



The Briefing for May 12, 2024

The Last Briefing was May 9, 2024

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

10 Reasons to say “I love you Mom!”

1. She brought you into the world.
2. She loves you for who you are.
3. She is your first friend.
4. She wants the best for you.
5. She's the glue holding the family together.
6. She tells you when to knock it off.
7. She picks you up every time you fall.
8. The world doesn't seem so tough with her by your side.
9. She taught you to stand up for yourself.
10. She taught you the importance of cleanliness.

A Few Bits and Pieces

State of Emergency Declared for 12 Counties **Tallahassee Hits Hard by Violent Storm**

12 North Florida counties are now under a declared state of emergency after a powerful storm Friday morning left tens of thousands of residents and businesses without electricity. The storm ripped through Tallahassee, downing trees, ripping roofs off buildings, knocking over a construction crane and doing significant damage to Florida State University's baseball stadium and the school's iconic circus tent. DeSantis declared the state of emergency in Baker, Columbia, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Wakulla counties. The emergency declaration gave authority to state Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie to take a series of steps to

help oversee response and recovery to the storm. Also it made available money from the state Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund.

No Plans for a Special Session

After weeks of rumor and speculation about the possibility of a special session, Gov. Ron DeSantis says he has “[no plans](#)” to call one. According to the [Florida Constitution](#), a special session may be called either by the governor, by a joint proclamation issued by the Senate President and House Speaker or by a three-fifths vote of each chamber in the Legislature. President Passidome said no to holding one – Speaker Renner did not comment.

Five education bills were signed into law this past week.

- School choice: [FL HB1403 \(24R\)](#), creates new deadlines to help get parents and students their scholarship money faster after some experienced frustrating delays. At the same time, the law opens the door for thousands of additional special needs students to access scholarships, building on a popular program that continues to exceed enrollment limits.
- Deregulation: The bills: [FL SB7002 \(24R\)](#) and [FL SB7004 \(24R\)](#), One of the new policies prompts the state to waive certification fees for certain educators. Other provisions would allow school districts to publish notices for budget adoptions on websites instead of strictly newspapers and let districts pay teachers more if they have advanced degrees.
- Artificial intelligence: [FL HB1361 \(24R\)](#), which includes Florida’s [first significant financial commitment](#) to explore using AI in education. The measure includes \$2 million in grants for middle and high schools to implement AI programs.
- Opening a GATE: [FL SB7032 \(24R\)](#), creates the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education program, which aims to benefit students who have dropped out of school. The program will award tuition and fee grants for students 16- to 21-years old toward earning diplomas and workforce credentials at state colleges.

On with the Budget

Although the Legislative Budget for 24-25 has not yet been presented to the Governors Office – it is certainly under review. The Governor this past week made announcement around the state touting funding appropriated in the budget. The Governor will probably continue to announce elements of the budget that he intends to sign. Once the Budget is presented to the Governor -he has 15 days to sign, veto, or let it become law. Expect a slew of vetoes.

Summer Meetings for School And County Elected Officials Make you Plans to Attend

Small School 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 – 14th Floor

Florida School Boards Association/FADSS Summer Meeting

June 5 – 7 – Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay

[Tentative Conference Agenda](#)

Small County Coalition Annual Organizational Meeting

Wednesday – June 26th - 7:00am-8:30am

Signia Hilton Bonnet Creek Orlando

Florida Association of Counties Summer Business Meeting

June 25 – 28 – Bonnet Creek Orlando

<https://www.fl-counties.com/event-directory/2024-annual-conference-exhibition/>

Headlines Around the State

Democrat: Florida Gov. DeSantis visits Tallahassee school to help distribute supplies after storm

FlaPol: Rick Scott surveys tornado damage in Tallahassee

FlaPol: Jimmy Patronis dispatches anti-fraud teams to Leon and Gadsden counties

Democrat: After the storm: Indianhead neighbors gather for community cookout and share stories, help

Times: Familiar faces throw in for vacant Pasco Commission seat

AP: Former Florida Gov. and US Sen. Bob Graham remembered for his civility at memorial service

Gainesville Sun: Former Alachua County School Board member Mildred Russell dies of cancer

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs off on increased penalties for gas safety violations

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis approves licensing, regulation changes for business operators

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs off on new adoption regulations

FlaPol: Some doctors offices will have to carry liability insurance under new law

FlaPol: New law allows nurses and physician assistants to order Medicaid home health

