

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind.”— Dr. Seuss

## *The Briefing for Saturday, July 29, 2023*

*The last Briefing was Wednesday, July 26, 2023*  
*How’s your weather – <https://weather.com/>*

### ***Say What? Not much!***

Here comes August!  
July went fast!  
Summer went faster!  
School Starts Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> in most schools  
On brink of Football Season  
Still time to have a beach body – Requirements: have a body and find a beach!  
New knee – August 23!

### ***Check these updated websites***

***[Small School District Council Consortium](#)***

***[Small County Coalition](#)***

### ***State Broadband Office Webinars and Workshops***

The Florida Department of Commerce Office of Broadband just completed a round of workshops and webinars on the state’s broadband program – linked below is a video copy and the slide decks used during the Virtual Workshops

***[Virtual Workshop Broadband Webinar #1](#)***

○ [Broadband Public Webinar Slide Deck | July 14, 2023](#)

○

**Rural And Family Lands Applications to be Ranked for Funding**

The state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has received over 180 landowners have applied to a state-funded Rural Lands Protection program – a program designed to protect rural property from commercial and residential development. The Department will rank the proposals that collectively seek to cover more than 200,000 acres. The deadline to apply for the program was Thursday.

The program puts land into conservation easements, allowing landowners to continue farming and cattle operations in exchange for not developing the property.

The Legislature appropriated \$300 million for the program last year, but only about \$50 million of the funds were spent. In May approved \$57.6 million to place 18,279 acres in St. Lucie, DeSoto, Walton, Hardee, Polk, Highlands and Charlotte counties into conservation easements.

The program is also viewed as helping to connect lands for the burgeoning Florida Wildlife Corridor. The corridor, which received \$850 million in the current fiscal year budget, is envisioned as connecting 18 million acres of land from the Florida Keys to the Panhandle. The legislature also approved \$200 million in SB 106 to expand Florida's Greenways and Trails System and the SUN Trail Network into the wildlife corridor.

**Areas Codes 305 and 786 will get a 645 Overlay to Accommodate New Phone Customers**

New phone customers in Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys will get a 645 area code starting Aug. 4. The new area code, what is known in the telecommunications industry as an “overlay,” will be assigned in the same territory as the 305 and 786 area codes that cover Miami-Dade County and the Keys. The Public Service Commission approved the new area code on Feb. 1. Current customers will keep their numbers.

**2024 Florida Association of Counties Policy Process Is Now Open  
for Consideration of 2024 Legislative Proposals**

The deadline to submit a policy proposal for the 2024 Legislation Session is August 11. If you have solutions or initiatives to help build a better Florida, don't forget to submit a policy proposal!

**Policy Proposal Guidelines**

Proposals should include:

- A draft policy statement declaring support or opposition of an issue.
- Any relevant history explaining why the policy position should be established.
- Information and/or statistics on how the policy impacts your county and any statewide implications.
- The fiscal impact of either the problem the policy position would correct or fiscal impact of implementing the proposed policy.

[Click Here to Submit your Policy Proposal](#)

[Policy Proposal Process Flowchart](#)

If you have any questions about the policy proposal submission process, please contact

[Bob McKee, bmckee@fl-counties.com](mailto:bmckee@fl-counties.com).

