



## *The Briefing for April 19, 2024*

*The Last Briefing was April 15, 2024*

[Tallahassee, FL 10-Day Weather Forecast - The Weather Channel | Weather.com](#)

### *In Memoriam*

Bob Graham – A True Statesman and A Great Floridian

Bob Graham, the late Florida governor and U.S. senator died Tuesday night. Graham, 87, died at a retirement community in Gainesville, with wife, Adele, and other family by his side. Graham, a former state lawmaker and two-term governor, went on to become a three-term U.S. senator (1987-2005). He ran unsuccessfully for president in 2004. To honor Graham, Gov. Ron DeSantis has directed state and U.S. flags in the state to half staff, where they will remain till he is buried on April 26. Graham will lie in state at the Florida Historic Capitol Museum in Tallahassee, known informally as the "old Capitol," 11 a.m.-1 p.m. next Friday. A private graveside service will follow later that day at the city's Oakland Cemetery along Bronough Street, not far from the governor's mansion where Graham spent eight years (1979-87) as the state's chief executive. A celebration of life is set for May 11 at Miami Lakes Congregational Church, the "Graham family's home church," Bevis added; details are forthcoming.

### *Upcoming Meetings*

We are focused now on preparing for the Summer Meetings of the SSDCC and the Small County Coalition. Agenda materials are being developed and will be emailed well before the scheduled meeting. Both meetings will include election of officers and other business. Here's the calendar for both meetings -

#### **Small District Annual Joint meeting**

FSBA Small District Council and the Small School District Council Consortium  
JUNE 6, 2024 - 7:30-8:30am - Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay - Skylark Room – 14<sup>th</sup> Floor

#### **Small County Coalition Annual Organizational Meeting**

*Wednesday – June 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:00am-8:30am*  
Signia Hilton Bonnet Creek Orlando

### *Editorial Note*

*With the election season entering “full combat” mode – polls relating to National and State issues will be forthcoming in bulk! Some of them will be included in The Briefing. Inclusion of polls does not reflect an editorial view! They are provided to give you the latest information on issues at hand.*

### ***Of Interest Polls – Polls – and more Polls!***

#### ***Recent Poll Conducted by Florida Atlantic University***

The link above provides complete poll results from the latest poll conducted by the FAU Political Communication and Public Opinion Research Lab (PolCom Lab) in collaboration with Mainstreet Research. The poll was conducted from Monday, April 15th to Wednesday, April 17th, 2024, among a sample of 865 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in Florida. The survey is intended to represent the voting population in Florida. The margin of error for the poll is +/- 3.3 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. Margins of error are higher in each subsample.

- **Most Pressing Issues** as indicated by the respondents -
  - Immigration – (25 percent)
  - The Economy - (23 percent),
  - Cost of Living (15 percent),
  - Abortion (13 percent).
- **Marijuana** - Amendment 3, proposing marijuana legalization for adults 21 and older. 47 percent in support, 35 percent in opposition, and 18 percent undecided.
- **Abortion** - Amendment 4 proposes to allow a woman to seek an abortion up to 24 weeks or before fetal viability. 49 percent support of the ballot initiative, 19 percent oppose; 32 percent did not express view.
- **The Presidential Race** - 50 percent of registered voters in Florida expressed support for Trump, while 42 percent favored Biden. Another 5 percent opted for alternative candidates, while 3 percent remained undecided.
- **DeSantis** - 54 percent of Republicans expressing approval of his governance.
- **Gubernatorial speculation** - 38 percent of Republican voters voiced preference for Casey DeSantis over Matt Gaetz in a hypothetical primary matchup.

### ***Headlines Around the State***

***Sun-Sentinel: DeSantis signs school chaplains bill opposed by pastors, Satanists, ACLU***

***PNJ: 'Not a religion': Florida Gov. DeSantis signs school chaplain bill, says Satanists not welcome***

***FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis grants patriotic organizations and chaplains access to public schools***

***AP: Florida will open schools to volunteer chaplains***

***ABC: Matt Gaetz attended 2017 party where minor and drugs were present, woman's sworn statement obtained by Congress claims***

***Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Derrick Van Orden tangles with fellow Republican Matt Gaetz over threats to oust speaker***

***Forbes: GOP Rep. Calls Matt Gaetz, 'Tubby' In Fight Over Ousting House Speaker Mike Johnson***

***Newsweek: Matt Gaetz Reveals New Plan for Ukraine Aid Money***

***Sun-Sentinel: Patronis flips script on Whitehouse, demands any records related to wife and Citizens Insurance***

***News4Jax: Priced Out: 1 in 3 Floridians who get dropped by their homeowners insurance company are choosing to move: study finds***

