



### **Important Webinar Tomorrow**

The FloridaCommerce will host a webinar on August 22, 2023, at 11 a.m., Eastern Time.  
See details below.

## ***The Briefing for Monday – August 21, 2023***

*The last Briefing was Tuesday – August 15, 2023*

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

### **Personal Tidbits**

#### **Congratulations to the Newly Weds**

*Mr. and Mrs. Alston and Irma Kelly*



Madison County Commissioner Alston Kelly and Irma Caruthers tied the knot this past Friday in Madison County. Wakulla Commissioner Ralph Thomas was the match-maker and Best Man!

#### **Under the Knife**

*Yours truly will go under the knife Wednesday for a “Total Knee Replacement”.*

*For a guy who hates the sight of needles but loves sedation this will be a mixed bag!*

*Appreciate all the advice – Here are the top comments I've received -*

- *“Are you sure you need it?” – X-ray shows bone on bone!*
- *“I'd rather go through 30 childbirths than another Knee replacement!” Yikes, now that got my attention!*
- *“Don't worry – it's routine!” – Riiiiight!*
- *“You should have been exercising better for the past few months” - Thanks for that rear-view mirror comment!*
- *“Make sure and do the rehab”! I got it!*
- *“You'll do fine!” – OK, I hope so!*
- *“You'll wish you had done this years ago!” Hopefully – we'll see!*
- *“You're gonna die!” – one of the four grandchildren. Actually that thought crossed my mind!*

***Recovery will be about six weeks!***

PS – My son-in-law “made” a really cool cane – his hobby is wood-working!

Mahagony with a Brass tip! That's love and it made me feel good!

### ***State Board of Education To Meet Wednesday***

The State Board of Education will meet Wednesday convening at 9:00am at the Collier County School Board Office - 5775 Osceola Trail -Naples, FL 34109. The agenda includes approval of the SBE/DOE Legislative Budget Request for the 2024-25 School Year. The agenda also includes a series of proposed rule revisions covering a range of topics – Please have your staff look over the agenda items.

[Link to agenda and agenda items](#)

### ***Proposed 2024-25 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget***

[Link to 2024-25 State Board of Education/DOE Budget Proposal/Request](#)

The 2024-25 Education Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request has been developed pursuant to law and the budget guidelines as adopted by the State Board of Education on May 24, 2023. Here's a few observations:

- Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program - \$350,000,000 is requested.
- Discretionary Millage Compression is Included
- Federally Connected Supplement is included.
- Funding for the Family Empowerment Scholarships are increased to \$534,897,907.
- Safe Schools proposed increase by \$40,000,000 – base of \$250,000 per district retained.
- Mental Health Allocation increase by \$20,000,000 – base of \$100,000 per district retained.
- Full funding for the Regional Educational Consortia Program – current level.
- Small District Factor – retained
- Comparable Wage Factor retained with base factor adjusted to 1.0 for districts below 1.0.
- Special Facility Construction Request - \$180,234,324 –
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year funding for Glades, Gadsden, and Putnam at balance of recommendation for 2022.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Year funding for Hendry, Wakulla, and Gilchrist – 50% of recommended funding from the 2023 SFCA Committee.
- K-12 Capital Outlay – maintenance, repair, renovation, and remodeling – zero funding recommended.
- Charter School - maintenance, repair, renovation, and remodeling – \$219,965,763 requested.

### ***Quick Links***

- [\*General Revenues exceed projections for 2024 by \\$2.77 Billion.\*](#)
- [\*County Unemployment Rates - July 2023 .docx\*](#)
- [\*Information on Wednesday's Republican Presidential Candidate Debate\*](#)
- [\*2023 Florida Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday begins on Saturday, August 26, 2023, and ends on Friday, September 8, 2023.\*](#)

### ***Important Webinar Tomorrow***

#### ***Legislation Provides For direct payment without being required to spend Local funds First***

As of July 1, 2023, a rural community or rural area of opportunity, as defined in Section 288.0656(2), F.S., may receive payment for costs for “verified and eligible performance that has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement.” This new provision was requested and supported by the Small County Coalition in its 2023 Legislative Priorities.