### One More Week

**2023 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday - July 24 Through August 6, 2023**

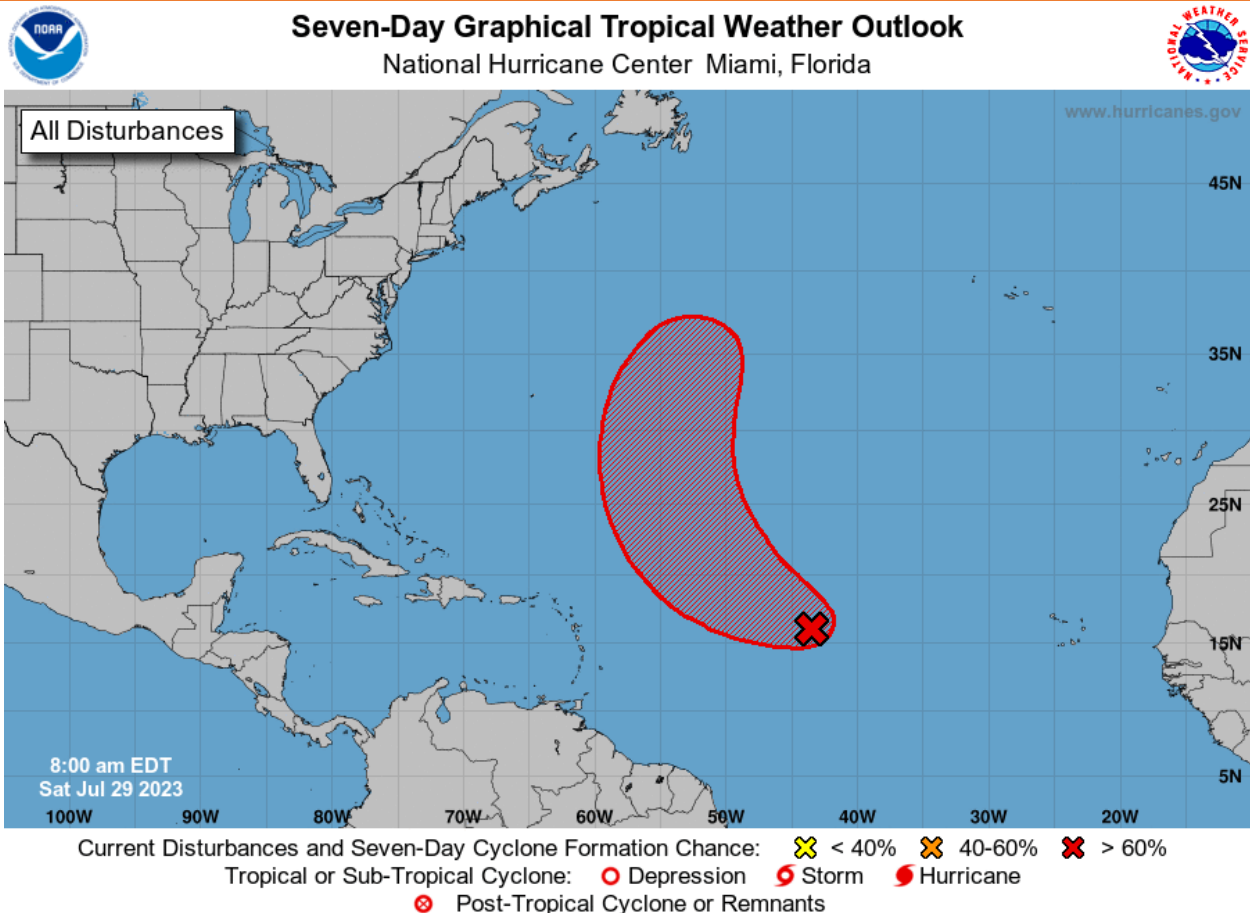
[https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents/TIP\\_23A01-06.pdf](https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents/TIP_23A01-06.pdf)

The 2023 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday begins on Monday, July 24, 2023, and ends on Sunday, August 6, 2023. There will be a second Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday beginning Monday, January 1, 2024, and ending on Sunday, January 14, 2024. During the sales tax holiday period, tax is not due on the retail sale of:

- Clothing, footwear, and certain accessories with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Certain school supplies with a sales price of \$50 or less per item,
- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles with a sales price of \$30 or less
- Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories with a sales price of \$1,500 or less, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use

### Tropical Outlook

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



## *Headlines Around the State*

*Herald: DeSantis campaign reset, sounds like familiar pitch at high-profile Iowa GOP dinner*

*Des Moines Register: Ron DeSantis unveils sheriffs' endorsements as he looks to jumpstart Iowa campaign*

*NBC: Looking for a fight, Ron DeSantis tangles with Kamala Harris*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis takes fight against Kamala Harris Black history 'hoax' to Iowa*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis claims Donald Trump could've 'leaned in harder' during Jan. 6 Capitol riot*

