



## *The Briefing for November 7, 2023*

*The last Briefing was November 4 – 2023*  
*How's your weather – <https://weather.com/>*

### ***Games this weekend!***

[College Football Schedule for Week 11 - 2023 Season - ESPN](#)

**Miami at FSU Tops the Bill**

### **Senate and House Committees Move Special Session Bills Forward**

#### **Mondays Actions - Disaster Relief and Increasing Vouchers Committees Approve Idalia Relief Bills**

Florida House and Senate committees moved forward two similar bills that provide disaster relief for counties hit by Hurricane Idalia. The bills provide more than \$400 million in relief, including \$176.2 million to clear a backlog on the My Florida Safe Home Program. The bills also provide property tax breaks for damaged agricultural equipment, including a processing facilities. Farmers representing groups such as the Florida Forestry Association, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association thanked legislators for helping the state's agriculture industry recover from Hurricane Idalia.

[Presentation and testimony on SB 2C – Disaster Relief by Senator Simon](#)

Presentation of SB 2C starts at the 54:20 mark.

[Presentation and testimony on HB 1C - Disaster Relief by Rep. Shoaf.](#)

Representative Shoaf's Presentation on the bill starts at the 15:58 mark

#### **Senator Simon Issues Stern Warning to Georgia Pacific**

In the Senate Fiscal policy – Senator Corey Simon presented SB 2C and issued a stern warning to Georgia-Pacific Corp. against anticipating to use the legislation to benefit their company. Georgia-Pacific closed its pulp mill and laid off more than 500 employees in September, a move that is economically devastating to Taylor County and the regions timber industry. Georgia-Pacific announced closure of its plant in Perry but the decision was not related storm damage. The Small County Coalition presented testimony in favor of the legislation in both the Senate and House committees.

#### **Bills Increasing Voucher Program Move Forward**

During the first day of Special Session C - House and Senate committees approved identical bills that will remove the cap that was set for the state-funded universal voucher program. The bills propose to remove the cap on the number of vouchers for the current school year and extend the window to apply for the vouchers until Dec. 15, allowing potentially thousands of new students access to the scholarships. The bills will enable potentially 9,000 additional students to participate in the program.

### **Deregulating Public Schools**

In response to requirements in HB 1 passed in the 2023 Legislative Session the DOE, the House, and the Senate are exploring proposals to bring flexibility by eliminating an/or revising existing regulations governing K-12 public education. Today and tomorrow, Senate and House committees will hear presentations on DOE proposals and the Senate K-12 committee will consider additional proposals designed by a process that solicited changes. Here's the schedule and background:

**Today - Senate Education Pre-K -12: 3:45—6:00 p.m: Workshop on Recommendations to Reduce Regulations on Public Schools**, Pursuant to Section 11, Chapter 2023-16, Laws of Florida.

[Senate Committee Meeting Packet with Deregulation Proposals from DOE and Senate](#)

**Tomorrow – House Education Quality Subcommittee (Education & Employment Committee) 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Presentation on Recommendations from the State Board of Education of Repeals and Revisions to the Florida Early Learning-20 Education Code Required by House Bill 1, Ch. 2023-16, L.O.F.**

Although no meeting packet was available – the agenda will cover the material in this PDF.



HB1\_Final\_Senate[60  
].pdf

### **Legislative Calendar**

[Senate Calendar for November 7 and rest of week](#)

[House Calendar for November 7 and rest of week](#)

### **Links to Monitor the Legislative Session**

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)

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

[The Florida Channel](#)

### **Draft Legislative Programs**

[Small School District Council Consortium - 2024 Legislative Priorities - Draft - August 2023\\_.docx](#)

[The Small County Coalition - 2024 Legislative Program - October 2023 .docx](#)

### **Important Meeting Dates**

- November 15-17 - FAC Legislative Conference – Tampa
- November 16 - Small County Coalition Lunch meeting - Tampa
- Nov 28–Dec 1 - FSBA/FADSS 78th Annual Joint Conference, Tampa
- Nov 30 - Small District Breakfast at FSBA – Tampa

