

## *In Memoriam – Jimmy Buffett*



The music world lost a light on September 1, 2023, when Jimmy Buffett died at 76.  
He was born on Christmas day in 1946.  
I'll toast with a Margarita before the FSU/LSU game tonight!

## *The Briefing for September 3, 2023*

*The last Briefing was Friday – September 1 – 2023*

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

### *The Quick*

#### **Federal Disaster declaration expanded adding six additional counties.**

##### **The declaration now covers 13 counties**

Six counties -Columbia, Gilchrist, Hernando, Jefferson, Madison and Pasco -have been added to the federal disaster declaration that was issued this past Thursday. The initial declaration covered seven counties - Citrus, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Suwannee and Taylor counties. There are now 13 counties covered by the federal disaster declaration.

The declaration makes federal money available for people affected by the storm. It further opens the door to such assistance as grants for temporary housing and home repairs and low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses. Money will also be available to help with debris removal and emergency-protective measures in the designated counties. The federal government will pick up 100 percent of such costs for a 30-day period "of the state's choosing," according to the White House.

#### **Judge Rules Redistricting Plan for North Florida Congressional District violated the Florida Constitution**

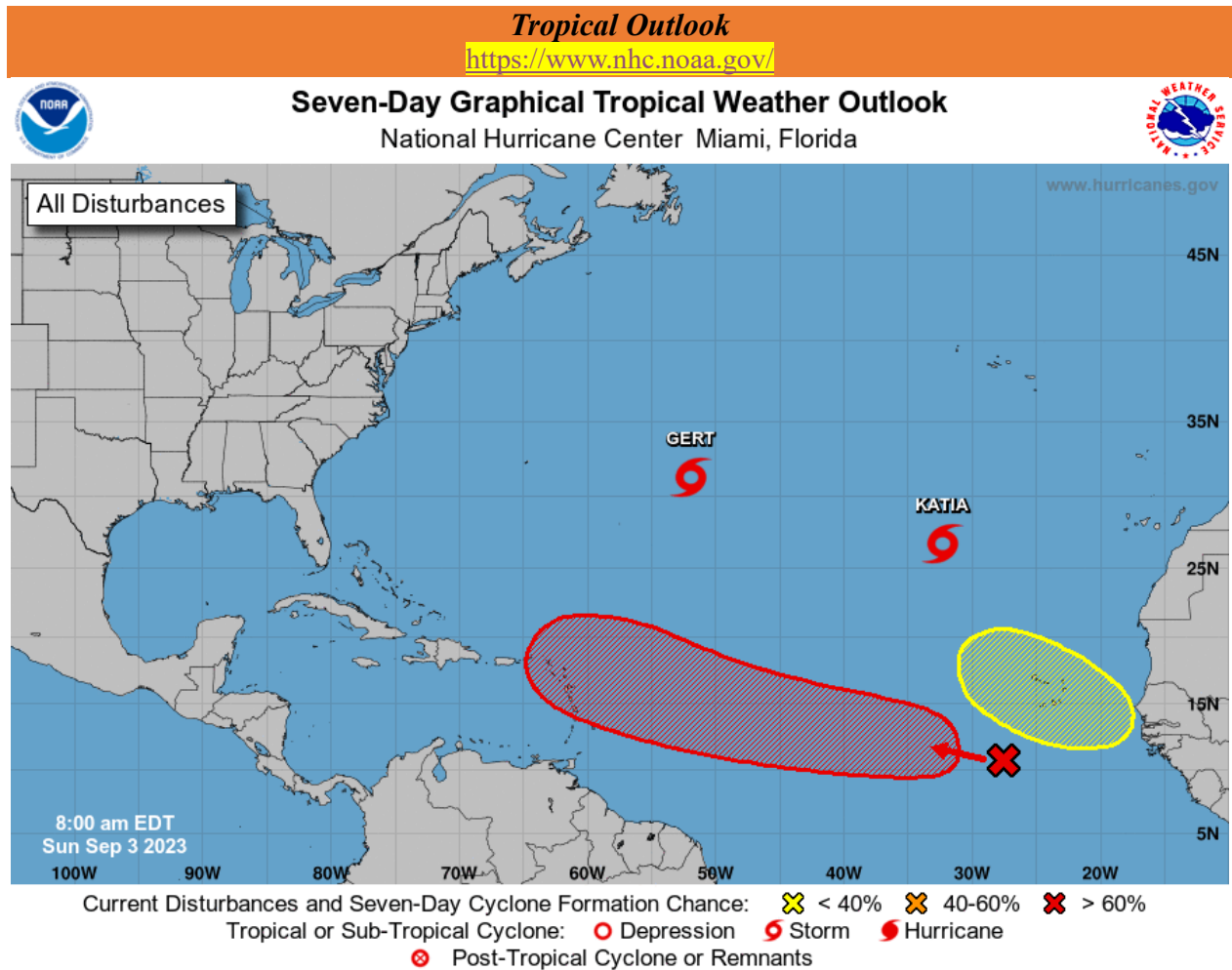
##### **[Copy Of Court Order](#)**

At issue in the case is the current Congressional Districting Map know as Senate Bill 2-C (Laws of Fla. Ch. 2022-265). The litigants contended that the enacted map violates Article III, Section 20 of the Florida Constitution (“Fair Districts Amendment”).

The disputed district in the past stretched from Jacksonville to Gadsden County, west of Tallahassee, incorporating areas that had large Black populations. The 2022 plan put the district in the Jacksonville area.

Florida voters in 2010 approved a constitutional amendment, known as the Fair Districts amendment, that set standards for redistricting. Part of that barred drawing districts that would “diminish” the ability of minorities to “elect representatives of their choice.”