***Legislation sponsored by Rep. Shane Abbott and Sen. Corey Simon***

House Bill 1209 ([Chapter 2023-202 Laws of Florida](#)), sponsored by Rep. Shane Abbott and Sen. Corey Simon, passed during the 2023 Legislative Session requires Florida's state agencies to include language in their grant agreements that provides for the payment of specified invoices to certain counties or municipalities for certain verified and eligible performance. (Before the passage of House Bill 1209, a rural community or rural area of opportunity would have to expend its own dollars prior to reimbursement under its grant agreement).

**Who Qualifies for the direct payment provision?**

- A rural community, or rural area of opportunity, as those terms are defined in section 288.0656(2), F.S., must demonstrate financial hardship.
- A rural community, or rural area of opportunity, as those terms are defined in section 288.0656(2), F.S., which is located in a fiscally constrained county, as defined in section 218.67(1), F.S., is automatically deemed to have demonstrated a financial hardship.

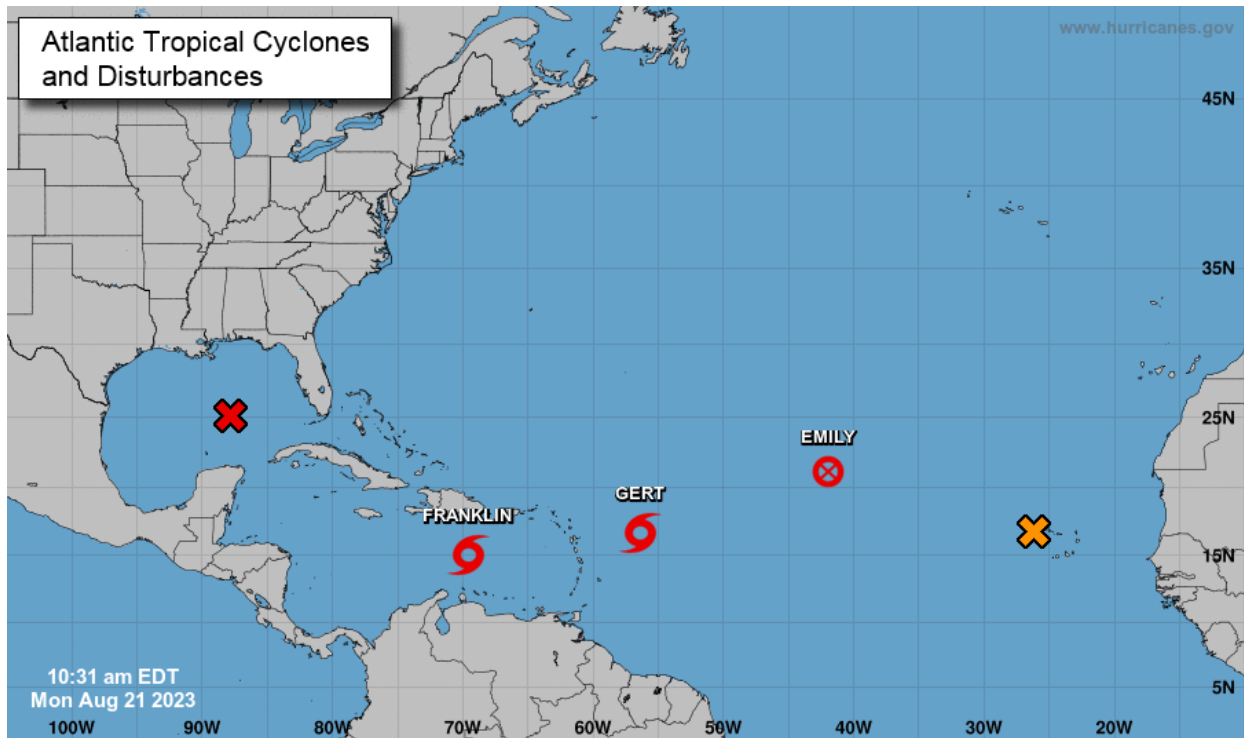
**Important Webinar Tomorrow – Tuesday August 22, 2023, at 11 a.m., Eastern Time**

Register to attend [HERE](#).