FlaPol: Governor signs off on Progressive Supranuclear Palsy committee

FlaPol: Sexual assault test kits will have to be retained for 50 years starting in October under new law

FlaPol: Congenital cytomegalovirus screenings required soon for Florida newborns

FlaPol: UCF vice chair arrested for soliciting prostitute and indecent exposure in park

Sentinel: UCF, Rollins trustee snared in prostitution sting

FlaPol: Doral Mayor calls on ex-Council members to return canceled pension money

Herald: New plan: Broward won't close any public schools. But changes are still coming

Sentinel: 2 Florida men, 1 ticket? A Trump, Rubio pairing brings tricky political, legal questions

ABC: Barron Trump declines Florida GOP delegate position due to 'prior commitments'

Politico: Barron Trump will not be a Florida delegate at the GOP convention

AP: Barron Trump, 18, won't be serving as a Florida delegate to the Republican convention after all

The Hill: Trump says son Barron advises him on politics: 'He is a smart one'

Democrat: \$237M FAMU donor's 'co-CEO' says she never worked for him

AP: It's not a matter of if a hurricane will hit Florida, but when, forecasters say

WUSF: After a university shut down its diversity center, students stepped up

FlaPol: State probe looms over Duval County Superintendent search

FlaPol: Democrat challenges future House Speaker Sam Garrison

FlaPol: Democrat challenges Duval GOP chair Dean Black in HD 15 race

FlaPol: South Florida AFL-CIO hosts bipartisan kickoff for 2024 get-out-the-vote campaign
AP: At least 1 dead in Florida as storms continue to pummel the South. DeSantis declares emergency
FlaPol: After brutal storms, Gov. DeSantis declares state of emergency, activates Florida National Guard

FlaPol: Jimmy Patronis offers tips and tricks as north Florida recovers from severe storms
My News 13: Strong storms rip through North Florida, knock out power to more than 160,000 at peak
NWF Daily News: Crestview residents share their experiences after an apparent tornado ripped through town

Democrat: 'One badass storm': Gusts tear through SW Tallahassee neighborhoods, leaving destruction
Democrat: 'Almost apocalyptic': Residents digging out of Indianhead Acres, Myers Park after storms
Times: Florida's new education laws carry less impact than in past years

WUSF: DeSantis signs a bill clarifying cancer benefits for firefighters - but Tallahassee isn't on board
FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signed education deregulation measure, a priority of Kathleen Passidomo
FlaPol: USDA revises Florida's harvest projection: Orange production will drop by about 1 million boxes

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs bill allowing surplus lines insurers to take over Citizens policies
Sun-Sentinel: Plan to close some Broward schools scrapped for 2025
Sun-Sentinel: A bigger Broward landfill whose peak may reach 325 feet? Debate ensues over site's growth
NYTimes: Book Bans Are Surging in Florida. So Lauren Groff Opened a Bookstore.

On The Docket

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

- MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY TRIAL STARTS - Monday, 9 a.m. U.S. District Judge Marcia Morales Howard will start a trial in a class-action lawsuit that alleges Florida did not properly inform people before dropping them from the Medicaid program after the end of a federal public-health emergency. United States Courthouse, 300 North Hogan St., Jacksonville.
- SCOTT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE - Monday, 10:30 a.m. U.S. Sen. Rick Scott will hold a news conference in Largo about his re-election campaign. Reporters may contact press@teamrickscott.com.
- PSC HOLDS EVENT FOR SENIORS - Monday, 10:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an event for seniors to discuss issues such as energy conservation and avoiding scams that target utility customers. East Orange Community Center, 12050 East Colonial Dr., Orlando.

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024

- SUWANNEE WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board will meet. Suwannee River Water Management District, 9225 County Road 49, Live Oak.

- ELECTIONS ISSUES - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Elections Commission will meet. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- PSC HOLDS EVENTS FOR SENIORS - Tuesday, 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will hold events for seniors to discuss issues such as energy conservation and avoiding scams that target utility customers. 9 a.m. at Marks Street Senior Recreation, 99 East Marks St., Orlando. Also, 11:30 a.m. at William Beardall Senior Center, 800 Delaney Ave., Orlando.
- CITIZENS INSURANCE DISCUSSED - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Board of Governors will discuss reinsurance issues.
https://citizensfla.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2UhvUUYoTMyZJLVaGRcyJg#/registration. Call-in number: 1-786-635-1003. Code: 88307560058
- ST. JOHNS WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board will meet. St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid St., Palatka.
- MEDICAL EXAMINERS - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The state Medical Examiners Commission will meet. Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee.
- BROWARD COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 11 a.m. The Broward College Board of Trustees will meet. Broward College, Willis Holcombe Downtown Center, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.
- INTERCHANGE PROJECT - Tuesday, 6 p.m. The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting about an Interstate 75 interchange project in Collier County.
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9212495005906197855>

