



The Briefing for November 8, 2023

The last Briefing was November 7 – 2023
How's your weather – <https://weather.com/>

Games this weekend!

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

Legislative Actions Provide Disaster Relief and Support for Vouchers

Disaster Relief Bill Passes the Legislature

The House and Senate have approved a comprehensive relief bill to provide programs and funding for public and private sector entities needing hurricane and disaster relief. Provisions in the bill include:

- **Provides that tangible personal property** used in a farm operation that was unable to be used for at least 60 days due to the effects of Hurricane Idalia to be assessed at no greater than the property's salvage value.
- **Provides sales tax exemptions for certain fencing and building materials** used to repair or replace agricultural fencing or repair damage to nonresidential farm buildings damaged by Hurricane Idalia.
- Creates a **refund for fuel taxes** paid for agricultural shipment and debris removal from agricultural properties in counties affected by Hurricane Idalia.
- **Funding to provide the entire match requirement for FEMA Public Assistance to local governments** within counties designated in the FEMA disaster declaration for Hurricane Idalia and appropriates \$30 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to fund the match.
- Extends the repeal date for the Florida Emergency Management Assistance Foundation, from December 31, 2024 to October 1, 2027.
- Extends the terms of loans from two years to five years under the **Local Government Emergency Revolving Bridge Loan Program**.
- Appropriates \$25 million from the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to fund the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program for eligible counties and municipalities based on population and FEMA damage assessment data from Hurricane Idalia.
- **Appropriates \$50 million from the General Revenue Fund to the DEM for the Hurricane Recovery Grant Program for local governments within counties designated in the FEMA disaster declaration for Hurricane Idalia. Funding may be used for repair and recovery projects, including unanticipated expenses or losses of revenue.**
- **Appropriates \$10 million for the Small County Outreach Program, specifically for transportation projects within counties designated in the federal disaster declaration related to Hurricane Idalia.**

- Extends the prohibition on burdensome or restrictive local building processes enacted in the 2023 session in response to Hurricanes Ian and Nicole from October 1, 2024 to October 1, 2026, and clarifies the counties and municipalities affected by the prohibition.
- **Appropriates \$3 million from the General Revenue Fund to DEM to provide planning and design grants for new emergency operations facilities in fiscally constrained counties impacted by Hurricane Idalia.**
- **Appropriates \$5 million from the General Revenue Fund to award Rural Infrastructure Fund grants to fiscally constrained counties impacted by Hurricane Idalia.**
- **Appropriates \$181.5 million for mitigation grants and administrative costs associated with the My Safe Florida Home Program.**
- **Creates the Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program** within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to provide loans to producers that have experienced damage or destruction from a declared natural disaster and transfers \$75 million from the General Revenue Fund to the DACS General Inspection Trust Fund to fund the program. Loan funds may be used to restore, repair, or replace essential physical property or remove vegetative debris from essential physical property.
- **Appropriates \$37.5 million to administer a cost-sharing grant program to assist timber landowners in specified counties whose timber land was damaged as a result of Hurricane Idalia.**

Legislature approves HB C3 eliminate the cap on the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program

- Current law provides a formula to calculate the maximum number (or cap) of the universal voucher program. The 2023 Legislature capped the number of scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year is 40,913 scholarships.
- The bill eliminates the cap and approves funding for all applicants determined eligible.
- The bill also provides that the program shall annually increase by three percent of the state's total exceptional student education full-time equivalent student membership, not including gifted students.
- Funds are provided so that there will be no impact on K-12 public school districts.

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. Senate and House committees heard presentations on proposals designed by a process that solicited changes. Here's the schedule and background:

[Senate K-12 Public Schools Committee - Deregulation material](#)

Proposals submitted from the Department of Education to be considered in the House:



HB1_Final_Senate[60].pdf

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

Herald: DeSantis will be center stage at GOP presidential debate in Miami. Who will join him?

The Hill: Haley, DeSantis barrel toward debate showdown

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says antisemitism in Germany is at a post-Adolf Hitler peak due to immigrants

The Floridian: Moskowitz's SHIP Act Passes House, Scott and Rubio Call for Passage in Senate

The Floridian: Mills Seeks to Adjust Afghanistan Special Inspector General Jurisdiction

Sun-Sentinel: Federal judge upholds Florida ban on transgender athletes playing on female teams

The Floridian: Lt. Gov Nuñez Advertises Florida's Universities and Burgeoning Economy to World CEOs

WUSF: What does Florida's new rule on the American Library Association mean for public libraries?

WLRN: EV's may help Florida's environment, but what about your budget?

News4Jax: Florida attorney general takes legal action against 'unscrupulous' solar company accused of scamming local customers

Axios: Florida students' ACT scores among nation's worst

WLRN: Dan Markel's family say they're relieved as Charlie Adelson faces sentencing for his murder

Times: A year after DeSantis reelection win, his political fortunes have dimmed

Wash. Post: As DeSantis presidential bid lags, unease hangs over the Florida capitol

Politico: Vote over Israel exposes rift within Florida Democrats

My News 13: Florida House rejects Israel cease-fire resolution

FlaPol: House passes bills on Idalia recovery, Iran, special needs vouchers, Jewish Day school security

Today: Black Floridians grow increasingly frustrated over DeSantis' moves as election year looms

Sentinel: New report details complaints about DeSantis' 'tyrant' of a former housing director

The Capitolist: Senate Democrat proposes insurance rebate program for low-income seniors

News4Jax: Florida lawmakers call for extension of program they say could lower property insurance premiums over time

WUSF: State lawmakers eye more money for the My Safe Florida Home program

Herald: Florida voucher program fixes likely after payment delays, lawmakers say

Sentinel: Amesty argues her schools \$1.6 million home shouldn't face property taxes

ON THE DOCKET FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6

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.shtml>

- 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.shtml>
- 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.

Tropical Outlook

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



Seven-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook
National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



Current Disturbances and Seven-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%
Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane
 Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

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

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.