



The Briefing for September 20, 2023

The last Briefing was September 19 – 2023

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

College Football link-Schedules and Rankings

[NCAA Football Schedule for Week 4](#)

[Link to this Weeks AP Rankings for College Football](#)

Florida's Big Three – FSU, Miami, and UF all ranked in the Top 25

Local Funding Request Forms for Senate and House

[Senate Releases 24-25 Local Funding Initiative Request Form](#)

Senate Appropriations today released the 2024-25 Local Funding Initiative Request Form. The information provided will be published by the Senate for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.

[2024-25 Local Funding Initiative Request Form \[PDF\]](#)

[2024-25 Local Funding Initiative Requests](#)

[Prior Years Local Funding Initiative Requests](#)

House Local Funding Documents

[Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.](#)

[House Appropriations Project Request Form FY 2024-25](#)

[Appropriations Project Request Form Guidance - FY 2024-25](#)

[Attestation Form - FY 2024-25](#)

[Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions and Materials: House Appropriations Projects](#)

[House Prior Year FY 2023-24 Requests](#)

The Quick

Senate President Passidomo Asks for Input in Cutting Education Red-tape!

”If you would like to offer suggestions for repeals or revisions to Florida’s education code, I encourage you to complete the online survey the Department of Education is utilizing to compile ideas. With committee weeks starting this fall, the Senate will be working on legislation to formalize a plan for cutting red tape that hinders our traditional public schools, and we would benefit from your thoughts.”

[Helping our public schools thrive by cutting red tape | Pineapple Report](#)

[DOE Survey Requests Ideas for Cutting Red Tape](#)

The Florida Department of Education is seeking public input via this online survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FloridaHB1>

The state board shall review the entirety of the Florida Early Learning-20 Education Code for potential repeals and revisions. The state board must make recommendations addressing repeals and revisions to the statutes governing the transportation of students. The state board shall consider input from teachers, superintendents, administrators, school boards, public and private postsecondary institutions, home educators, and other entities identified by the state board.

***Congratulations Ginger Delegal and Denise Grimsley
Honored as Women who've gone Above and Beyond!
[Above & Beyond - City & State Florida \(cityandstatefl.com\)](http://cityandstatefl.com)***

***Timber Mill located in Taylor County Announces Plans to Close
525 jobs will be terminated with a wide impact in the region***

Georgia-Pacific **on Monday** informed employees and the public of plans to close the mill. “Various factors influenced this difficult decision,” reads a news release. “Ultimately, Georgia Pacific does not believe that the mill can competitively serve its customers in the long term despite the significant investments and commitment by GP Cellulose since the site was acquired in 2013.” The closure means the loss of 525 jobs in the small community. However, the door was left open by the owners the owners of the Georgia-Pacific Foley Cellulose Facility indicating that they would sell the business to someone else.

Agriculture Commissioner **Wilton Simpson**, said the state had no advance warning on the mill closure. After speaking to company executives, Simpson indicated that - “While Georgia-Pacific cannot make the numbers work for their corporation, they are willing sellers,” Simpson said. “As a state leader, I would welcome another investor or company to come in and take over operations. There are many economic incentives available, and Florida has an excellent climate for business. I challenge anyone to find harder working people than those in Taylor and surrounding counties.”

***New State Emergency Operations Center on the Docket
Projected for completion Quarter 4 of 2025***

The State of Florida is proceeding with construction of a \$180 million State Emergency Operations Center that is targeted to open in 2025. The new facility which will be in proximity to the current Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. The 2021-2022 state budget included \$100 million for planning, design, site acquisition, permitting and construction. The 2022-2023 budget had \$80 million for construction. The main room of the current building is designed for 200 people, but up to 400 people have been crowded into desk spaces when responding to storms. The new main room will provide space for 500 people. The new building is also designed to withstand winds up to 200 mph. The current, 27-year-old facility is built to withstand a Category 3 hurricane, which is reached when maximum sustained winds reach 111 mph.

Pondering Post-DeSantis – Here's the rumor list!

