

# The Briefing for August 17, 2024

The Last Briefing was August 13, 2024

#### **ELECTION 2024**

#### It will be a busy week in Florida politics.

On Tuesday, voters across the state will decide the winners of primary elections.

### 1.55 million Floridians have early voted.

Data posted Friday morning on the state Division of Elections website showed that 1,143,344 people had voted by mail, including 492,871 Democrats, 472,727 Republicans, 162,608 unaffiliated voters and 15,138 third-party voters. Also, 412,545 people had cast ballots at early-voting sites, including 259,962 Republicans, 121,815 Democrats, 27,754 unaffiliated voters and 3,014 third-party voters. Early voting will continue through Saturday statewide and will be offered Sunday in some counties.

# Four days left until the Primary!

Many of the races will be determined on Tuesday! The remaining partisan races and run-offs, if necessary, for non-partisan offices will wait until the November General Election!

You can find results for your county

https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/

#### Tracking Results!

We are requesting to be notified as soon as results come in for County Commission, School Board and Superintendent positions!

Please email or text election results next Tuesday evening cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com or 850-508-5492.

#### Nonpartisan or Partisan!

This year's school board races could be the last non-partisan campaigns in Florida depending on how voters decide on the proposed constitutional amendment in November. If the amendment passes, school board candidates starting in 2026 would be nominated in partisan primaries ahead of the general election. A July poll from the University of North Florida found that a significant number of voters have not made up their

minds: 40 percent said they would vote no and 37 percent said they supported it, with the remainder undecided. Amendments need 60 percent to pass.

#### Around The State!

# Florida Department of Education - Weekly Memo to School Districts

The Department of Education has issued the following memorandum regarding the DPS: 2024-152 Weekly Memo, August 12-16, 2024. Open the link below to view the information regarding Actions to respond to the 2024 Legislative Session. The memorandum may be viewed at:

https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-10345/dps-wkly-2024-152.pdf

#### **DEBBY'S DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT \$1.4 billion1**

Hurricane Debby caused about \$1.4 billion in privately insured losses in Florida and other states. The estimate was made by the Boston-based Karen Clark & Co.. The \$1.4 billion figure is based on estimated damage to residential, commercial and industrial properties and automobiles and losses in what is known as "business interruption" coverage. The estimate included about \$845 million in insured losses from wind damage, \$440 million from inland flooding and \$130 million from storm surge. The estimate is n line with a report issued by the global reinsurance broker Gallagher Re, which put insured losses for the private insurance market and the National Flood Insurance Program at \$1 billion to \$2 billion.

# <u>Spending by UF President Sasse to be reviewed!</u> <u>Prediction - More to come on this issue!</u>

Gov. Ron DeSantis' office and state Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis have raised the possibility of looking into spending under former University of Florida President Ben Sasse. Reports earlier this week cited that President Sasse more than tripled his office's spending to \$17.3 million when compared to his predecessor.

#### Headlines Around the State

<u>FlaPol: Ron DeSantis, Dems wage proxy war over School Board candidates in local races</u>

FlaPol: Abortion rights advocates look to Florida schools to rally support for Amendment 4

Herald: Judge in Florida's Orange County blows up election supervisor race, kicking contest to November

<u>FlaPol: Democratic Primary in Orange Elections Supervisor race moved to November after only non-Dem gets</u>
<u>booted</u>

Ocala Star-Banner: 'Dollars are real as is our grassroots support' says Florida GOP party chairman Even Power

Sun-Sentinel: Florida's Democratic National Convention delegates fired up for Harris. 'We're going to win.'

Floridian: Moody Torches Harris for Release of 99 Terrorists Into Country

Floridian: Scott Campaign Mocks Low Turnout for Mucarsel-Powell's 'Veterans for Debbie' Coalition

FlaPol: Rick Scott, Ashley Moody seek crackdown on Temu, citing forced labor and potential spying

Sentinel: Shady political mailers link Seminole elections chief to Joel Greenberg

News-Press: 'Vote Amendment 3. Now.' Former champ Mike Tyson supports Florida recreational marijuana

Herald: What did four years of Mayor Daniella Levine Cava mean for Miami-Dade County's budget?

Sentinel: Orange-Osceola State Attorney Bain boasts of first-year wins

FlaPol: Contentious battle between Bowen Kou, Keith Truenow nears its close in SD 13
FlaPol: Is Rob Hardwick running scared against St. Johns Sheriff challenger Jim Priester?
FlaPol: Citrus County Elections Supervisor Mo Baird faces first challenger
FlaPol: 2 Hillsborough legislative races feature long-shot challenges to incumbents on both sides of the aisle

FlaPol: Miami-Dade voters will soon have an elected District 11 Commissioner again. Will it be Gov. DeSantis' appointee?

FlaPol: Will Yvette Benarroch's political network outperform Greg Folley's expensive marketing in HD 81?

