



The Briefing for October 10, 2023

The last Briefing was October 9– 2023

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

College Football link-

College Football Schedule - Week 7 Regular Season, 2023 - ESPN

The Quick



Senator Ben Albritton to be formally inducted as Senate President Designate

Next Tuesday, in Tallahassee, Senator Ben Albritton will be inducted as the Senate President Designate. The induction ceremony will be held on the Senate Floor at 2:00pm Tuesday. Albritton will formally become the Senate President after the 2024 elections and will serve in that capacity for 2 years. Senator Albritton has served in the House and the Senate and has consistently supported rural areas and small counties. He is a champion for agriculture, water issues, and fiscally constrained counties. Congratulations Senator Albritton!

Who will run for Governor in 2026?

It's never too early to speculate – here's the latest from the rumor mill!

Here's the scuttle! For now!

The Republicans

Congressman Byron Donalds

Congressman Rep. Matt Gaetz

Attorney General Ashley Moody

*Lt. Governor Jeanette Nuñez
Florida's Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis
Florida's Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson
Congressman Mike Waltz*

The Democrats

*Nikki Fried – Former Ag Commissioner – Head of State Democratic Party
Lauren Book – Member of Florida Senate
Donna Deegan – Jacksonville Mayor
Anna Eskamani – Florida House Member*

Supreme Court Appointed Committee to hold final Meeting seeking input on consolidation of Judicial Circuits

The Supreme Courts' Appointed Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee is holding its last meeting to receive public input this Friday, October 13 at 10:00 AM at the George Edgecomb Courthouse, 800 E Twiggs St, Tampa, FL 33602. People can attend virtually via ZOOM but need to register online [here](#).

The Committee has held five meetings to date. Materials from prior meetings are available online [here](#). To date, public comments and survey responses have been heavily against consolidation of judicial circuits. Data on survey responses is available online [here](#).

In response to a [letter](#) from Speaker Renner, the Florida Supreme Court established the Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee by Administrative Order to examine the need for consolidation of Judicial Circuits. (Administrative Order available [here](#))

The instructions to the Committee were as follows:

1. the Committee must limit its findings and recommendations to whether there is a need to consolidate (i.e., reduce the number of) Florida's judicial circuits;
2. in making its findings and recommendations, the Committee must assume that district court of appeal boundaries will remain unchanged;
3. the Committee's findings and recommendations must be governed by the criteria set out in rule 2.241; and
4. before making its findings and recommendations, the Committee must confer with the chief judges and other representatives of the courts, court budget commissions, The Florida Bar, and the public, as required by rule 2.241, as well as with other justice system entities it deems appropriate.

Senate Calendar for October 10 and 11

[Link to Senate Committee Meetings - Schedules and Agendas](#)

Important Legislative Links

Draft Legislative Programs

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

 **[The Small County Coalition - 2024 Legislative Program -Draft .docx](#)**

Local Funding Request Forms for Senate and House
Senate 24-25 Local Funding Initiative Request Form
[2024-25 Local Funding Initiative Request Form \[PDF\]](#)
[2024-25 Local Funding Initiative Requests](#)
[Prior Years Local Funding Initiative Requests](#)

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)

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

[The Florida Channel](#)

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](#)