Circuit Judge J. Lee Marsh ordered that the plan return to the Legislature “to enact a remedial map in compliance” with the state Constitution. The ruling, however, is expected to be appealed.



**Headline Around The State**

*Bloomberg: Biden Says DeSantis Trusts His ‘Desire to Help’ After Hurricane Idalia*

*Politico: In hurricane-torn Florida, Biden urges Congress to shore up emergency funding*

*Times: In Florida, Biden gets an aerial look at Hurricane Idalia damage*

*FlaPol: Joe Biden, Ron DeSantis teams ‘mutually agreed’ on location for presidential visit: FEMA*

*Politico: After DeSantis no-show, Scott stands next to Biden in Florida*

*The Hill: Biden praises Rick Scott after DeSantis snub: ‘I want to thank the senator’*

*FlaPol: In Live Oak, President Biden praises Rick Scott, Ron DeSantis*

*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis didn't see Joe Biden Saturday. What did he do instead?*

*Sentinel: Hurricane Idalia response gives DeSantis a break from rough news*

*FlaPol: Six additional Florida counties to receive FEMA aid in Hurricane Idalia's wake*

*AP: 2 people charged with looting as residents worry about burglaries following Hurricane Idalia*

*Politico: Judge says DeSantis' congressional map is unconstitutional, orders lawmakers to draw new one*

*FlaPol: Judge rules Ron DeSantis' congressional map wrongly diminished Black voting power*

*FlaPol: Judge strikes down Florida Congressional map, orders Legislative redraw*

*FlaPol: 'Terrorist act': Joe Biden decries racist mass murder in Jacksonville*

*Times-Union: A horrific shooting and a hurricane: 5 days that tested Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan*

*Times-Union: In the wake of a sinister act, Dollar General victims will be remembered for goodness*

*Politico: DeSantis' super PAC head honcho privately admits he's spreading dirt on Ramaswamy*

*AP: GOP lawmakers take aim at LGBTQ+ 'safe places' program in small Florida town*

*FlaPol: The family of Bob Graham celebrates the rollicking, meaningful life and career of Jimmy Buffett*

*FlaPol: Joe Biden, Bob Graham, and a chorus of Florida leaders celebrate the life of Jimmy Buffett*

*Politico: A poet of paradise: Presidents, pols pay tribute to Jimmy Buffett*

*Herald: It's mayor versus mayor in 2024 as Levine Cava gets a GOP challenger from Miami Lakes*

*FlaPol: Knock on wood? Florida in overdrive to support homeowners making insurance claims*