### **Headlines Around The State**

[Politico: DeSantis, trailing Trump, seeks spark in Iowa with Reynolds endorsement](#)

[Herald Tribune: As he enters third debate, Ron DeSantis has a big Nikki Haley problem](#)

*Times: In Florida, DeSantis tries to shake Trump's hold*  
*The Capitolist: Redistricting plaintiffs face skeptical court*

*News4Jax: Morale down, cronyism up after DeSantis takeover of Disney World government, ex-employees say*

*Axios: Florida sees rise in food insecurity*

*WUSF: Invisible fences could be the future of cattle ranching in Florida and climate change research*

*Times: Some Florida houses are being built to survive hurricanes, cut emissions*

*WLRN: Rescued Florida corals are ready to return to the ocean*

*Sun-Sentinel: 'It was insane': Second-heaviest Burmese python caught in Florida — a 198-pound beast*

*USA Today: Charlie Adelson found guilty in 2014 murder-for-hire killing of Dan Markel*

*NBC Miami: Broward dentist convicted in 2014 murder-for-hire of former brother-in-law, a professor*

*WUSF: Home schooling is growing across the nation, especially in the Tampa Bay area*

*WLRN: Florida pedestrians, bicyclists call for stronger protections against drivers*

*Axios: Gaetz, Donalds stoke speculation on runs for Florida governor*

*Democrat: GOP-controlled Legislature heeds DeSantis call for Iran sanctions*

*Democrat: Pro-Israel, Jewish legislation flies through first day of Florida special session*

*WLRN: Florida lawmakers are poised to further limit any Iran investments over Hamas links*

*FlaPol: Senate committee resolves to support Israel and 'not to remain silent'*

*FlaPol: Lawmakers add \$45M to boost security at Jewish facilities, organizations at 'high risk for violent attack'*

*My News 13: Lawmakers kick off special session to address property insurance, school vouchers and Iran sanctions*

*Times: Will DeSantis push to expand toll breaks for Florida drivers into 2024?*

*WUSF: Legislators back money for Hurricane Idalia aid and the My Safe Florida Home program*

*Yahoo News: Florida Legislature prioritize Hurricane Idalia recovery efforts with a \$417 million plan*

*Sentinel: GOP-controlled Legislature rejects bills on affordable housing, property insurance, Medicaid expansion*

*Times: Plan to lift cap for school voucher program moves forward in Florida Legislature*

*WLRN: A committee says Florida's judicial circuits should not be consolidated*

*The Capitolist: Lt. Gov Jeanette Nuñez: more than 100 space launches slated for 2024*

*Post: Greyhound amendment ended Florida dog racing. Five years later, some unfinished business.*

*WUSF: Tampa Police release statistics from increased patrols in Ybor City*

*AP: Florida lawmakers to begin special session by expressing support of Israel*

*Herald: Lawmakers return to Tallahassee to address Florida issues, DeSantis' Israel agenda*

*WUSF: Florida lawmakers will address rising property insurance costs during a special session*

*Sun-Sentinel: 'We don't feel safe.' As antisemitism threat rises, South Florida's Jews arm themselves*

*Post: 'Their silence is killing people': Residents want health warnings about sugar-cane fires*

*WUSF: The future of 'Students for Justice in Palestine' at USF is still uncertain*

*Semafor: 'Florida is Trump country': DeSantis struggles to defend his home turf*

*FlaPol: Can a Floridian win the presidency? It hasn't happened yet as Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis vie to be first*