*Bloomberg: DeSantis Blasts Biden at Iowa Dinner of 2024 Hopefuls*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis backs away from installing RFK to run CDC, FDA*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says Bud Light advertising 'injured' Floridians*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis likens 2024 presidential campaign to World War II's D-Day*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis doubles down on vow to have 'no cocaine in the White House'*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says he didn't beg Donald Trump for endorsement in 2018*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis invokes Gerald Ford, floats clemency for Donald Trump*

*NYTimes: Trump, Spared Attacks by Rivals in Iowa, Doesn't Return the Favor*

*FlaPol: Donald Trump calls on Ron DeSantis to 'get out' of the 2024 race*

*Herald Tribune: New Sarasota County commissioner Rainford explains election bid for South County seat*

*WUSF: DeSantis appoints a Bradenton real estate broker to the Manatee County Commission*

*Politico: DeSantis rocked by Black Republican revolt over slavery comments*

*NBC: Black Republicans rebuke Ron DeSantis over Florida history standards about slavery*

*FlaPol: Byron Donalds blames Ron DeSantis campaign for 'dumb story' on Black history standards*

*Politico: GOP Rep. Donalds blames DeSantis campaign for dustup*

*Des Moines Register: Ron DeSantis says Tim Scott, DC Republicans are buying the left's lies on slavery lessons*

*AP: Scott criticizes DeSantis over his support for Florida's slavery curriculum as they stump in Iowa*

*Semafor: A wounded Ron DeSantis confronts a rising Tim Scott in Iowa*

*Times: Florida Rep. Anna Paulina Luna's latest foray in Congress: UFOs*

*Herald: Suarez can get big campaign checks from the wealthy. Can he get \$1 from regular folks?*

*WaPo: Trump aide Carlos De Oliveira's journey from failed witness to defendant*

*Politico: Florida judge rejects Disney's request to toss state lawsuit*

*FlaPol: Rick Scott wants answers if Air Force moves Special Forces command from Florida*

*Times: St. Petersburg mayor remarks on employee survey after anonymous emails*

*Herald: Voter registration meltdown: Democrats losing edge in Miami-Dade as Republicans gain*  
*The Messenger: Now Sweet Aardvaark Arthur Book Could Be on Chopping Block in Florida Schools*  
*Ocala Star-Banner: Marion County jail inmate was brutally attacked by fellow inmates. He's suing the sheriff*

*The Hill: Tim Scott hits DeSantis on new Florida curriculum: 'No silver lining in slavery'*  
*WLRN: Black lawmakers press Justice and Education Departments to investigate Florida's race curriculum*

*My News 13: DeSantis sees 'small town' Iowa as start of campaign reboot*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis warns Iowans about 'woke' AI*

*The Hill: DeSantis won't say if indictments should disqualify Trump in 2024: Voters 'make those decisions'*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis defends 'dark money' during town hall sponsored by his Super PAC*  
*News4Jax: Trump, DeSantis and other 2024 GOP candidates set to address Iowa Republicans at Lincoln Day Dinner*

*The Hill: Trump, DeSantis rivalry ratchets up with critical Iowa fundraiser*

*AP: DeSantis will headline a barbecue billed as South Carolina Republicans' largest annual gathering*  
*News4Jax: Trump accused of asking staffer to delete camera footage in Florida classified documents case*

*Sun-Sentinel: Trump says his lawyers have met with prosecutors ahead of possible 2020 election indictment*

*USA Today: Disney criticizes Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' attempt to remove himself from legal battle: 'Evade responsibility'*

*FlaPol: Rick Scott still won't endorse in GOP Presidential Primary*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says his Defense Secretary will have to 'slit some throats'*

*The Floridian: DeSantis Called an 'Unserious' Candidate for Considering RFK Jr. in his Administration*

*Herald: As Florida continues to bake, Biden announces ways to protect workers from extreme heat*