*WLRN: Signature Miami-Dade affordable housing program off to a slow start*

*NYTimes: In Florida, Even a Hurricane Can't Sweep Away Presidential Politics*

*NBC: Hurricane Idalia forces Biden and Ron DeSantis to get along — at least a little bit*

*Herald: Faced with hurricane, Trump, DeSantis respond in dramatically different ways*

*FPol: Tammy Duckworth will object to Rick Scott's disaster relief bill*

*WUSF: Pinellas beach officials asking feds to jumpstart beach renourishment after Idalia*

*Times: Clearwater Beach Hyatt ignored Idalia evacuation order, misinformed guests*

*Floridian: Moody Highlights Idalia Recovery, Contrasts with Massachusetts*

*Floridian: Scott Tours Taylor, Citrus County Following Idalia, Advocates for his Federal Disaster Responsibility Act*

*City & State FL: Thanks to Idalia, everyone knows where Florida's 'Big Bend' is*

*Times: How DeSantis' handling of Hurricane Idalia could impact his campaign*

*FlaPol: Memo reveals Ron DeSantis campaign's strategy to spin Hurricane Idalia as political lift*

*FlaPol: More strategy leaks spring from Ron DeSantis super PAC*

*Politico: DeSantis is trying to shape the GOP primary with internal polling*

*The Messenger: Why DeSantis Can't Count on Top Iowa and New Hampshire Endorsements to Push Past Trump*

*NBC: A 15-year-old shakes up New Hampshire with tough questions for Ron DeSantis and other 2024 hopefuls*

*NYTimes: Disney Changes Gears in Suits Against DeSantis and Allies*

*FlaPol: Prosecutors seek hard time for Joe Harding, but also acknowledge mitigating factors*

*Sentinel: Worrell confirms she was investigating Osceola deputies before suspension*

*FlaPol: Donna Deegan withdraws controversial pick for Jacksonville Neighborhoods Department head*

*Sentinel: Florida school vouchers can pay for Disney tickets and TVs. Is that OK?*

*Sun-Sentinel: Ken Keechl, Broward's first openly gay county mayor, dies at 60*

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

#### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023**

- STATE OFFICES CLOSED ---State offices will be closed Monday for Labor Day.
- 'FREEDOM SUMMER' HOLIDAY ENDS - Monday will be the final day of what the state has dubbed the "Freedom Summer" sales-tax holiday. The holiday, which started May 29, has provided sales-tax exemptions on recreation and outdoor items and entertainment events.

#### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

#### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

- FAITH-BASED PANEL - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Faith Based and Community Based Advisory Council is scheduled to meet. JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes, 4040 Central Florida Parkway, Orlando.
- 'GAIN TIME' ISSUE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in four cases, including a dispute about whether a man convicted of attempted sexual battery on a child is eligible to be for early release from prison. The Florida Department of Corrections asked justices to take up the issue, after the 1st District Court of Appeal in June rejected longstanding legal precedent and said inmate McMillan Gould should be eligible for what is known as prison "gain time." The appeals court said state law bars gain time for people convicted of committing sexual battery — but not, as in the Gould case, for attempted sexual battery. Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- 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
- TOURISM ISSUES - Wednesday, 2 p.m. The Visit Florida Board of Directors will meet in Orange County. Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Blvd., Orlando.

- PROPERTY INSURANCE - Wednesday, 6 p.m. Florida Senate Democrats will hold an online event about property insurance, with Insurance Commissioner Michael Yaworsky expected to take part. Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book, D-Davie, and Sen. Jason Pizzo, D-Hollywood, will host the event. <https://www.facebook.com/FLSenateDemocraticCaucus>

#### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

- BAR ACCIDENT CASE - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in four cases, including a case involving catastrophic injuries suffered by an 18-year-old woman after two Tallahassee bars served underage drinkers. The guardian for Jacquelyn Faircloth went to the Supreme Court after a panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal rejected a \$28.6 million judgment in the case. Faircloth was injured when she was hit by a pickup truck in 2014 while crossing a street about 2 a.m., according to court records. The driver of the truck, 20-year-old Devon Dwyer, had been drinking at Potbelly's, a bar near the Florida State University campus, while Faircloth had been drinking at another establishment, Cantina 101. Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- BISCAYNE BAY WATER QUALITY - Thursday, 9 a.m. The state Biscayne Bay Commission is scheduled to meet. Florida International University, Biscayne Bay Campus, Wolfe University Center, 3000 N.E. 151st St., North Miami.
- GAMBLING ISSUES - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- NORTHEAST PLANNING COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet. Northeast Florida Regional Council, 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville. <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>. Meeting ID: 87499770491
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is expected to release regular weekly opinions.
- CONCEALED CARRY - Thursday, noon. The Sarasota Tiger Bay Club will host a discussion about a new state law that allows people to carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses. Speakers are expected to include Rep. Tommy Gregory, R-Lakewood Ranch, and Rep. Michele Rayner, D-St. Petersburg. Michael's on East, 1212 South East Ave., Sarasota.
- FED CEO VISITS COLLEGE - Thursday, 3:45 p.m. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta CEO Raphael Bostic and Broward College President Gregory A. Haile will discuss economic issues during an event open to students and local business leaders. Broward College, A. Hugh Adams Central Campus, Health Sciences Simulation Center, 3501 Davie Road, Davie.
- U.S. 98 WIDENING - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Central time. The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting on a \$110 million plan to widen a nearly five-mile stretch of U.S. 98 in Bay County. Panama City Beach City Hall, 17007 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach. <https://nwflroads.com/>

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2023**

- ETHICS COMMISSION - Friday, 8:45 a.m. The Florida Commission on Ethics is scheduled to consider dismissal of a long-running ethics case against former state Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater. 1st District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee.
- ABORTION HEARING - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in a constitutional challenge to a 2022 law that prevented women from having abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The case involves questions about whether a privacy clause in the Florida Constitution protects abortion rights. Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- HOUSING ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation Board of Directors will meet. Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, 225 East Coastline Dr., Jacksonville.

- FSU TRUSTEES - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida State University Board of Trustees will meet after holding a series of committee meetings Thursday. Augustus B. Turnbull Florida State Conference Center, 555 West Pensacola St., Tallahassee.
- **STATE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK** - Friday, 10 a.m. The Joint Legislative Budget Commission, which is made up of House and Senate members, will take up a series of issues including receiving a presentation about a long-range financial outlook for the state. 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- NURSING BOARD - Friday, 10 a.m. The Florida Board of Nursing will meet. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 275112502
- CORRECTIONAL MEDICAL BOARD - Friday, 1:30 p.m. The state Correctional Medical Authority is scheduled to meet. Hampton Inn & Suites Gainesville-Downtown, 101 S.E. First Ave., Gainesville. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 344085830
- UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - Friday, 2 p.m. The state university system's Board of Governors is scheduled to meet. Information at <https://www.flbog.edu/session/board-of-governors-committee-meetings-and-full-board-wlvzdze/>
- TAX 'HOLIDAYS' END - Friday is the final day of disaster-preparedness and "tool time" tax "holidays." The disaster-preparedness holiday, which started Aug. 26, allows people to stock up on storm supplies without paying sales taxes. The week-long tool-time holiday offers sales-tax exemptions on a variety of goods, such as tools and work boots.

### *Information sites*

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/>

- **Executive Orders**
  - [Governor Desantis Issues EO-23-171 \(8/26/2023\)](#)
  - [FLHSMV Issues EO 082623 \(8/26/2023\)](#)
  - [EO-23-171 Amendment to EO 23-171 \(8/28/2023\)](#)
  - [Executive Order 23-175 Amendment to EO 23-171 \(8/29/2023\)](#)
- **State Assistance Information Line**
  - [☞ State Assistance Information Line: 1-800-342-3557](#)
- **Traffic**
  - [Florida 511](#) - Get up-to-the-minute, real-time traffic conditions and incident information for the State of Florida with Florida 511.
  - [Florida Highway Patrol](#) - Florida Highway Patrol Live Traffic Crash and Road Condition Report. Reports are updated every five minutes. Incidents located within city limits also may not show on the map since it is not common practice for FHP to work incidents inside city limits.
  - [Florida Traffic](#) - Traffic incidents and conditions from Florida 511 and Florida Highway Patrol brought to you by Florida State Emergency Response Team Geographic Information Systems.

### *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](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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