



The Briefing for Monday, July 31, 2023

The last Briefing was Saturday, July 29, 2023

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

2023 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday – Ends this Sunday - August 6, 2023

https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents/TIP_23A01-06.pdf

The 2023 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday ends on Sunday, August 6, 2023.

General revenue collections continued to top expectations as the state closed out a fiscal year

Collections exceed projections by \$432.4 million for June/ \$1.08 billion more 22-23 than estimated.

<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/revenues/reports/monthly-revenue-report/newsletters/nljun23.pdf>

According to the Office of Economic & Demographic Research, the state collected nearly \$4.664 billion in general revenue in June, \$432.4 million more than had been forecast. In addition, the state collected about \$47.33 billion in general revenue during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, which ended June 30, up from \$44 billion in the previous year. The year-end total was \$1.08 billion more than had been forecast in March. In June, for example, sales-tax collections were 11.1 percent higher than anticipated for the month. Additional observations -

- Consumer savings rate in Florida “continues to be subpar at 4.3 percent.”
- “persistent inflation conditions ... ultimately suppress collections as consumers spend more money on non-taxable necessities like food and health care.”
- Sales taxes from tourism, auto sales and documentary-stamp tax collections on real-estate transactions topped the March forecast.
- Construction sector in June had a monthly increase in jobs for the first time in 2023.
- The housing market “showed signs of continued stabilization of statewide median prices and improving inventory levels.”
- About 1,218 people move here per day, according to Census data,”
- Closed sales of existing single-family homes statewide during the second quarter of 2023 were down 11.2 percent from the previous year and existing condo-townhouse sales were off 17.7 percent in the same time.

A look at 30 Constitutional Amendment Proposals

The following two proposals are approved Legislative Joint Resolutions and will be on the ballot:

Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards - Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards: Proposes amendments to State Constitution to require members of district school board to be elected in partisan election.

Fishing and Hunting - Fishing and Hunting: Proposes amendment to State Constitution to preserve forever fishing, hunting, & taking of fish & wildlife as public right & preferred means of managing & controlling fish & wildlife; specifies amendment does not limit authority of FWCC.

The following list of 28 Citizen Initiatives are attempting to secure a position on the 2025 ballot:

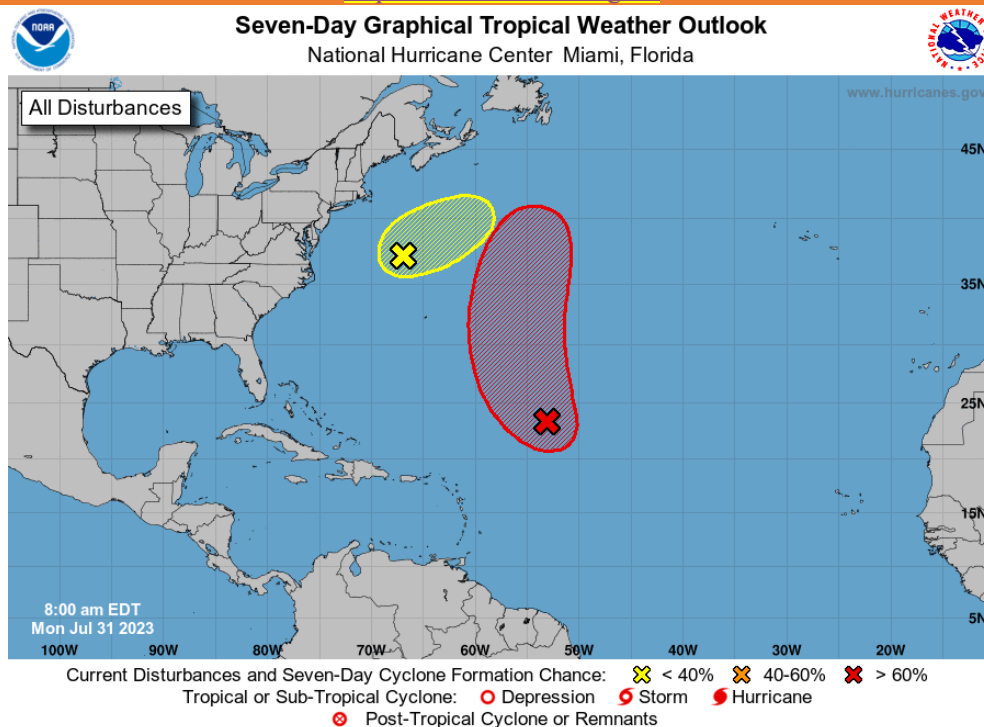
(Only one has secured the required # of signatures for consideration)