*Times: Recent protests over USF's financial ties harken to a 1980s controversy*

*Times: Hillsborough leaders greenlight carbon capture proposal*

*Sentinel: Florida colleges offer bookstore raffle tickets to boost student survey*

*FlaPol: Leading Dem slams offering \$500 for college students to participate in politically focused state survey*

*WUSF: With release of 10 acres from Hungerford site, Eatonville could house Florida Black History Museum*

*Herald Tribune: State law passed after Hurricane Ian negates Sarasota's move to control taller buildings*

*DBNJ: Former New Smyrna Beach fire lieutenant sues city for sex discrimination — again*

*Times: President Joe Biden to visit Tampa next week*

*Herald: Joe Biden is headed back to Florida, a state he says he can still win*

*Herald: Buttigieg to visit Miami to rally support for Biden's reelection campaign*

*FlaPol: Jared Moskowitz taps local donors, national groups to add \$474K in Q1 toward CD 23 defense*

*FlaPol: Rick Scott Socialismo ad continues outreach to Hispanics*

*FlaPol: Take a bow: Show biz union backs Daniella Levine Cava for re-election as Miami-Dade Mayor*

*FlaPol: Gus Bilirakis announces kickoff tour for re-election effort*

*FlaPol: Laurel Lee has drawn plenty of challengers. But do any of them have money?*

*FlaPol: Most of St. Pete City Council back 'only qualified candidate' Charlie Justice for re-election to Pinellas Commission*

*Ocala Star-Banner: 'This is my life': Self-described sovereign citizen, charged with murder, testifies*

*FlaPol: Transcript from Christian Ziegler sex video details decision not to pursue rape charge*

*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis appoints Jonathan Ramsey, Kelvin Wells to County Courts in Alachua, Walton*

*WLRN: State officials applaud Broward's payout plan to charter schools. The final tab: undisclosed*

*WUSF: A new transit center for Clearwater is finally moving forward*

*Sun-Sentinel: Spirit Airlines unveils its next chapter: A sprawling headquarters campus in Dania Pointe*

## ***On The Docket***

### **MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024**

- HEARING SET IN FSU CASE
  - Time: Monday, 9:30 a.m.
  - Description: Leon County Circuit Judge John Cooper is scheduled to hold a hearing in a legal battle that could lead to Florida State University leaving the Atlantic Coast Conference.
  - Location: Leon County Courthouse, 301 South Monroe St., Tallahassee.
- LAUREN'S KIDS WALK IN TALLAHASSEE
  - Times: Monday, 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

- Description: Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book, a Davie Democrat and founder of the organization Lauren’s Kids, will appear at an elementary school and lead an advocacy walk to raise awareness about child sexual abuse.
- Locations: 9:30 a.m. at Sabal Palm Elementary School, 2813 Ridgeway St., Tallahassee. Also, 12:30 p.m., walk starts at Kleman Plaza, 306 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- CANDIDATE QUALIFYING STARTS
  - Time: Monday, noon.
  - Description: A qualifying period will start for this year’s candidates for a U.S. Senate seat, U.S. House seats and state attorney, public defender and judicial posts. The qualifying period will end at noon Friday.
- POLK STATE TRUSTEES
  - Time: Monday, 4 p.m.
  - Description: The Polk State College Board of Trustees will meet.
  - Location: Polk State College, Winter Haven Campus, 999 Avenue H N.E., Winter Haven.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024**

- SOUTHWEST WATER BOARD
  - Time: Tuesday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet.
  - Location: Southwest Florida Water Management District, 7601 U.S. 301 North, Tampa.
- MOODY SPEAKS TO BUSINESS GROUP
  - Time: Tuesday, noon.
  - Description: Attorney General Ashley Moody is scheduled to speak to the Network of Entrepreneurs & Business Advocates.
  - Location: Capital City Country Club, 1601 Golf Terrace Dr., Tallahassee.
- BROWARD COLLEGE BOARD
  - Time: Tuesday, 1 p.m.
  - Description: The Broward College Board of Trustees will meet.
  - Location: Broward College, North Campus, 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek.
- MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
  - Time: Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.
  - Description: The state Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder is scheduled to meet.
  - Location: Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/commission-mental-health-and-substance-use-disorder-11>

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**

- PAROLE CASES
  - Time: Wednesday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet.
  - Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- MASSAGE THERAPY ISSUES
  - Time: Wednesday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet.
  - Location: Drury Plaza Hotel Tallahassee, 1690 Raymond Diehl Road, Tallahassee.
- OPTOMETRY BOARD
  - Time: Wednesday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Board of Optometry will meet.
  - Location: Information at <https://floridasoptometry.gov/meeting-information/>
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ISSUES
  - Time: Wednesday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association Board of Governors is scheduled to meet.
  - Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Tallahassee, 101 South Adams St. Tallahassee.

- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES
  - Time: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
  - Description: The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet.
  - Location: Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Code: 261180880
- CITRUS ISSUES
  - Time: Wednesday, 2 p.m.
  - Description: The Florida Citrus Commission will meet.
  - Location: Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 258577262
- CENTRAL FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD
  - Time: Wednesday, 3 p.m.
  - Description: The College of Central Florida Board of Trustees will meet.
  - Location: College of Central Florida, Wilton Simpson Citrus Campus, Charles S. Dean Sr. Educational Center, 3800 South Lecanto Highway, Lecanto.
- HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE BOARD
  - Time: Wednesday, 4 p.m.
  - Description: The Hillsborough Community College Board of Trustees will meet.
  - Location: Hillsborough Community College, Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson District Administration Building, 4115 North Lois Ave., Tampa.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024**

- UNF TRUSTEES MEET
  - Time: Thursday, 8:30 a.m.
  - Description: The University of North Florida Board of Trustees will meet.
  - Location: UNF Arena, Bank of England Suite, Jacksonville.
- MESSAGE THERAPY ISSUES
  - Time: Thursday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Board of Massage Therapy is scheduled to meet.
  - Location: Drury Plaza Hotel Tallahassee, 1690 Raymond Diehl Road, Tallahassee.
- FIU TRUSTEES
  - Time: Thursday, 9:30 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida International University Board of Trustees will hold a series of committee meetings, followed by a full board meeting at 1:30 p.m.
  - Location: Florida International University, Wolfe University Center, 3000 N.E. 151st St., North Miami Beach.
- PROPERTY INSURANCE FORUM
  - Time: 10 a.m.
  - Description: U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., will hold a discussion about property insurance rates. Other officials planning to attend include U.S. Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Fla., and state Sens. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, and Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers.
  - Location: Lee County Public Education Center School District Board Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS
  - Time: Thursday, 11 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release its weekly opinions.
- FLORIDA POLY TRUSTEES
  - Time: Thursday, 3 p.m.
  - Description: The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees will hold committee meetings, followed by a full board meeting. The trustees could consider a contract for Devin Stephenson, who has been selected to become the university's new president.
  - Location: Information at <https://floridapoly.edu/board-of-trustees/public-meetings.php>
- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL
  - Time: Thursday, 7 p.m.
  - Description: The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is scheduled to meet.

- Location: Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 S.W. Commerce Blvd., Lake City. <https://meet.goto.com/456104853>. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 456104853

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024**

- PSYCHOLOGY BOARD
  - Time: Friday, 8 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Board of Psychology will meet.
  - Location: Embassy Suites Tampa Airport, 555 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa.
- WATER QUALITY
  - Time: Friday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force will meet.
  - Location: Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, 100 Eighth Ave. S.E., St. Petersburg. <https://www.youtube.com/fwcresearch>
- MASSAGE THERAPY
  - Time: Friday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The Florida Board of Massage Therapy is scheduled to meet.
  - Location: Drury Plaza Hotel Tallahassee, 1690 Raymond Diehl Road, Tallahassee.
- PRISON HEALTH CARE
  - Time: Friday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The state Correctional Medical Authority is scheduled to meet.
  - Location: Florida Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee.
- HEARING AID BOARD
  - Time: Friday, 9 a.m.
  - Description: The state Board of Hearing Aid Specialists will meet.
  - Location: Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 982688175
- PASSIDOMO CELEBRATION OF LIFE
  - Time: Friday, 4 p.m.
  - Description: A celebration of life will be held for Senate President Kathleen Passidomo's husband, John, who died April 3 from injuries suffered in a fall.
  - Location: Baker Park, 50 Riverside Circle, Naples.

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024**

- PASSIDOMO FUNERAL
  - Time: Saturday, 11 a.m.
  - Description: A funeral Mass will be held for Senate President Kathleen Passidomo's husband, John, who died April 3 from injuries suffered in a fall.
  - Location: Saint Ann Catholic Church, 475 Ninth Ave. South, Naples.

### ***About the Briefing!***

***The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin***

***[cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com](mailto: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 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](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org)**

**[www.ssdcc.org](http://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](mailto:cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com)