority; and that the definition of ‘library media center’ in the rules is the only reasonable meaning both consistent with, and required by, the relevant statutory authority.” Schwartz also wrote that the Legislature this spring revised the law to include classrooms in the definition of library media centers.

### **State Chamber Releases Mid-Year Report**

The Florida Chamber of Commerce has released a new report, the [2023 Florida Business & Economic Mid-Year Report](#), outlining the state's progress toward the organization's chief goal over the past five years: growing Florida into a top-10 global economy.

According to the report, the Sunshine State ranks as the No. 16 economy in the world if measured as an independent country. The report notes several positive trends. One of the most striking: income flow.

- Florida is the No. 1 state in the country for income migration, with \$39.2 billion in wealth flowing into the state over the past year, which is the equivalent of \$4.48 million per hour. Texas is a distant No. 2 at \$10.9 billion.
- Global connections are also on the rise, with seaports at a record in Florida-origin exports last year of \$67.5 billion.
- Florida's higher education system continues to hold the top spot nationally though there has been a shift in postsecondary achievement — since 2016, the number of Floridians earning vocational certificates has grown by 28%.
- K-12 education is an area of concern. Florida's third grade reading scores — a key predictor of future success — currently stand at 53% and are decreasing. Meanwhile, the number of Florida students finishing high school with a diploma is sitting at 87%, also with a downward trajectory.
- The report states about one in eight Floridians between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither working nor enrolled in school. The Chamber is encouraging businesses to reach out to youths in this demographic through partnerships with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Florida Department of Corrections.

### **UPCOMING WEBINARS**

Made Available through the National Association of Counties

#### **Making Sense of AI for Government**

Tuesday - [July 11 at 1 p.m. EDT](#)

[REGISTER](#)

#### **Supreme Court Review for Local Governments: 2022-2023 Term**

Tuesday - [July 11 at 1 p.m. EDT](#)

*Cohosted by the National League of Cities*

[REGISTER](#)

#### **Solving Government Forms and Document Management Challenges**

Wednesday - [July 12 at 1 p.m. EDT](#)

[REGISTER](#)

## ***Headlines Around the State***

*Politico: DeSantis campaign raised \$20 million in first six weeks of campaign*

*The Messenger: DeSantis Announces \$20 Million Fundraising Haul*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis announces \$20M haul in 1st quarter as a candidate*

*The Hill: Republicans sound alarm over DeSantis's sagging campaign*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis blames 'corporate media,' Mexican President for subpar polls*

*City & State FL: DeSantis pledges to eliminate agencies, slash federal workforce, following long line of recent GOP candidates*

*FlaPol: Casey DeSantis rolls out 'Mamas for DeSantis' hype video*

*FlaPol: Kristi Noem casts doubt on Ron DeSantis donors*

*FlaPol: Rick Scott adds another \$1.5M for re-election bid*

*WLRN: Florida's economy outpaces U.S. with jobs, growth - and, yes, higher inflation*

*WUSF: New College Board of Trustees is eyeing a 'Freedom Institute' targeting 'cancel culture'*

*Herald Tribune: New College of Florida Trustees OK request for \$2 million for funding 'Freedom Institute'*

*Herald: What's next for Parkland school building? Visits, demolition, then a question mark*

*FlaPol: Jay Shooster says he's raised nearly \$300K in bid for Palm Beach County's HD 91*

*FlaPol: St. Pete watchdog Vincent Nowicki to run for Pinellas County Commission*

*FlaPol: Chris Scherer exceeds \$100K for Pinellas County Commission bid*

*DBNJ: Former NASCAR racer Kyle Petty puts some money into Volusia County Council race*

*My News 13: Apopka mayor could face public reprimand*

*Times-Union: Jacksonville Mayor Deegan appointee says he will correct campaign contributions reprimand*

*Democrat: Former Wakulla County Property Appraiser Brad Harvey pleads no contest to fraud charges*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis accuses DEA, DOJ, FBI of using 'kid gloves' in White House cocaine probe*

*Herald: DeSantis struggles to separate from Trump on policy when campaigning for 2024*

*Times-Union: Ethics complaint filed against DeSantis over private jet travel*

*Teen Vogue: DeSantis 2024 Campaign Is the Target of Young Organizers in Florida*

*Politico: Newsom calls on DOJ to investigate Florida over migrant transports*

*FlaPol: Gavin Newsom demands federal investigation of Ron DeSantis-ordered migrant flights*

*Politico: McCarthy declines to endorse Trump — looking to avoid a GOP civil war*