FlaPol: Raquel Regalado, Cindy Lerner run it back for District 7 seat on Miami-Dade Commission

FlaPol: Race for District 3 seat on Miami-Dade Commission a rematch 12 years in the making

FlaPol: 5 Democrats are running for the shot to take on Anna Paulina Luna, and their campaigns show deep resolve

FlaPol: Moderate Dems group backs Whitney Fox in CD 13 FlaPol: Hakeem Jeffries backs former colleague Debbie Mucarsel-Powell in Senate race FlaPol: Matt Gaetz faces a Kevin McCarthy-backed challenge from Aaron Dimmock Alligator: Sasse stepped down. Donors and top officials say he was forced out. Sentinel: Former UF President Sasse defends spending, 'dang proud' of time leading university Gainesville Sun: 'Not true': UF President Ben Sasse fires back on reports of 'inappropriate spending' MSNBC: University of Florida students expose ex-president Ben Sasse's alleged spending spree AP: Ex-University of Florida president gave former Senate staffers large raises, report finds FlaPol: Kathleen Passidomo shoots down proposed Special Session on condo safety Herald: No rush from Florida Legislature to address anxiety over post-Surfside condo laws FlaPol: All eyes on Florida's 3rd District Court of Appeals as condo crisis mounts Floridian: Steube Leads Bipartisan House Campaign to Pass Disaster Tax Relief AP: Discarded gender and diversity books trigger a new culture clash at a Florida college FlaPol: Governor's Office says jobs 'available for every Floridian who wants to work' Floridian: DeSantis Announces Florida Reached 45 Consecutive Months of Jobs Growth Times: St. Petersburg officials receive big bonuses following Rays stadium deal WLRN: 'We're here for the kids': Despite shortages, Miami-Dade teachers start the school year with joy Sun-Sentinel: Broward schools safety chief resigns, days after metal detector chaos Herald: Doral candidate caught up in residency dispute is qualified to run, judge determines WLRN: 'You need to support my campaign,' Port Commissioner Varisa Dass tells tenant Times: This Pinellas beach town just won a victory in beach access fight AP: Lawyer and family of U.S. Air Force airman killed by Florida deputy demand that he face charges AP: Jury convicts white Florida woman in fatal shooting of her Black neighbor during ongoing dispute

FlaPol: Lee Supervisor of Elections Tommy Doyle confirms affair with former employee

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Axios: Florida rapper Kodak Black releases Trump campaign song
     FlaPol: Seminole Elections Chief Chris Anderson accused of influencing early voting, lawsuit says
       FlaPol: Palm Beach Sheriff Ric Bradshaw releases new ad for re-election bid touting gang bust
        FlaPol: Attack ad drags David Shoar over investigation following death of deputy's girlfriend
        WLRN: A 'catastrophe' in the Lower Keys: Summer heatwave wipes out iconic elkhorn coral
    Herald: Can these new ideas make Miami's airport a better place? County leaders are banking on it
   AP: Florida election officials warn of false rumor about ballot markings days before the state's primary
  Sun-Sentinel: Shock, frustration, anger, desperation: The real-life toll of Florida's six-week abortion ban
                    WaPo: Meet the organizers trying to reverse Florida's abortion ban
     WUSF: Abortion funds say they need more money as Florida's six-week ban fuels demand for help
          Times: Florida Republican active voters top Democrats by 1 million. What does it mean?
                  WUSF: Florida opts out of summer food assistance for kids, once again
FlaPol: Jason Pizzo, Kevin Chambliss back J.C. Planas as 'the leader we need' for Miami-Dade Supervisor of
                                                Elections
   FlaPol: Underfunded Primary challenger seeks to unseat headline machine Fabian Basabe in HD 106
   FlaPol: NOW puts national organization's support behind Debbie Mucarsel-Powell's Senate campaign
      FlaPol: Can Eddie Speir's anti-establishment antics deny Vern Buchanan the GOP nomination?
         FlaPol: Jeni Grieger, Stephanie Vanos go head-to-head for Orange County School Board
          FlaPol: 'The choice is easy': Randy Fine endorses 'MAGA Meg' Weinberger for HD 94
     FlaPol: Laurel Lee faces 2 Republicans challengers in GOP Primary as she runs for a second term
                   FlaPol: Brian Mast, Mike Waltz stump for JD Vance in Pennsylvania
            FlaPol: Angie Nixon looks to rebuff HD 13 challenge from Brenda Priestly Jackson
   FlaPol: As its strong incumbent departs, 6 Democrats battle for an open north Miami-Dade House seat
       AP: Round 2 of US Rep. Gaetz vs. former Speaker McCarthy plays out in Florida GOP primary
            FlaPol: Geraldine Thompson and Randolph Bracy battle for SD 15 in a heated race
 Alligator: DeSantis administration calls for investigation into former UF President Ben Sasse's 'exorbitant'
  The Hill: DeSantis pushes state university system to look into former UF president Ben Sasse's expenses
         Herald: DeSantis says state will look into former UF President Sasse's millions in expenses
     Sun-Sentinel: Smoking ban for public places proposed in anticipation of legalized weed in Florida
        FlaPol: Joe Gruters wants Florida to ban public smoking if voters legalize recreational weed
    Herald: Donald Trump leaves his name off a luxe condo complex he's building in the Miami market
 Herald Tribune: New College of Florida tosses hundreds of library books, empties gender diversity library
      Herald Tribune: Amy Reid, chair of New College of Florida faculty and gender studies, is leaving
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Sentinel: Valencia instructor on paid leave while college probes allegations