Title of Initiative	Entity Pushing Initiative
<u>Adult Personal Use of Marijuana</u>	<u>Smart & Safe Florida</u>
<u>All Voters Vote in Primary Elections for State Legislature, Governor, and Cabinet</u>	<u>Let Florida Vote</u>
<u>Allowing all voters to electronically sign constitutional amendment petitions.</u>	<u>Team FL</u>
<u>Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion</u>	<u>Floridians Protecting Freedom, Inc.</u>
<u>Applications for Executive Clemency</u>	<u>Floridians for Redeemable People</u>
<u>Authorizes a Limited Number of New Casinos.</u>	<u>Florida Voters in Charge</u>
<u>Authorizes sports and event betting; if betting revenues are taxed, taxes must supplement public education.</u>	<u>Florida Education Champions</u>
<u>Cabinet Reorganization Amendment; Commissioner of Education.</u>	<u>Let Florida Vote</u>
<u>Classroom Acknowledgement Amendment</u>	<u>Pledge of Acknowledgement</u>
<u>Constitutionally establish the Reedy Creek Improvement District as the historic area surrounding Walt Disney World.</u>	<u>Disney Defenders</u>
<u>Extended Legislative Sessions</u>	<u>Floridians for Redeemable People</u>
<u>Home Cultivation of Medical Marijuana</u>	<u>WISE & Free Florida</u>
<u>Human Life Protection Amendment</u>	<u>Protect Human Life Florida</u>
<u>Judicial Discretion in Sentencing in Criminal Cases</u>	<u>Floridians for Redeemable People</u>
<u>Jury Recommendation for Certain Sentences in Criminal Cases</u>	<u>Floridians for Redeemable People</u>
<u>Legalizes Personal Use Marijuana for Adults Twenty-One or Older, Permits Adults to Cultivate Marijuana.</u>	<u>Sensible Florida, Inc.</u>
<u>Limits or Prevents Barriers to Local Solar Electricity Supply</u>	<u>Floridians for Solar Choice, Inc.</u>
<u>Mandatory Consideration of Legislative Bills</u>	<u>Floridians for Redeemable People</u>

Minimum Wage Shall Not Be Less Than Ten Dollars An Hour	League of Voters, Extraordinaire
Offender Reentry Program Amendment	Floridians for Redeemable People
Offender Reintegration Program	Floridians for Redeemable People
Prayer Back in Schools	Write the Vision PC
Protecting property from forced sale.	Florida Coalition for Private Property Rights
Provide Medicaid Coverage to Eligible Low-Income Adults	Florida Decides Healthcare, Inc.
Require voter and legislative approval to dissolve a county, municipality, district, government department or agency.	Disney Defenders
Requiring a minimum of forty percent of Florida's annual budget to be appropriated for education.	Team FL
Right to Clean and Healthy Waters	FloridaRighttoCleanWater.org
Voting Eligibility Restoration Amendment	Fair Vote Florida

Tropical Outlook

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



Headlines Around the State

The Hill: DeSantis says Trump's 'juvenile insults' help him

Yahoo News: 'Incredibly egregious': Protesters line streets in front of DeSantis fundraiser in Cotuit
NBC News: Donald Trump's defamation lawsuit against CNN over 'the Big Lie' dismissed in Florida

News4Jax: Mar-a-Lago worker charged in Trump's classified documents case to make first court appearance

Herald: Donna Brazile says DeSantis is 'asleep at the switch'

WLRN: Federal judge sides with voting groups in drawing new Miami election map

Herald: Judge rejects Miami voting map, adopts new boundaries that pose a problem for Carollo

Sentinel: Feds scrutinize COVID-19 aid loans to Florida businessman whose relatives admitted fraud

NYTimes: DeSantis Jabs at Trump's Legal Trouble as He Resets His Campaign

WUSF: Florida Democrats working to be competitive again

Sun-Sentinel: Just what does home insurance cost in Florida? Estimates vary widely, and new state data might surprise you

The Capitolist: These are the constitutional amendment proposals most likely to reach ballots in 2024

City & State FL: Six state legislative races set to define the 2024 election cycle

WUSF: As school libraries face more scrutiny, public libraries are feeling the pressure as well

Ledger: One Polk County school is leading the way for elementary agriculture education in Florida

Today: Meet new Florida Tech President John Nicklow, who's getting his feet wet on campus