*FlaPol: In the fast lane: Shannan Boxold moves to The Southern Group*

### ***ON THE DOCKET FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6***

#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

##### **— Legislature:**

- VETERANS - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will receive presentations from leaders of Veterans Florida and the Florida Veterans Foundation. 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- CONFIRMATION HEARINGS - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee will hold confirmation hearings for appointees to numerous boards, including trustees of Florida SouthWestern State College, The College of the Florida Keys, Florida Gateway College, Pasco-Hernando State College and Polk State College. 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The House will hold a floor session as part of a special legislative session called to address a series of issues, including bolstering state sanctions against Iran and providing additional assistance to people affected by Hurricane Idalia. House chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSING LAW - Tuesday, 10:45 a.m. The Senate Community Affairs Committee will receive a presentation from the Florida Housing Finance Corp. about the "Live Local Act," a law passed this year to try to boost workforce housing. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SIMPSON DISCUSSES AGRICULTURE - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson will speak to the Senate Agriculture Committee. 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group will set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- EDUCATION PROGRAMS - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. The House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee will receive a presentation from the Department of Education about a series of programs. 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- COURT SYSTEM BUDGETS - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. The House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee will receive presentations about a series of budget requests, including for the state courts system, the attorney general's office, state attorneys and public defenders. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL REGULATIONS - Tuesday, 3:45 p.m. The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee will receive a presentation about recommendations to reduce regulations on public schools. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

**—Also:**

- SPECIAL HOUSE ELECTION - A special primary election will be held Tuesday in House District 35 in Orange and Osceola counties. The seat opened when former Rep. Fred Hawkins, R-St. Cloud, was appointed president of South Florida State College. The special general election will be Jan. 16. Candidates are Democrats Rishi Bagga, Marucci Guzman and Tom Keen and Republicans Erika Booth, Ken Davenport and Scotty Moore.
- JUDICIAL CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The 19th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for a circuit-judge position. The 19th Circuit is made up of Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. Applicants expected to be interviewed are Jeffrey P. Battista, Lillian B. Ewen, MaryEllen M. Farrell, Brennan Keeler, Preethi Sekharan and Robert Eugene Stone Jr. Martin County Courthouse, 100 S.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart.
- TRIUMPH GULF COAST - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Central time. The board of Triumph Gulf Coast, which helps administer settlement money from the Deepwater Horizon disaster, will meet. Among the issues will be a proposal for the Institute for Strategic Partnerships, Innovation, Research, and Education at Florida State University Panama City. Walton County Commission chamber, 571 U.S. 90 East, DeFuniak Springs.
- SPORTS FOUNDATION LEADER SPEAKS - Tuesday, noon. Angela Adams Suggs, chief executive officer of the Florida Sports Foundation, will speak to the Economic Club of Florida. AC Hotel by Marriott, 801 South Gadsden St., Tallahassee.
- LONG-TERM CARE - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program State Council will meet. Embassy Suites by Hilton, 555 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

**—Legislature:**

- DOCTOR, NURSE WORKFORCE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee will receive a briefing on the physician and nurse workforce. Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- BARBER LICENSES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The House Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 133), filed by Rep. Kevin Chambliss, D-Homestead, and Rep. Rachel Plakon, R-Lake Mary, that would make licensing changes related to barbers and cosmetologists. 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Senate will hold a floor session as part of a special legislative session to address a series of issues, including bolstering state sanctions against Iran and providing additional assistance to people affected by Hurricane Idalia. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The House Criminal Justice Subcommittee will receive a presentation about a statewide database for tracking sexual-assault evidence kits. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- EDUCATION LAW CHANGES - Wednesday, 3 p.m. The House Education Quality Subcommittee will receive a presentation about recommendations for revising or repealing parts of a state education code. Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL DISTRICTS - Wednesday, 3 p.m. The House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee will receive a presentation from the state Department of Commerce about special districts. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- TOWING LAWS - Wednesday, 3 p.m. The House Transportation & Modals Subcommittee will receive a presentation about laws related to towing. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