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

- MILITARY ISSUES - Wednesday, 8 a.m. The Florida Defense Alliance is scheduled to meet. Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown, 316 West Tennessee St., Tallahassee.
- MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES - 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/full-commission-mental-health-and-substance-use-disorder>
- 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. Code: 261180880
- COMMUNITIES TRUST PROGRAM - Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Florida Communities Trust Governing Board will meet. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee. <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/3966884458928740189>. Webinar ID Number: 290372659
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Broward Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/broward-refugee-task-force-meeting-2>
- EAST CENTRAL PLANNING COUNCIL - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. 125 North Lakeshore Dr., Ocoee.

- DAYTONA STATE TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. The Daytona State College Board of Trustees will meet. Daytona State College, Wetherell Student Services and Administration Building, 1200 West International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.
- SOUTH FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The South Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. South Florida State College, Highlands Campus, 600 West College Dr., Avon Park.
- ST. JOHNS RIVER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m. The St. Johns River State College Board of Trustees will meet. St. Johns River State College, Orange Park Campus, Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Dr., Orange Park.
- LAKE-SUMTER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 4 p.m. The Lake Sumter State College Board of Trustees will meet. Lake-Sumter State College, Leesburg Campus, 9501 U.S. 441, Leesburg.
- LOBBYIST REPORTS DUE - Lobbying firms face a Wednesday deadline for filing reports detailing compensation from Jan. 1 through March 31.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

- CHIROPRACTIC ISSUES ON TABLE - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine will meet. Tampa Airport Marriott, 4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa.
- DEFENSE SUPPORT PANEL - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Defense Support Task Force is scheduled to meet. Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown, 316 West Tennessee St., Tallahassee.
- GULF COAST COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees will meet. Gulf Coast State College, Gulf/Franklin Campus, 3800 Garrison Ave., Port St. Joe.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Palm Beach Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/palm-beach-refugee-task-force-meeting-0>
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release its weekly opinions.
- CAT FUND' - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. The Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Advisory Council will discuss issues such as the reinsurance fund's claims-paying capacity. 1801 Hermitage Blvd., Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-872-242-7651. Code: 928883968
- INTERCHANGE PROJECT - Thursday, 5 p.m. The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting about an Interstate 75 interchange project in Collier County. North Collier Regional Park Exhibit Hall, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024

- DENTAL ISSUES - Friday, 7:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Dentistry will meet. Aloft Jacksonville Tapestry Park, 4812 West Deer Lake Dr., Jacksonville.
- LEGISLATIVE SESSION - Friday, 8 a.m. Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, R-Saint Johns, is expected to be among the speakers during a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce event about legislative issues. Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano Beach, 117 Vilano Road, St. Augustine.
- OSTEOPATHIC BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine will meet. Holiday Inn Tampa Airport Westshore, 700 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa.
- ORTHOTISTS, PROSTHETISTS BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Orthotists and Prosthetists will meet. Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 651417862
- JUDICIAL CANDIDATES - Friday, 9:30 a.m. The 20th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for a Collier County judgeship. Candidates slated to be

interviewed are Pamela Barger, Karla Campos-Andersen, James Chandler, Deborah Cunningham, Sara Hushek, Ryan Kuhl and Jamie Ringhofer. Northern Trust Building, 4001 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.

- TREASURE COAST COUNCIL - Friday, 9:30 a.m. The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will meet. Indian River State College, Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart.
- JOBLESS NUMBERS RELEASED - Friday, 10 a.m. The Florida Department of Commerce is scheduled to release an April unemployment report.
- TOP NURSING HOMES - Friday, 10 a.m. The Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long-Term Care will discuss applicants for "Gold Seal" awards. Agency for Health Care Administration, 400 West Robinson St., Hurston South Tower, Suite 309, Orlando.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

- SCOTT CAMPAIGNS IN MARTIN COUNTY - Saturday, noon. U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., is scheduled to appear at a Republican Party of Martin County "picnic in the park" event. Indian Riverside Park, 1707 N.E. Indian River Dr., Jensen Beach.

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 District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

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