



Celebrate Your Independence on this Fourth of July Holiday!

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The Briefing for Saturday, July 1 - 2023

The last Briefing was Monday, June 26, 2023

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

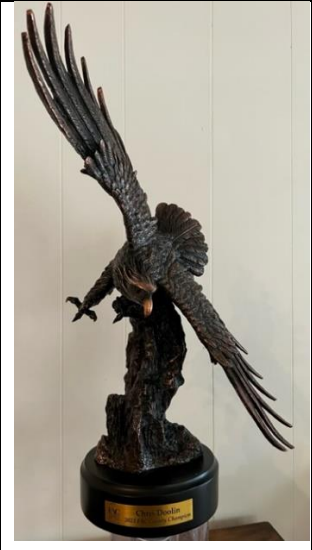
Humbled by the FAC 2023 County Champion Award

During the Annual Awards luncheon at the Florida Association of Counties, FAC Executive Director Ginger Delegal and FAC Director of Public Policy Davin Suggs presented me with the 2023 FAC County Champion Award. It was a surprise to me and a humbling experience.

The following pictures and statement reflect my appreciation for this recognition.



“It is humbling to be recognized as the recipient of the 2023 FAC County Champion Award. It was a complete surprise, and it is truly an honor. I am pleased to be of service to local governments in Florida. Local governments are the bedrock of our country and their authority must be protected in every county. Thank you to the commissioners that allow me to represent them in Tallahassee, and Thank you to the Florida Association of Counties for this recognition”



Small County Coalition Elects Officers and Presents Recognitions

The Small County Coalition held the 2023 Annual Business and Organizational Meeting this past week in Orlando in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting. Over 150 commissioners and staff from Florida’s small counties attended. Attendees received reports, Presented Recognition, and Elected Officers for 23-24.

New Officers

Melendy, Hawkins, Dougherty elected to lead Coalition through

- *Elected Chairperson - Russell Melendy – Hardee County*
- *Elected Vice-Chair - Tray Hawkins – Washington County*
- *Elected Secretary – Chris Dougherty – Bradford County*

District Representatives

Glidewell, Moore, O’Brien, Adams, Iglesias - Elected to serve through 2025

Ricky Jones, Darryl Smith, Larry Harvey, Darryl Smith, and Michelle Lincoln will serve through 23-24

- ***Re-Elected - Danny Glidewell – Walton County*** - Representing District 1 - EC Terms 2025
 - *Representing Wakulla, Franklin, Gulf, Walton, Washington, Holmes, Santa Rosa* and Okaloosa*)*
- ***Re-Elected - Ronnie Moore – Madison County*** - Representing District 2 - EC Terms 2025
 - *Hamilton, Gadsden, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, and Calhoun*
- ***Elected - Donald O’Brien – Flagler*** - Representing District 3 - EC Terms 2025
 - *Bradford, *Clay, Columbia, Union, Baker, Nassau, Flagler, and Putnam*
- ***Re-Elected - Anthony Adams – Lafayette*** - Representing District 4 - EC Terms 2025
 - *Gilchrist, Lafayette, Dixie, Levy, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Citrus and Hernando*
- ***Elected - Ramon Iglesias – Hendry*** - Representing District 5 - EC Terms 2025
 - *Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Hardee, Highlands, Indian River, Okeechobee, Martin, and Monroe*

Recognitions Presented
Outstanding Leadership

- Lee Constantine -*President of FAC*

Special Recognition

- **For Legislative Testimony in Opposition to Commissioner Term Limits**
 - Ralph Thomas – Commissioner - Wakulla County
 - John Meeks – Commissioner - Levy County
 - Matt Brooks – Commission - Levy County

For Outstanding Service

- Chair – FAC Broadband Task Force - Larry Harvey, Putnam County
- Chair - Agriculture and Rural Affairs Policy Committee- Susan Adams, Indian River County
- Vice- Chair - Agriculture and Rural Affairs Policy Committee- Kelly Owens, Okeechobee County
- Co-Vice Chair - Committee on Preemption Task Force - Mel Ponder, Okaloosa

Recognition of Outstanding Assistance

- Kelli Williams – Florida Association of Counties

Recognition of Leadership by a Commission

- Washington County Board of County Commissioners

Headlines Around the State

Politico: DeSantis banked \$1.25 million from his book, financial disclosure shows

NYTimes: DeSantis Financial Disclosure Puts Him in the Millionaires Club

FlaPol: Florida pols celebrate, condemn SCOTUS ruling against Joe Biden's student debt relief plan

The Hill: DeSantis team shares Pride Month-inspired video in latest attack on Trump

The Hill: Republican LGBTQ group blasts DeSantis over 'homophobic' campaign video

FlaPol: Fourth of July Weekend is brought to you by these lobbyists and political organizations

FlaPol: Wilton Simpson, Florida Forest Service offers fire safety tips for Fourth of July celebrations

FlaPol: Ashley Moody urges extra caution on roadways during holiday weekend

Politico: DeSantis scores big legal win upholding \$2.5B gambling deal with Florida tribe

Democrat: Fourth time's a charm as DeSantis signs alimony overhaul bill

FlaPol: More perfect disunion: Gov. DeSantis approves end to permanent alimony

FlaPol: Here are 10 controversial Florida laws going into effect July 1

FlaPol: Cha-ching: New sales tax breaks set to kick in during holiday weekend

FlaPol: New telehealth, plastic surgery, physician self-referral laws take effect July 1

Times: Latino groups protest in Tampa on eve of new Florida immigration law

FlaPol: Supreme Court's strike against affirmative action in admissions prompts praise, warnings from Florida politicians

Sentinel: 'Racist decision': U.S. Rep. Maxwell Frost, Florida Democrats raise concern over affirmative action ruling

Open Campus: Florida hasn't used race in college admissions since 1999. How did that go?