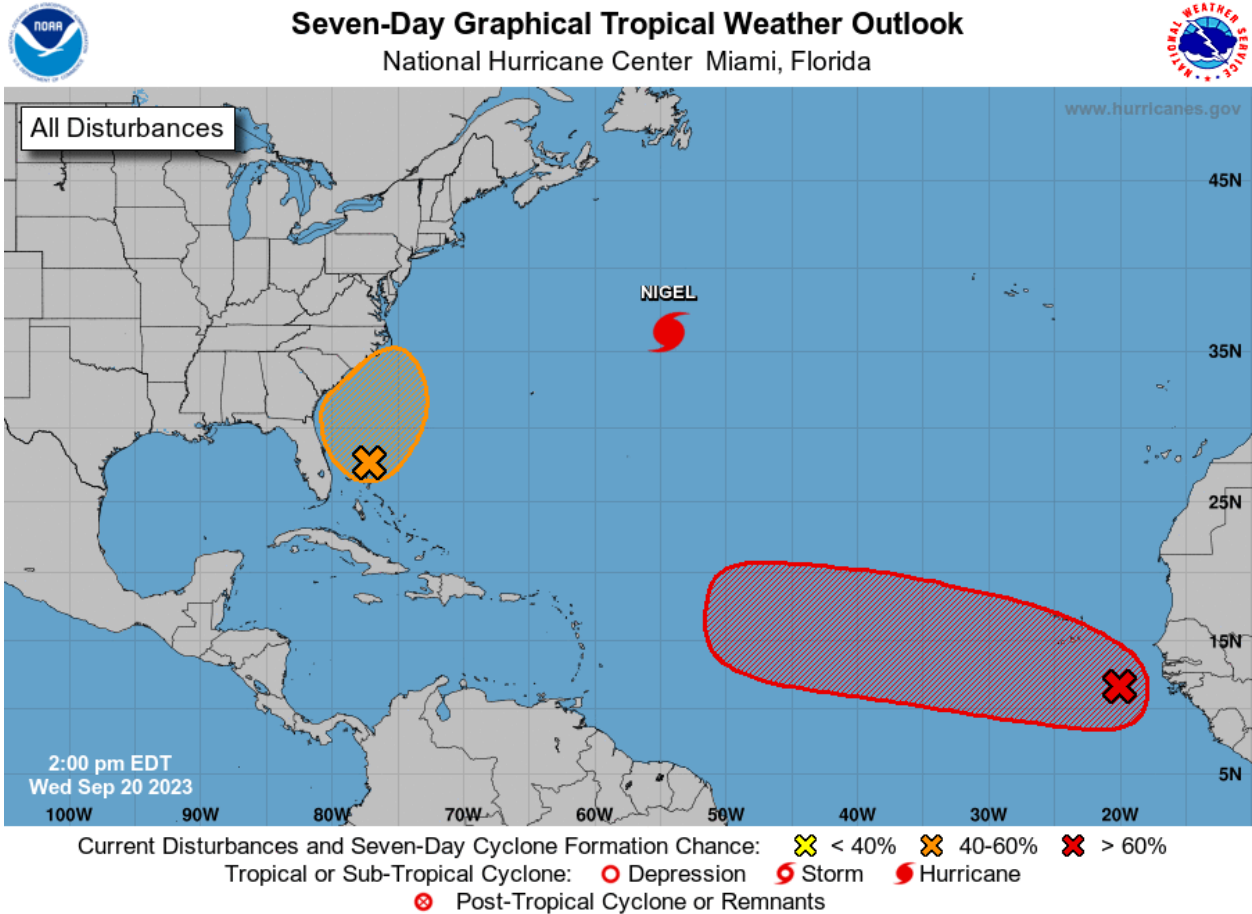
In case you were wondering, several prominent Republican names are being thrown around as potential successors to Gov. DeSantis, including Reps. Byron Donalds, Matt Gaetz, Cory Mills, and all three members of the current Florida Cabinet—Attorney General Ashley Moody, CFO Jimmy Patronis, and AG Commissioner Wilton Simpson. No Jeanette?