The FloridaCommerce will host a [webinar](#) on August 22, 2023, at 11 a.m., Eastern Time, for those interested in learning more about House Bill 1209. This webinar will provide specific information regarding the FloridaCommerce request, approval, and contract amendment process for existing agreements and contracts moving forward, and how to submit invoices for direct payment in the FloridaCommerce Subrecipient Enterprise Resource Application (SERA).

***Tropical Outlook***

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



### *Headlines Around the State*

*NYTimes: DeSantis Tweaks His Messaging and Tactics After a Tough Campaign Stretch*

*City & State FL: You've got (a lot of) mail: Ron DeSantis' campaign sends more email than GOP primary opponents*

*The Hill: Trump campaign bills DeSantis's 'listless vessel' remark as 'deplorables' moment*

*My News 13: DeSantis angers Trump backers after calling some 'listless vessels'*

*The Hill: Axelrod: DeSantis 'in most jeopardy' on GOP debate stage*

*Times: Why does Vern Buchanan not want fellow Republicans looking into UFOs?*

*Times: Latinos in Tampa: Navigating between political rhetoric and reality*

*Sun-Sentinel: Inflation waves keep sweeping South Florida economy amid post-pandemic rebound*

*Times: At New College orientation, students express hope and hesitation*

*Times: DeSantis pitches outsider campaign, relies on Florida insider cash*

*FlaPol: Old access-selling allegations draw fresh scrutiny on Ron DeSantis*

*City & State FL: Florida tax projections get \$2.77 billion bump, forecasters say*

*TCPalm: Florida families struggle to cope with increased food prices at the grocery store*

*FlaPol: Ruth's List endorses Marucci Guzmán in critical HD 35 Special Election*

*FlaPol: Business leader Lisa Hogan endorses Greg Folley in HD 81*

*PNJ: Escambia students, parents frustrated by 'open' libraries with concealed books collections*

*Herald: Florida's largest HOA is unraveling the mess caused by its ex board. It's costing millions*

*Sentinel: Many Central Florida arts groups see less from state, but some get first-time grants*

### **On the Docket Around the State**

#### **MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023**

- SEMINOLE STATE TRUSTEES - Monday, 2 p.m. The Seminole State College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford/Lake Mary Campus, Automotive Showroom, 100 Weldon Blvd., Sanford. [www.seminolestate.edu/live-video](http://www.seminolestate.edu/live-video)
- TCC BOARDS - Monday, 2:30 p.m. The Tallahassee Community College Board of Trustees will meet. Tallahassee Community College, Hinson Administration Building, 444 Appleyard Dr., Tallahassee.
- FLORIDA POLY TRUSTEES - Monday, 3 p.m. The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees will after a Finance & Facilities Committee. The board will discuss appointment of a presidential search committee after President Randy Avent recently announced plans to step down. Call-in number: 1-415-655-0001. Code: 24366722471
- DESANTIS APPEARS IN PANHANDLE - Monday, 6 p.m. Central time. Gov. Ron DeSantis will appear at a “pre-debate party” in advance of a Republican presidential debate Wednesday in Milwaukee. The Gulf on Okaloosa Island, 1284 Marler Ave., Fort Walton Beach.

#### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023**

- SOUTHWEST WATER BOARDS Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville.
- GREENWAYS AND TRAILS Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Greenways and Trails Council will, with the agenda including updates on trails in Orange and St. Johns counties. Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce, 341 Alexander St., Mount Dora.
- USF TRUSTEES Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The University of South Florida Board of Trustees will meet. University of South Florida, St. Petersburg Campus, University Student Center, 140 Seventh Ave. South, St. Petersburg.
- ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES CONFERENCE Tuesday, 11 a.m. Associated Industries of Florida will start a two-day conference, with panel moderators expected to include Rep. Mike Giallombardo, R-Cape Coral, and Rep. Will Robinson, R-Bradenton. Disney’s Contemporary Resort, 4600 North World Dr., Lake Buena Vista.
- SELF-INSURERS BOARDS - Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. The Florida Self Insurers Guaranty Association Board of Directors is scheduled to meet. Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Dr., Orlando.

#### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023**

- STATE EDUCATION BOARD - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The State Board of Education will in Collier County. Collier County School Board, 5775 Osceola Trail, Naples.
- GREENWAYS AND TRAILS AT ISSUE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Greenways and Trails Council will, with the agenda including an update on a trail in Marion County. Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce, 341 Alexander St., Mount Dora.
- 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

- CHILDHOOD POVERTY AT ISSUE - Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Florida Chamber Foundation will hold an online event titled, “Root Cause Matters: Addressing Safety to Tackle Florida Childhood Poverty.” Information at <https://floridaflcoc.weblinkconnect.com/events/Root-Cause-Matters-Addressing-Safety-to-Tackle-Florida-Childhood-Poverty-2338/details>
- COMMUNITIES TRUST BOARDS Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Florida Communities Trust Governing Board will meet. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8782684910490827094>
- CENTRAL FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Wednesday, 3 p.m. The College of Central Florida Board of Trustees will meet. College of Central Florida, Founders Hall, 3001 S.W. College Road, Ocala.
- HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Wednesday, 4 p.m. The Hillsborough Community College Board of Trustees will meet. Hillsborough Community College, Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson District Administration Center, 4115 North Lois Ave., Tampa.
- **GOP HOPEFULS DEBATE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. Republican presidential candidates, including Gov. Ron DeSantis, will hold their first debate. The debate will be held in Milwaukee and can be seen on Fox News.**

#### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023**

- SUBSTANCE ABUSE AT ISSUE Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council will meet. Florida Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee.
- WORKPLACE TRAINING CASE WEIGHED - Thursday, 9 a.m. A panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in Florida’s appeal of a district judge’s ruling that blocked part of a state law that placed restrictions on how race-related issues can be addressed in workplace training — a law Gov. Ron DeSantis dubbed the “Stop WOKE Act.” Elbert P. Tuttle United States Court of Appeals Building, 56 Forsyth St. N.W., Atlanta.
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Thursday, 10 a.m. The Florida Commission on Human Relations will meet. Call-in number: 850-270-6017. Code: 413055565
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is expected to resume releasing regular weekly opinions after a summer break.
- TOURISM - Thursday, 4 p.m. The Visit Florida Board of Directors Executive Committee will set an agenda for a Sept. 6 Board of Directors meeting. <https://visitflorida.zoom.us/j/81925160656>.
- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL - Thursday, 7 p.m. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City. <https://meet.goto.com/719521565>. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 719521525.

#### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023**

- CIRCUIT COURT CONSOLIDATION - Friday, 11 a.m. - The Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee, which was appointed by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Carlos Muniz, will to look at the possibility of consolidating judicial circuits. Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Ave., Orlando.
- **STATE REVENUES ANALYZED - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss monthly revenue estimates. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.**
- FSDB TRUSTEES - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Board of Trustees will meet. Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Moore Hall, 207 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.

#### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023**

- DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ‘HOLIDAY’ STARTS -The state will start a disaster-preparedness tax “holiday,” allowing people to buy a wide range of hurricane supplies without paying sales taxes. The holiday will end on Sept. 8. A similar tax holiday was held in late May and early June, around the start of this year’s hurricane season.

### ***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.

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