**— Also:**

- MARIJUANA INITIATIVE DEBATED - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in three cases, including a dispute about a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow recreational use of marijuana by people ages 21 and older. The Smart & Safe Florida political committee, which is leading the initiative, needs the Supreme Court to sign off on the proposed ballot wording before the measure can go before voters in November 2024. But the proposal has drawn opposition from Attorney General Ashley Moody. The Supreme Court reviews ballot initiatives to make sure they would not be confusing to voters and address single subjects. Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Florida Commission on Offender Review, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- CONSERVATION PROGRAM - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will hold a meeting about the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program. UF/IFAS Extension Services Building, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee.
- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION PANEL - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The state Commission for Independent Education will meet. Information at <https://www.fldoe.org/policy/cie/commission-meeting.stml>
- 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
- TRANSPORTATION - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The Florida Transportation Commission is scheduled to meet. Florida Department of Transportation, 605 Suwannee St., Tallahassee.
- REFUGEE - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. The Jacksonville Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/jacksonville-area-refugee-task-force-meeting-0>
- FAMU DISCRIMINATION ARGUMENTS HEARD - Wednesday, 3 p.m. U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle will hold a hearing on a request by state education officials to dismiss a potential class-action lawsuit alleging the state has discriminated against historically Black Florida A&M University in such things as funding. Call-in number: 1-888-684-8852. Access Code: 3243416. Security Code: 1234
- GOP CANDIDATES DEBATE - Wednesday, 8 p.m. Gov. Ron DeSantis and other Republican presidential candidates will debate in South Florida. Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

**— Legislature:**

- SENATE FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session as part of a special legislative session to address a series of issues, including bolstering state sanctions against Iran and providing additional assistance to people affected by Hurricane Idalia. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- CHARTER SCHOOLS - Thursday, 9 a.m. The House Choice & Innovation Subcommittee will receive presentations about the Tallahassee Collegiate Academy at Tallahassee Community College and the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation at Miami Dade College. Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.

- PROPERTY LAW - Thursday, 9 a.m. The House Civil Justice Subcommittee will receive a presentation from Lee County Clerk of Court Kevin C. Karnes about a new law dealing with “real property fraud.” 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- AGENCY BUDGETS - Thursday, 9 a.m. The House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee will receive presentations about budget requests for the Division of Emergency Management, the Department of Transportation and the Department of State. 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- HEALTH PANEL EYES BUDGETS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee will receive presentations about budget requests for the Department of Elder Affairs, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CAVE, CORAL - Thursday, 11 a.m. The House Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee will receive presentations about issues such as underwater cave systems and coral restoration programs. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