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)
[Link to the Florida House of Representatives](#)

Tropical Outlook

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



Headlines Around The State

Politico: DeSantis takes a swing at McCarthy in hopes of hurting Trump

NYTimes: Urgency Grows for DeSantis in Iowa as Trump Looks to Finish Him Off

FlaPol: 'New kid on the block' Ron DeSantis doesn't worry about Iowa poll struggles

CBS News: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis injects presidential politics into the COVID vaccine debate

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis addresses question about Ken Griffin defection

The Hill: DeSantis on new energy plan: 'We want to give people relief at the pump'

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says he can cut gas prices in half as President

FlaPol: Appellate court will hear challenge of Florida's congressional map

The Capitolist: Appeal to U.S. Supreme Court appears to be last chance to stop Seminole sports betting control

WUSF: Biden administration pushes back in a Florida higher education fight

Democrat: Three questions with Sen. Rick Scott after Tallahassee campaign stop

The Floridian: Scott Wants New Fed Governors to Cut Spending

Herald: Floridians who were previously undocumented as children fear lawsuit challenging protections

WUSF: White House says state-run, land-grant HBCUs are owed more than \$13B. Florida A&M is one of them

Times: Florida's New College experiment continues to grab national attention

City & State FL: Florida bar exam results bounce back to previous pass rate

FlaPol: D-SNAP benefits available in Florida counties impacted by Hurricane Idalia

PNJ: Florida ranks in Top 5 most sustainable states on Forbes Home report

News-Press: Riders on the storm: 5 animals besides flamingos that have been delivered to Florida

Star-Banner: Former top University of Florida official fired by Sasse hired at prestigious Caltech

Democrat: DeSantis looks to become politically reborn, touts abortion ban to faith-based voters

Politico: Ron DeSantis thinks pot is a menace to society. His biggest backer is working to legalize it.

Sun-Sentinel: Florida ethics cases sit on DeSantis' desk as he vows to 'break the swamp'

Herald: Developer who hired Mayor Suarez has lost his company — and now may lose his \$6M home

The Capitolist: Gov. DeSantis, Florida Cabinet approve of Pharmacy Benefit Manager regulations

Sentinel: Florida lawmakers oppose fertilizer giant Mosaic's 'radioactive roads'

FlaPol: Florida fatherhood initiative includes multimillion-dollar ad campaign, ex-convict assistance

City & State FL: School book battles continue in Florida

Times: Pinellas schools ban 5 books after hearing passages read aloud at meetings

Sentinel: Worrell reinstatement lawsuit backed by 5 former Florida Supreme Court justices

WLRN: Florida House Republican's bill targets youth work restrictions

PNJ: Florida introduces child labor bill that removes restrictions on how long some minors can work

FlaPol: Florida looks to increase number of wetland mitigation banks, credits available to developers

Times: School choice grows in one of Florida's hottest districts

The Capitolist: Space Florida Board authorizes \$350k contract for new CEO

FlaPol: Space Force veteran tapped to propel Space Florida into new era

FlaPol: Legislature v. Executive? Lawmakers ask FDOT oversight board whether it actually does anything

Times: Florida prisons use artificial intelligence to surveil calls

FlaPol: 3 more sitting Senators endorse Carlos Guillermo Smith in SD 17

FlaPol: After lost gun incident, Bill Roedy demands Mike Grieco drop out of Miami Beach Mayor's race

FlaPol: Wilton Simpson calls for investors to buy closing Perry mill

Herald: With half of Miami's elected officials under investigation, the city's history is repeating

Herald: Coral Gables mayor and an arrested lobbyist exit from politically connected brokerage