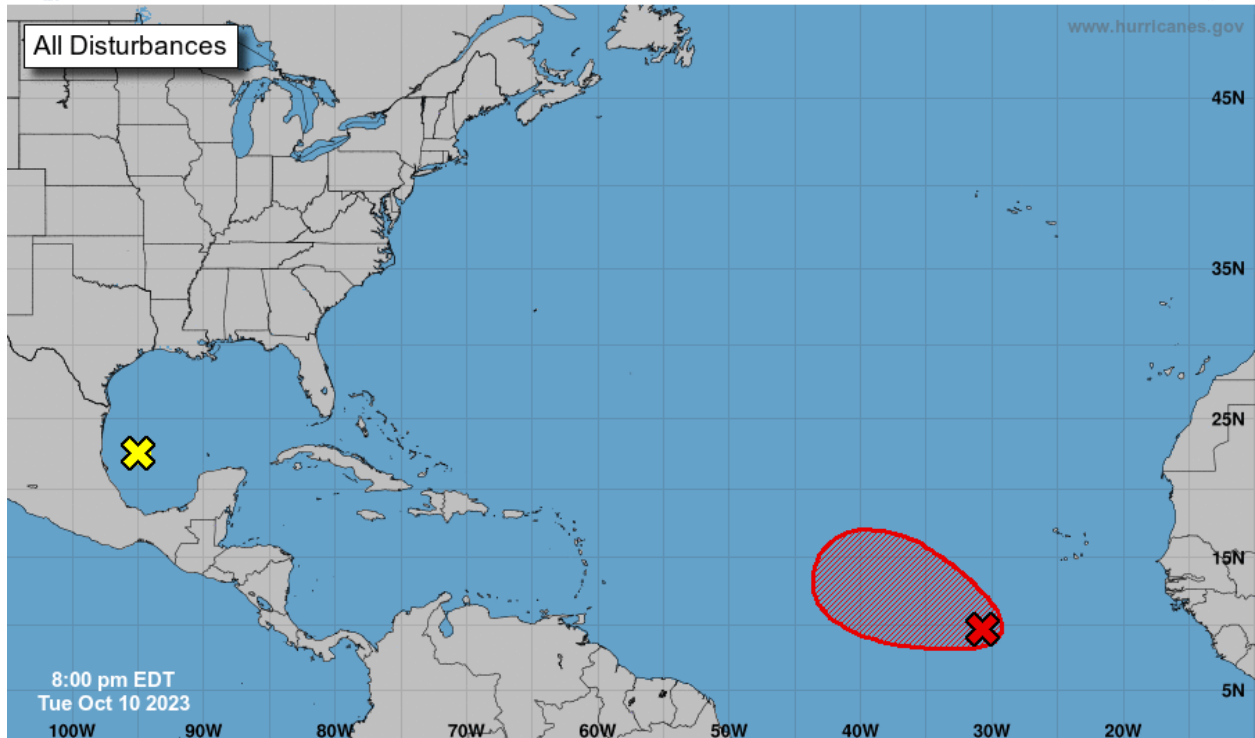
Tropical Outlook

<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

Headlines Around The State

Times: DeSantis, GOP rivals want to use force against Mexico to stop fentanyl. Here's why it could backfire

Sentinel: Florida Democrats fall further and further behind Republicans in registered voters. Independents surge.

Democrat: Vigils, rallies mark Florida response to attacks in Israel. What we know

FlaPol: Carlos Gimenez believes Kevin McCarthy has the support to return as House Speaker

WLRN: 'This is a big step for Haiti.' South Florida lawmaker applauds UN security force to combat gangs

The Floridian: Salazar Acknowledges Loan Denial that Would Help Cuban Regime

WLRN: Florida's population boom drives bigger hurricane losses, despite tougher building codes

Sun-Sentinel: Israel solidarity rallies, vigils planned throughout South Florida

CBS Miami: South Florida residents returning from Israel horrified by what they saw

Sun-Sentinel: 'No one is OK': South Floridians still reeling from deadly attack on Israel

NBC Miami: South Floridians in Israel provide perspective from a country 'under siege'

Herald: Supporters of Israel and Palestinians hold opposing protests in Fort Lauderdale

Herald Tribune: Sarasota rallies in support of Israel amid unprecedented violence

Democrat: 'Resilient:' Farmers still recovering 5 years after Hurricane Michael wiped out crops and forests

Post: Which Florida colleges and universities have the highest SAT scores?

Democrat: Florida gas prices drop despite high oil rates, but war in the Mideast a wild card

The Capitolist: AAA: attacks on Israel could drive up fuel costs in Florida

WUSF: Tampa-based Project Dynamo prepares to rescue Americans in Gaza and Israel

News-Press: 'Waterfront Wonderland': This Southwest Florida city was ranked one of the safest in the US

City & State FL: DeSantis directs flags to half staff to honor victims of Israel attacks

The Floridian: Florida Capitol Lit in Blue and White in Solidarity with Israel

City & State FL: So who's going to be the next governor of Florida?

CBS Miami: Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody to fight abortion amendment

City & State FL: Abortion initiative tops 400,000 signatures in Florida

FlaPol: Senate argues judge who tossed Florida map wrongly saw it as 'cross-claim of racial gerrymandering'

News4Jax: Florida settles lawsuit over COVID data, agrees to provide weekly stats to the public

The Floridian: Florida Lawmaker Tears into 'Terrorist' Rashida Tlaib Over Israel Attack

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis vows full disclosure on Jeffrey Epstein issues

Sun-Sentinel: Florida home insurance costs unlikely to fall despite reforms to reduce lawsuits, analyst says

FlaPol: Palm Beach lawmakers file similar resolutions in support of Israel

FlaPol: South Florida lawmakers call for peace in Israel

The Capitolist: Childcare voucher program proposed in Senate

The Floridian: Florida Legislature to Consider Eliminating Race From College Applications

FlaPol: Reports of glitchy encounters with state's unemployment system still linger after pandemic

Sun-Sentinel: Florida parents find children's COVID boosters hard to come by

WUSF: Florida's domestic violence shelters take stock as they face backlog and rebuilding challenges

FlaPol: Bryan Ávila hauls \$77.5K in Q3 to defend SD 39 seat, with sizable gains from auto dealers

FlaPol: Spectrum News to air debate between HD 35 Democrats

FlaPol: Democratic contender to replace Rick Roth says she has raised more than \$52K

FlaPol: State sweep yields hundreds of 'gas station heroin' packages

WLRN: Florida wildlife officials delay launch of new guidelines, protecting rare beach-nesting birds

FlaPol: Lawmakers launch bipartisan push to pay Broward deputy disabled in preventable shooting

WUSF: Legal aid services close record-high number of housing cases in Central Florida

Herald: Why the prosecutor and public defender in the Florida Keys don't want a Miami merger