*The Floridian: Luna, Moskowitz Discuss UFO Hearing and Next Steps*

*The Capitolist: Pointing to potential foreign actors, Sen. Rick Scott calls for FBI investigation following Florida hospital cyberattack*

*The Floridian: Rubio Introduces Bill Prohibiting China's Usage of Genetic Material*

*The Floridian: Rubio and Scott Leverage Congressional Power to Block Biden EV Rule*

*WLRN: Florida politics are too hot for some business visitors*

*FlaPol: Hoping to improve school safety, Jared Moskowitz will lead congressional tour through MSD High School*

*Sun-Sentinel: Members of Congress will tour Stoneman Douglas massacre site before demolition*

*FlaPol: Florida's delegation wants farm bill to protect growers, benefits*

*WUSF: College athlete pay continues to evolve following laws passed in Florida and other states*

*WLRN: Guess where Miami ranks on list of America's 'urban heat islands.' Hint: step outside*

*News-Press: Panther disease may be caused by harmful algae blooms around preserve lands*

*DBNJ: Florida gas prices jump 20 cents in a week*

*Daily News: Most SWFL hospitals earn high marks for patient safety and outcomes*

*News4Jax: Former Duval superintendent lands new job as CEO of national anti-racist literacy nonprofit*

*NYTimes: DeSantis Debuts a Leaner Campaign. But Donors Have Their Doubts.*

*Politico: DeSantis reboot still dodges the biggest issue*

*NYTimes: DeSantis 2.0: Budget Venues, but a Familiar Stump Speech*

*News4Jax: DeSantis is defending new slavery teachings. Civil rights leaders see a pattern of 'policy violence'*

*Democrat: Controversial Florida African American history standards stirring intra-Republican feud*

*Politico: DeSantis to GOP Rep. Donalds: Whose side are you on?*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis squabbles with Iowa reporter over Florida's Black history standards*

*News4Jax: Local Rep. on African American History Task Force says she didn't know about state's new controversial slavery teachings*

*Sun-Sentinel: Now-fired DeSantis staffer created Nazi-symbol video, reports say*

*Times: Did Florida's enslaved learn beneficial skills? Here's what they said.*

*Sentinel: New state education office boosts conservative school board members in Florida, emails show*

*WUSF: DeSantis dismisses a faculty turnover issue at New College*

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis grouses about 'gender studies' degrees being paid for by 'truck drivers'*

*The Capitolist: ACLU of Florida backs recreational marijuana initiative, criticizes Supreme Court's handling of amendments*

*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis appoints 3 to Commission on Ethics*

*Democrat: \$2.5B to private schools? Record demand for vouchers after new law*

*Post: Florida's young voters: How big a share of electorate are they? How do they lean politically?*

*Herald: 'Voter registration meltdown': Democrats losing edge in Miami-Dade as Republicans gain*

*Sentinel: Florida Supreme Court to take up UF COVID shutdown case over refund of student fees*

*Herald: Judge to decide trial date for ex-Sen. Frank Artiles in sham candidate case*

*FlaPol: Former Caterpillar executive endorses Greg Folley for HD 81*

*FlaPol: Key West drag show performer challenging two-term incumbent in Monroe County's HD 120*

*WUSF: St. Petersburg begins process of repealing its own Tenant Bill of Rights*

*WUSF: Peacemakers in Miami use public health dollars to fight gun violence*

*WUSF: After 30 years, an arrest is made in the Jennifer Odom cold case*

*News4Jax: DNA matches Florida man serving 2 life terms to 1993 killing of 12-year-old girl, authorities say*

*Democrat: Breaking down the school district's \$666M budget, \$10 million increase in tax revenue*

*Democrat: FAMU alum Michael White appointed to university's Board of Trustees*

*WUSF: Jacksonville sheriff explains change in jail's health care provider after inmate's death*

*Herald: Amid teacher shortage, 'culture wars.' and living costs, Miami-Dade teachers to get pay hike*

### **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***

***[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.ssdcc.org](http://www.ssdcc.org) and click on the red **Briefing** button.

## **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)