Governing: Miami-Dade Attempts to Stop Jailing the Mentally Ill

WLRN: He was the first in his family to go to college. Now he's president of FIU

Times: Pasco-Hernando State College announces new president

On the Docket Around the State

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

- MEDICAID ISSUES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Medicaid Medical Care Advisory Committee will meet. Agency for Health Care Administration, 2727 Mahan Dr., Building 3, Tallahassee.
- WATER QUALITY - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The state's Blue-Green Algae Task Force will meet. South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7339003053370481495>
- 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
- UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - Wednesday, 10 a.m. The state university system's Board of Governors will meet after holding a series of committee meetings. Committees will start at 10 a.m., with the full board expected to meet about 11:35 a.m. <https://fbog.zoom.us/j/89092956199?pwd=Uk12M1ZIMVdxcUVIMGQ0a0c4WEVYQT09>
- EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. 455 North Garland Ave., Orlando.
- SOUTH FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The South Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. South Florida State College, Highlands Campus, 600 West College Dr., Avon Park.
- PATRONIS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY- Wednesday, 2 p.m. State Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis is expected to hold a discussion in Palm Beach County about issues related to the Internal Revenue Service. Okeechobee Steakhouse, 2854 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.
- ST. JOHNS RIVER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m. The St. Johns River State College Board of Trustees will meet. St. Johns River State College, St. Augustine Campus, Viking Center, 2990 College Dr., St. Augustine.
- LAKE-SUMTER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 5 p.m. The Lake-Sumter State College Board of Trustees will meet. Lake-Sumter State College, Leesburg Campus, Kelly Convocation Center, 9501 U.S. 441, Leesburg.
- TURNPIKE WIDENING - Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold a public hearing on a project-development and environment study for widening part of the turnpike in Broward County. Chateau Mar Golf Resort, 3501 Inverrary Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

- DEFENSE ISSUES - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Defense Support Task Force will meet. Hampton Inn & Suites Miami South, 22855 N.E. Ninth St., Homestead.
- SOUTHWEST PLANNING COUNCIL - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2301 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91588729954?pwd=OVerTVNQVVpRZjQrY1Jab1dpMDBPUT09>. Meeting ID: 91588729954. Code: 082520. Call-in number: 1-929-205-6099.
- SPORTS FOUNDATION BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Sports Foundation Board of Directors is scheduled to meet. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82142951851?pwd=M8kauRgLuITwGu7W31qDTynZcJ21GY.1>. Meeting ID: 82142951851. Code: 612599
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Broward Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/broward-refugee-task-force-meeting>
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS- Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is expected to release regular weekly opinions.
- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council will meet. The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando.
- ‘BANNED BOOK READOUT’ - Thursday, 5:15 p.m. Rep. Angie Nixon, D-Jacksonville, is expected to take part in a “Banned Book Readout” held by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. James Weldon Johnson Park, 135 West Monroe St., Jacksonville.
- NORTH FLORIDA WATER ISSUES - Thursday, 6:30 p.m. The Suwannee River Water Management District will hold a workshop about a draft North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan. Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board Room, 9225 County Road 49, Live Oak. <https://northfloridawater.com/watersupplyplan/index.html>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

- DRUG LIST - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, which makes recommendations about a preferred drug list in the Medicaid program, will meet. <https://magellanhealth.zoom.us/j/91676269640?pwd=Z280MjdqaHVNZDJJBWkszUjF0Y0pPUT09>
- COLLEGE PRESIDENTS - Friday, 9 a.m. The Council of Presidents of the Florida College System is scheduled to meet. Tallahassee Community College Center for Innovation, 300 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY - Friday, 9 a.m. U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, a Florida Democrat who is chairwoman of the Caucus on the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, will host a panel discussion on African American history. Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place N.W., Washington, D.C.
- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council will meet. The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando.
- ACUPUNCTURE BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Acupuncture will meet. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 659073965
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. The Palm Beach Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/palm-beach-area-refugee-task-force-meeting>

- OPTICIANS - Friday, 2 p.m. The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 239471221
- GULF CONSORTIUM - Friday, 4 p.m. The Gulf Consortium, which works on issues related to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, will meet. <https://meet.goto.com/176854197>. Call-in number: 1-872-240-3212. Code: 176854197

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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