The Hill: DeSantis team resurfaces clip of Trump saying he's fine with affirmative action

Politico: Deputy acquitted of all charges for failing to act during deadly Parkland school shooting

NYTimes: Jury Acquits Deputy Who Failed to Confront Parkland Gunman

NBC 6: 'A rush of emotion': Scot Peterson speaks about acquittal, trial over inaction during Parkland shooting

NBC 6: 'We still feel he should be haunted': Parkland parents express frustration after Scot Peterson case

Times: DeSantis signs controversial radioactive roads bill lobbied by fertilizer giant Mosaic

The Hill: DeSantis signs bill allowing new roads to be built with mining waste linked to cancer

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs measure to test use of controversial radioactive road material

Times: Florida student scores hold steady as schools switch testing system

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs bill letting businesses to sue local governments, halt 'arbitrary or unreasonable' ordinances

FlaPol: With Florida's immigration law set to start July 1, critics say it will impact non-immigrants as well

FlaPol: Florida lawmakers spearhead bipartisan push to refill dwindling FEMA Disaster Relief Fund

FlaPol: Lawmakers tout boost in funding for clean water projects

FlaPol: Here are 10 controversial Florida laws going into effect July 1

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs measure banning local voter referendums on land development

FlaPol: New law moves control of Gainesville's publicly owned utility to Governor-appointed board

Herald: 'A baffling decision': DeSantis vetoes bipartisan bill to buy Florida more electric cars

Times: Parking in Tampa, awash in blacktop, will soon be easier for some

WLRN: As Florida's new union law goes into effect, it's 'do or die' time for labor

WLRN: Florida joins others in making disposable diapers more affordable

Ledger: As new gun law goes into effect, gun shop owners and police in Polk say many are confused

Bradenton Herald: Plan to protect whales would stop nighttime traffic to 4 Florida ports, including Manatee

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says presidential run isn't getting in the way of gubernatorial duties

FlaPol: 'Disloyal to who?': Ron DeSantis says he's done 'a lot' for Donald Trump

Politico: Why Ron DeSantis is emailing his supporters about men getting pregnant

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis: Axe federal agencies or use them to fight 'woke ideology'

Sentinel: DeSantis, Trump seek to rewrite history on COVID response

WaPo: Moms for Liberty didn't exist 3 years ago. Now it's a GOP kingmaker.

AP: Trump, DeSantis among 2024 GOP hopefuls set to appear at Moms for Liberty gathering

Politico: Judge rejects Trump's presidential immunity defense in second E. Jean Carroll case

FlaPol: Chris Christie rips Ron DeSantis' 'ridiculous' Jan. 6 take

NYTimes: Despite Battle Over Politics, Florida Tourism Rolls On

FlaPol: AIF backs Erika Booth in HD 35 Special Election

Ledger: Lakeland resident is third Republican candidate for Polk County Commission in District 1

FlaPol: Vern Buchanan wants America's heroes serving in safer conditions and accessing benefits

FlaPol: Personnel note: Wendy Dodge bolsters The Southern Group's growing education practice

FlaPol: Jeff Vinik leaves Water Street Tampa development group

WLRN: A Broward baptism: with no quorum, no vote on new schools superintendents contract

Times-Union: Mayor-elect Deegan hires election rival Al Ferraro, former City Council members to staff

FlaPol: Record-breaking travel in Florida expected over Independence Day weekend

AP: Elián González two decades on: From focus of international tug-of-war to member of Cuba's congress

Post: Brightline alternative: You will be able to soon take Tri-Rail from West Palm to downtown Miami

Sun-Sentinel: Investigation: South Florida's smaller airports top the country in toxic lead emissions, but at-risk residents remain unaware

News Herald: A 15-year-old will lead one of many Florida marches protesting DeSantis' new immigration law

Herald Tribune: Sarasota residents react to malaria outbreak; some remain unaware or unfazed

Herald Tribune: Sarasota a top location for moves in United States according to national movers PODS

Today: Brevard Commissioners spar with constitutional officers over budget questions

On the Docket

MONDAY, JULY 3, 2023

- STATE OFFICES CLOSED - State offices will be closed for a long holiday weekend.

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023

- STATE OFFICES CLOSED - State offices will be closed for the Fourth of July.
- DESANTIS CAMPAIGNS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tuesday, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. - Gov. Ron DeSantis, a 2024 Republican presidential candidate, is expected to take part in two Fourth of July parades in New Hampshire. - 10 a.m. in Wolfeboro, N.H. and 1 p.m. in Merrimack, N.H.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023

- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES CONSIDERED - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. - Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 686974885

- NEW COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH DISCUSSED - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The New College of Florida Presidential Search Committee will meet.
- <https://ncf.zoom.us/j/93159412322?pwd=aFZJS01WUzhBRDVzY0tKYUIReEdNQOT09>. Code: 536625
- TRAUMA SYSTEM AT ISSUE - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The state Trauma System Advisory Council is scheduled to meet. - Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 284814432

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=OERkeTU4eE1od0lZWbHOGVTblE4dz09>. 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.

Tropical Outlook

<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>



Seven-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook
National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



Current Disturbances and Seven-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: ✕ < 40% ✕ 40-60% ✕ > 60%
Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: ○ Depression ○ Storm ● Hurricane
⊗ Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin

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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

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button.

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