On the Docket

MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023

- TOBACCO MONEY - Monday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- HIGHWAY SAFETY DOLLARS - Monday, 9:15 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze highway-safety revenues. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SOUTH FLORIDA PLANNING COUNCIL- Monday, 10:30 a.m. The South Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. South Florida Regional Planning Council, 1 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 250, Hollywood.
- UCF TRUSTEES - Monday, 1 p.m. The University of Central Florida Board of Trustees will meet. Information at <https://bot.ucf.edu/>

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

- PROPERTY TAXES - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze ad valorem, or property, taxes. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- UTILITY ISSUES ADDRESSED - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will meet. Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD- Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. The Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet about student housing. Northwest Florida State College, Student Services Center, 100 College Blvd., Niceville.
- SCHOOL TRUST FUND - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss issues related to the State School Trust Fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

- UNCLAIMED PROPERTY - Tuesday, 1:45 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will take up issues related to unclaimed property. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023

- FAMU TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida A&M University Board of Trustees will hold a retreat. Sawgrass Marriott, 1000 Tournament Players Club Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.
- WAGES DATA - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Labor Market Estimating Conference will discuss “occupational wages and critical occupational groups of concern.” 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - 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
- CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNCIL- Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. CareerSource Heartland, 5901 U.S. 27 South, Sebring.
- EDUCATION TRUST FUND - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss issues related to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- LOTTERY REVENUES - Wednesday, 1:45 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to the Florida Lottery. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD- Wednesday, 2 p.m. The Florida Development Finance Corp. Board of Directors is scheduled to meet. Florida Development Finance Corporation, 156 Tuskawilla Road, Suite 2340, Winter Springs. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83648285199?pwd=Uk5SMmVhT FhvZlQ1WktjYkZiQmFI dz09 Meeting ID: 836 4828 5199. Code: 340371. Call-in number: 1-646-558-8656>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023

- FAMU TRUSTEES - Thursday, noon. The Florida A&M University Board of Trustees will meet. Sawgrass Marriott, 1000 Tournament Players Club Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.
- NURSING ISSUES - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. The Florida Board of Nursing will meet. Embassy Suites Tampa USF, 3705 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa.
- SCHOOL TRUST FUND - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will consider an “outlook” for the State School Trust Fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- COMMUNICATIONS TAX - Thursday, 1:45 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss the gross-receipts tax and the communications-services tax. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- TOURISM MARKETING - Thursday, 2 p.m. The Visit Florida Marketing Council will discuss tourism-marketing plans. <https://visitflorida.zoom.us/j/85622856055>. Meeting ID: 85622856055. Call-in number: 1-305-224-1968.
- HURRICANE RECOVERY - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. The Florida Department of Commerce will hold a public hearing about a draft Hurricane Ian State Action Plan, which is related to the state receiving \$910 million in federal money for resiliency efforts after Hurricane Ian. Seminole County Commission, 1101 East First St., Sanford.
- EXECUTION SLATED - Thursday, 6 p.m. Death Row inmate James Phillip Barnes is scheduled to be executed in the April 20, 1988, murder of Patricia “Patsy” Miller in her Melbourne condominium. Florida State Prison, 23916 N.W. 83rd Ave., Raiford.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023

- **PYTHON CHALLENGE STARTS** - The annual Florida Python Challenge, which offers prizes to people who remove invasive pythons from the Everglades, will begin. The event will end Aug. 13.
- **BOARD OF MEDICINE**- Friday, 8 a.m. The Florida Board of Medicine will meet. Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, 5445 Forbes Place, Orlando.
- **NURSING ISSUES** - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Nursing will meet. Embassy Suites Tampa USF, 3705 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa.
- **REDISTRICTING HEARING HELD** - Friday, 9 a.m. Leon County Circuit Judge J. Lee Marsh will hold a hearing in a lawsuit challenging a congressional redistricting plan approved last year by the Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis. Leon County Courthouse 301 South Monroe St., Tallahassee.
- **TRANSPORTATION MONEY ON TABLE** - Friday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze transportation revenues. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **CLINICAL LAB BOARD**- Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel will meet. <https://meet.goto.com/301224949>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 301224949
- **ORTHOTICS BOARD**- Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Orthotists & Prosthetists will meet. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 142192085
- **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**- Friday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Historical Commission will meet. <https://dos-myflorida.zoom.us/j/87539456909>
- **HURRICANE RECOVERY** - Friday, 11 a.m. The Florida Department of Commerce will hold a public hearing about a draft Hurricane Ian State Action Plan, which is related to the state receiving \$910 million in federal money for resiliency efforts after Hurricane Ian. Patel Center for Global Solutions Auditorium, 11710 USF Genshaft Dr., Tampa.
- **UNEMPLOYMENT FUND** - Friday, 1:30 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will update a forecast for the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

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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