*Herald: Two employees accuse Florida Rep. Fabian Basabe of sexual harassment in lawsuit*

*FlaPol: Former employees sue Fabian Basabe, allege pattern of sexual harassment*

*AP: Lawsuit in Florida claims Republican lawmaker sexually harassed aide and intern*

*FlaPol: 'The right person for the job': Joe Saunders lands endorsements from Senate and House Democratic leadership*

*Herald: Trump aide, on third try, arraigned in Miami. He pleads not guilty in documents case*

*Herald: A former public defender is representing Trump aide in documents case. What to know*

*FlaPol: Florida Chamber issues progress report on 2030 goals*

*Herald: After a long lull, three Cuban migrant boats land in the Florida Keys within one week*

*FlaPol: Florida lawmakers want USDA to issue grants for farmers immediately after disasters*

*FlaPol: Marco Rubio warns China may try to establish a military force in Cuba*

*FlaPol: Citing 'hostile actions,' education group is the latest to pull its convention from Florida*

*Times: Pinellas seeks input for mandatory recycling, facing solid-waste strain*

*NYTimes: DeSantis Campaign Continues to Struggle to Find Its Footing*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis drags Donald Trump as 'pioneer' in 'injecting gender ideology into the mainstream'*

*FlaPol: Donald Trump claims Ron DeSantis campaign in 'total disarray' after New Hampshire 'performance'*

*CBS Miami: Miami Mayor Francis Suarez launches AI chatbot for presidential campaign*

*Herald: AI version of Francis Suarez hits digital campaign trail but doesn't have all the answers*

*FlaPol: Casey DeSantis will head to Iowa for national 'Mamas for DeSantis' reboot*

*FlaPol: Mike Huckabee calls for 'course corrections' to slumping Ron DeSantis campaign*

*FlaPol: 'Blowing it': Ron DeSantis rips Joe Biden for white powder in the White House*

*Sun-Sentinel: Trump valet due in court again Thursday in secret documents case. Did he hire a local lawyer?*

*Herald: Trump aide set for third shot at arraignment in Miami. If he can find a local attorney*

*CBS Miami: DOJ had video of boxes being moved at Mar-a-Lago before FBI search*

*NBC News: More Mar-a-Lago search warrant information released in Trump classified docs case*

*FlaPol: Rick Scott meets with Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel*

*Politico: Matt Gaetz proposes end to cannabis testing for military*

*Roll Call: Diaz-Balart puts stamp on Latin America programs in spending bill*

*The Floridian: Florida Lawmakers Propose Nonpartisan Bill to Offer Emergency Agricultural Assistance*

*Times: Are Florida laws chasing university faculty away? Some see a 'brain drain.'*

*NBC Miami: These are the 5 state driver's licenses no longer valid in Florida under new immigration law*

*Daily News: Pardoned, fired, retired: SW FL lures famous politicians, pundits*

*Post: Is Florida the top state Americans want to move to, or move out of? We have some answers*

*FlaPol: Scotty Moore shuts down congressional campaign as he runs for HD 35*

*NBC Miami: 'I still can't say goodbye': Parkland families walk through building where massacre happened*

*WLRN: Victims' families walk through Parkland school shooting site, untouched for 5 years*

*Herald: Parkland families make first visit to school building. 'I wanted to stand where he stood'*

*Sun-Sentinel: Parents visit site of Parkland mass shooting: 'Do not turn away'*

*Times-Union: Supreme Court ruling on Colorado LGBTQ case could influence lawsuit over Jacksonville HRO*

*Sentinel: Ben Crump hired by family of man killed by Orlando police officer*

*Democrat: DeSantis criticized for 'desperate' tactics as campaign struggles against Trump*

*NBC News: Ron DeSantis defends video going after Trump on LGBTQ issues: 'Totally fair game'*

*Politico: Florida GOP will require DeSantis, Trump to sign loyalty pledge to make primary ballot*

*Times: DeSantis reshaped Florida higher education over the last year. Here's how.*

*NBC News: 2 top public health positions in Ron DeSantis' administration are vacant*

*Sentinel: Millionaire developer Hosseini wields great influence with DeSantis*

*WLRN: Florida says law restricting Chinese land ownership is not discriminatory*

*WUSF: Transgender Floridians remain in limbo as legal fight over gender-affirming care continues*

*Sentinel: Agriculture Commissioner Simpson reports \$20.6 million net worth*

*Bradenton Herald: What happens next for sports betting in Florida after federal court decision?*

*Ledger: Lakeland's Jennifer Canady chosen to be Florida House Speaker for 2028-2030 term*