WUSF: Sarasota's malaria scare brought new tactics in mosquito control

Sun-Sentinel: Broward College gets stinging review from accreditor

ON THE DOCKET FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 8

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER, 11, 2023

--- Legislature:

- **MEDICAID ENROLLMENT** - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee will receive information about what are known as Medicaid “redeterminations” after enrollment in the health-care program dropped by more than 500,000 people from April to August. The decrease in enrollment came after the end of a federal public-health emergency stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **CORRECTIONS ISSUES** - Wednesday, 11 a.m. The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will receive an update about issues from the Department of Corrections. 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **FINANCIAL OUTLOOK** - Wednesday, 2 p.m. The Senate Appropriations Committee will receive a presentation about the state’s “Long-Range Financial Outlook” report. 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

--- Also:

- PAROLE ISSUES CONSIDERED- Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- MENTAL HEALTH PANEL - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The state Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/commission-mental-health-and-substance-use-disorder-3>
- JUDICIAL CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED- Wednesday, 11 a.m. The 6th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for a circuit-judge position. Candidates expected to be interviewed are Benjamin Thomas, Cornelius Demps, Chris Ballard, Jennifer Dubbeld, Joseph Church, Kathryn Spurlock, Knute Nathe and Natalie Scruggs. The 6th Circuit is made up of Pinellas and Pasco counties. St. Petersburg College, 2465 Drew St., Clearwater.
- 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
- CENTRAL FLORIDA COUNCIL - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. Okeechobee County Commission chamber, 304 N.W. Second St., Okeechobee.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Orlando Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/orlando-area-refugee-task-force-meeting>
- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY HOLDS OPEN HOUSE- Wednesday, 11 a.m. The Florida Geological Survey will hold an open house as part of Earth Science Week. 3000 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- DRAFT PERMIT - Wednesday, 4 p.m. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public hearing about a draft permit renewal for a New Port Richey domestic wastewater system. New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center, 6630 Van Buren St., New Port Richey.
- VOLUSIA PROJECT - Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a hearing about a project-development and environment study involving a stretch of LPGA Boulevard in Volusia County that includes the Interstate 95 interchange. Daytona State College News-Journal Center, 221 North Beach St., Daytona Beach.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

- FAMU BOARD - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida A&M University Board of Trustees will hold two committee meetings, followed by a full board meeting. Florida A&M University, Grand Ballroom, Tallahassee.
- HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Healthy Kids Corp. Board of Directors will meet. Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport, 9300 Jeff Fuqua Blvd., Orlando. Call-in number: 850-792-4925. Code: 937523709

- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS- Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is expected to release regular weekly opinions.
- CITRUS FORECAST RELEASED- Thursday, noon. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will release the first projections for the 2023-2024 citrus growing season. Call-in number: 1-888-844-9904. Code: 8552986
- NORTHWEST WATER DISTRICT - Thursday, 1 p.m. The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. Northwest Florida Water Management District, 81 Water Management Dr., Havana.
- FLORIDA GATEWAY TRUSTEES MEET- Thursday, 5 p.m. The Florida Gateway College Board of Trustees will meet. Florida Gateway College, Administration Building, Lake City.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

- RESPIRATORY CARE BOARD - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Respiratory Care will meet. Guy Harvey Resort, 860 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach.
- CENTRAL FLORIDA WATER PLAN - Friday, 9 a.m. Staff members from three water-management districts are scheduled to discuss the Central Florida Water Initiative Regional Water Supply Plan. https://sfwmd.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oveZSKGNTNemKp8_xtPshw#/registration
- NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Nursing Home Administrators will meet. <https://meet.goto.com/678252893>
- SPEECH-LANGUAGE BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology will meet. Holiday Inn Tampa Airport Westshore, 700 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa.
- ST. JOHNS DELEGATION - Friday, 9:30 a.m. The St. Johns County legislative delegation will meet as it prepares for the 2024 session, which will start in January. St. Johns County Auditorium, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine.
- CIRCUIT COURT CONSOLIDATION - Friday, 10 a.m. The Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee, which was appointed by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Carlos Muniz, will hold a hearing about the possibility of consolidating judicial circuits. George Edgecomb Courthouse, 800 East Twiggs St., Tampa. https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wy03MipxS9Onv-CG8AzMjQ#/registration
- CONSERVATION ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. The state Acquisition and Restoration Council, which works on land-conservation issues, will meet. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. The Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/miami-dade-refugee-task-force-meeting-0>

- PILOT COMMISSIONERS BOARD - Friday, 10 a.m. The Florida Board of Pilot Commissioners will meet. <https://meet.goto.com/337217893>. Call-in number: 1-571-317-3116. Code: 337217893
- FLAGLER DELEGATION - Friday, 3 p.m. The Flagler County legislative delegation will meet as it prepares for the 2024 session, which will start in January. Flagler County Commission chamber, 1769 Moody Blvd., Bunnell.

Rural Counties Day 2024

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Rural Counties Day 2024

January 24-25

At the Florida Capitol

For additional information -

 [Rural County Days - 2024 Jan 24-25.docx](#)

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

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.

Chris Doolin

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com