**— Also:**

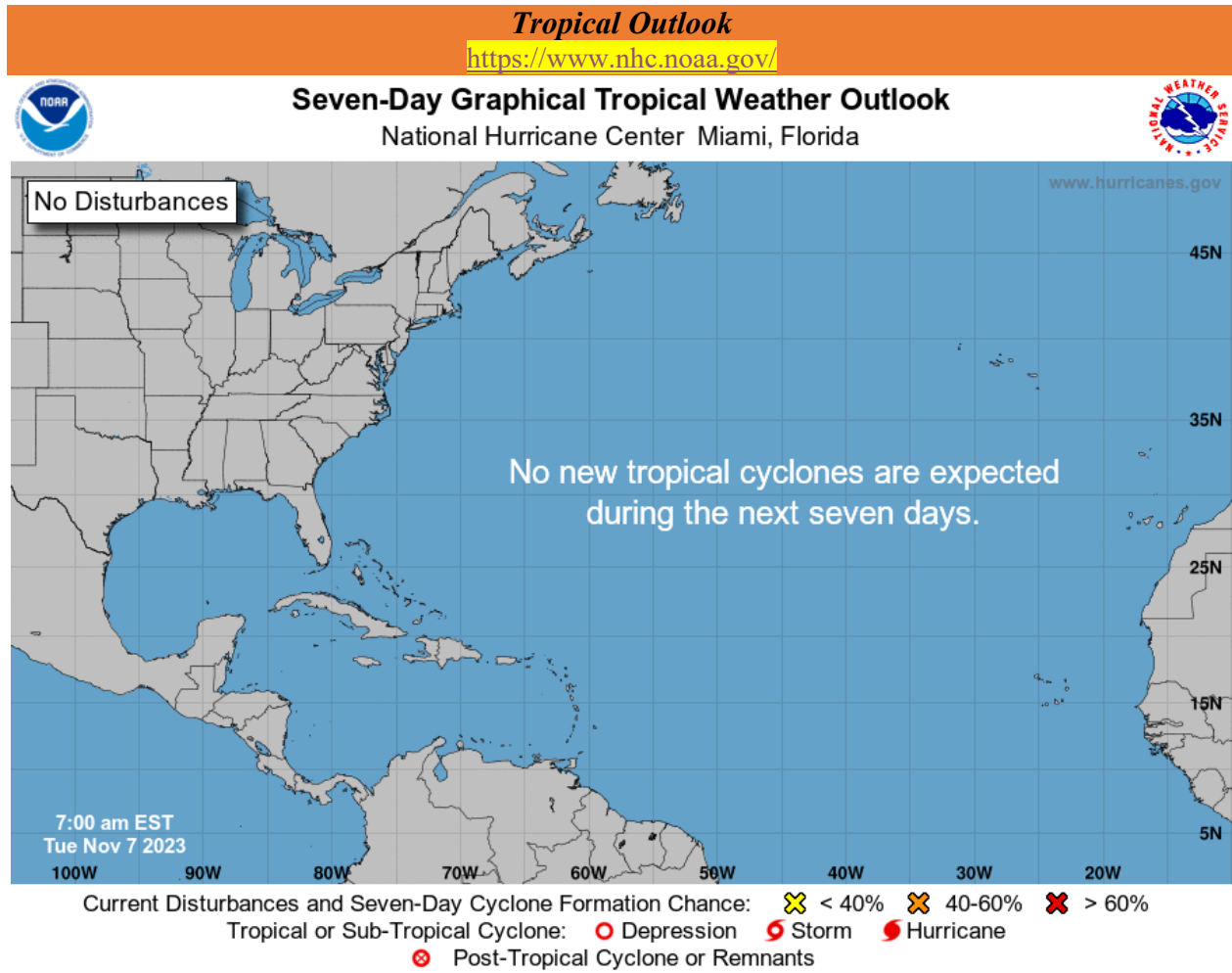
- UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - Thursday, 8 a.m. The state university system’s Board of Governors will meet after holding a series of committee meetings. The full board is scheduled to start about 10:45 a.m., with topics expected to include confirmation of Richard Corcoran as president of New College of Florida. University of Central Florida, Fairwinds Alumni Center, 12676 Gemini Blvd. North, Orlando.
- CHIROPRACTIC BOARD - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine will meet. World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort, 500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine.
- SOCIAL WORK BOARD - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling will meet. Sheraton Orlando North Hotel, 600 North Lake Destiny Dr., Maitland.
- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet in Osceola County. Osceola County Commission chamber, 1 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee.
- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION PANEL - Thursday, 9 a.m. The state Commission for Independent Education will meet. Information at <https://www.fldoe.org/policy/cie/commission-meeting.stml>
- TRANSPORTATION - Thursday, 9:15 a.m. The Florida Transportation Commission is scheduled to meet. Florida Department of Transportation, 605 Suwannee St., Tallahassee.
- UTILITY - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will meet. Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is expected to release regular weekly opinions.
- BEAN SPEAKS TO GOP WOMEN - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean, R-Fla., is scheduled to speak to the Republican Women’s Club of Duval Federated. Deerwood Country Club, 10239 Golf Club Dr., Jacksonville.
- PANHANDLE - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. The Emerald Coast Regional Council board will meet. Okaloosa County Administration Building, 1250 Eglin Parkway, Shalimar.
- DAYTONA STATE TRUSTEES - Thursday, 1 p.m. The Daytona State College Board of Trustees will hold a workshop, followed by a regular board meeting. Daytona State College,

Wetherell Student Services and Administration Building, 1200 West International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.

- FLORIDA GATEWAY TRUSTEES - Thursday, 5 p.m. The Florida Gateway College Board of Trustees will meet. Union County School Board office, 55 S.W. Sixth St., Lake Butler.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

- STATE OFFICES CLOSED - State offices will be closed for Veterans Day.



**About the Briefing!**

*The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin*

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The Briefing is compiled 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.