*WLRN: Florida's new concealed carry law doesn't change where guns are prohibited*

*Sun-Sentinel: FAU selects finalists for president; DeSantis-supported GOP Rep. Randy Fine is not among them*

*The Capitolist: Amid swirling rumors, Rep. Randy Fine not among finalists for FAU President position*

*Post: A Republican won this Florida House seat last year. Can she keep it in 2024?*

*FlaPol: State releases emergency rules on mandatory masking in health care settings*

*Herald Tribune: New College ramps up search for president, approves salary range ahead of trustees meeting*

*Ledger: Gov. DeSantis appoints five to Polk State College Board of Trustees*

*Times: Appointed by DeSantis, Suzy Lopez to run for Hillsborough state attorney*

*CBS Miami: Revamped FAMU lawsuit alleges discrimination*

*City & State FL: Jack Latvala case returns to Florida Commission on Ethics*

*WUSF: Thousands of educators protest Florida book ban outside of convention center*

*Sun-Sentinel: Broward sheriff's ethics case put on hold as state prepares for hearing where his police license is on the line*

*My News 13: Floridians face growing coyote concerns*

*WLRN: Joy and fear as Guatemalans celebrate their heritage in the face of new immigration law*

*Herald: Florida lawyer filed for disbarment. He's accused of murdering his father the next day*

*Bradenton Herald: 'I have a lot to learn.' Jason Wysong sworn in as Manatee County's new superintendent*

*Times: How, and if, DeSantis could put an end to birthright citizenship*

*Democrat: DeSantis steps up pace of executions in Florida, chasing Trump*

*The Hill: Former Trump press secretary says he showed classified documents to people on Mar-a-Lago dining patio*

*The Floridian: Steube Believes Biden's Alleged Crimes are Treasonous*

*FlaPol: Maxwell Frost adds star power to rally for 'Freedom to Learn'*

*The Floridian: Franklin Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Support Florida Farmers*

*WLRN: Florida and other states see big jump in maternal mortality rates*

*USA Today: 1 million Florida buildings will be overrun by sea-level rise by 2100, study shows*

*Herald: In 'strictly private' sessions, some to visit crime scene of 2018 Parkland shooting*

*NBC News: DeSantis is squeezing the sunshine out of Florida's public records law, critics say*

*Times: DeSantis Florida crime claims based on incomplete data, records show*

*The Floridian: DeSantis Invokes 'Sacred Fire of Liberty' in new ad*

*The Floridian: Fried Calls SB 1718 'a Disaster'*

*Democrat: Pre-high school game prayer law goes into effect in Florida. Its controversy continues.*

*Wash. Post: A Florida city famous for its water worries that it might run out of it*

*News4Jax: After the July 4th holiday, its time to get to work for the Deegan administration*

*WLRN: The sargassum season for Florida is gone: Mysterious seaweed disappearances continue*

*NBC Miami: Scientists noticed 'dramatic decrease' in sargassum in South Florida beaches. USF professor explains why*

*PNJ: Can settlement money make a dent in Escambia's opioid crisis?*

## **On the Docket**

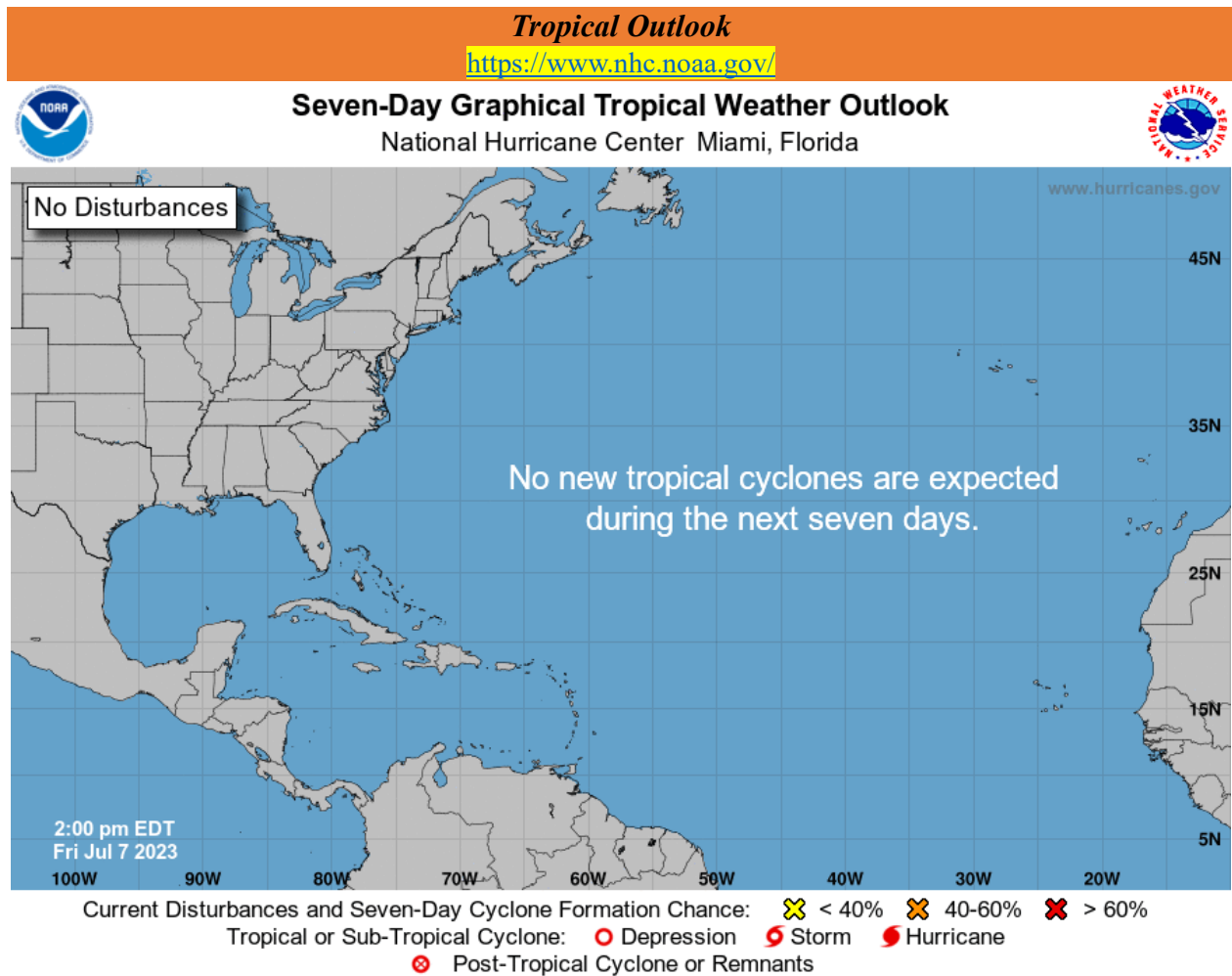
### **THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023**

- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- NEW COLLEGE BOARD MEETS - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The New College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet.  
- <https://ncf.zoom.us/j/99854714892?pwd=MzBEcEFDa2hTN1BWdDIvVDJiK0Z6dz09>. Code: 706676
- BROADBAND DISCUSSED - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Office of Broadband will hold one in a series of meetings to discuss broadband connectivity and availability. - Big Bend Technical College, 3233 South Byron Parkway, Perry.
- DEER DISEASE AT ISSUE - Thursday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will hold a meeting about chronic wasting disease, which has been described as similar to mad cow disease, with deer becoming emaciated and often being found isolated and trembling. A case of the contagious disease was recently detected in a deer killed in Holmes County. - Bonifay K-8 School, 140 Blue Devil Dr., Bonifay.

### **FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2023**



- HEARING AID BOARD MEETS - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists will meet in Pinellas County. - Sheraton Sand Key Resort, 1160 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater Beach.
- DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD MEETS - Friday, 10:30 a.m. - The Florida Development Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Florida Development Finance Corp., 156 Tuskawilla Road, Suite 2340, Winter Springs. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82608630608?pwd=OERkeTU4eE1od0lZWHBHOGVTblE4dz09>. Meeting ID: 82608630608. Code: 854806. Call-in number: 1-646-558-8656
- BROADBAND DISCUSSED - Friday, 2:30 p.m. - The Department of Economic Opportunity's Office of Broadband will hold one in a series of meetings to discuss broadband connectivity and availability. - Gulf Coast State College, Gulf/Franklin Campus, 3800 Garrison Ave. Port St. Joe.



**About the Briefing!**  
*The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin*  
[cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com](mailto:cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com)

The Briefing is compiled **2-3 times a week** to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School Representing District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email = [cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com](mailto:cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go [www.smallcountycoalition.org](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org) or [www.ssdec.org](http://www.ssdec.org) and click on the red **Briefing** button.

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## Chris Doolin

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates  
Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates  
Mobile – 850-508-5492  
Email – [cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com](mailto:cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com)

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