Alligator: UF, FSU faculty unions file lawsuit challenging state law banning neutral arbitration

WLRN: Home buying deals are dying amid mortgage rates and condo reform concerns

Democrat: Florida school board pauses chaplain plans following interest from 'Ministers of Satan'

WUSF: Fate of Sarasota Memorial Hospital could be on Tuesday's primary ballot

Democrat: Tallahassee Chamber conference at Amelia Island focusing on jobs amid ups and downs

TCPalm: Fort Pierce City Manager Nick Mimms put on administrative leave with pay day after arrest

Democrat: A special delivery: Tallahassee native Vanessa Cobb comes home to become new Postmaster

FlaPol: Heated Duval County School Board District race sees record amount of financial contributions

FlaPol: Foreign affairs specialist, firefighter, nonprofit leader in 3-way GOP clash for HD 115

FlaPol: Orange County Commission contest between Austin Arthur, Nicole Wilson serves up plenty of intrigue

FlaPol: Tracie Davis' Primary opponent says he can win. What's his reasoning?

FlaPol: Scott Hebert, Jason Koon face off for Citrus County Superintendent of Schools

AP: No testimony from Florida white woman accused of manslaughter in fatal shooting of Black neighbor

FlaPol: Florida's new jobless claims mostly steady since last week

**Tropical Outlook** 

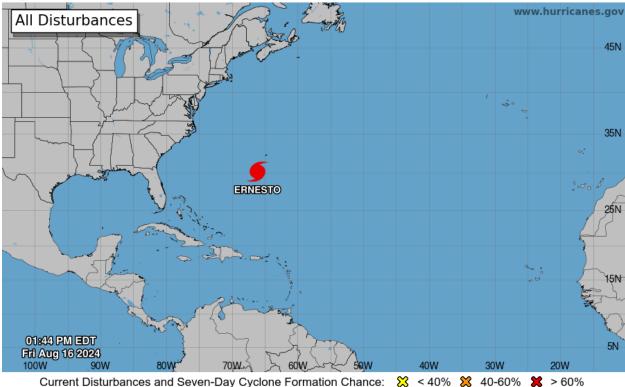
https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/



# Seven-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook

National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida





# Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: O Depression Storm Hurricane O Depression Storm Hurricane O Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

#### On The Docket

# SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

- MUCARSEL-POWELL RALLIES VOTERS Sunday, 10 a.m. Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Debbie Mucarsel-Powell is expected to make a campaign appearance in Leon County. ----- Information at <a href="https://www.miamidadedems.org/events">https://www.miamidadedems.org/events</a>
- SCOTT CAMPAIGNS IN TAMPA Sunday, 12:45 p.m. U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., will hold a media availability after a campaign appearance in Tampa. ------ Reporters may contact <a href="mailto:Press@teamrickscott.com">Press@teamrickscott.com</a>
- EARLY VOTING ENDSEarly voting will end Sunday in some counties for Tuesday's primary election. Counties were required to offer early voting from Aug. 10 through Aug. 17, but some counties also will offer it Sunday.

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024

• DOZIER COMPENSATION - Monday, 9 a.m. - Attorney General Ashley Moody's office will hold a hearing on a rule to carry out a new law that created the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program. The law is designed to provide payments to victims of abuse at two state reform schools. ----- Office of the Attorney General, Collins Building, 107 West Gaines St., Tallahassee.

• SEMINOLE STATE TRUSTEES - Monday, 2 p.m. - The Seminole State College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. ------ Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford/Lake Mary Campus, 100 Weldon Blvd., Sanford.

# TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024

- PRIMARY ELECTION DAY Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Florida's primary elections.
- MENTAL HEALTH PANEL Tuesday, 8 a.m. The state Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council will meet. ----- Signia Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, 14100 Bonnet Creek Resort Lane, Orlando.
- BROWARD COLLEGE BOARD Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. The Broward College Board of Trustees will meet. ----- Broward College, Willis Holcombe Center, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.
- ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE BOARD Tuesday, 9 a.m. The St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees will meet. ------ St. Petersburg College, Seminole Campus, 9200 113th St. North, Seminole. https://vimeo.com/event/20816
- EXPRESSWAY PROJECT Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Central Florida Expressway Authority will discuss a project-development and environment study for a proposed expressway connection from State Road 417 to the entrance to the Orlando Sanford International Airport. ------ Central Florida Expressway Authority, 4974 Orl Tower Road, Orlando.
- OPTICIANRY BOARD Tuesday, 2 p.m. The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. ------ Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 248772232
- SELF-INSURERS Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. The Florida Self Insurers Guaranty Association Board of Directors is scheduled to meet. ------ Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Dr., Orlando.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD Tuesday, 3 p.m. The Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet. ----- Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd. East, Niceville.
- PALM BEACH COLLEGE BOARD Tuesday, 4 p.m. The Palm Beach State College Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet. ------ Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth Campus, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth.
- NORTH FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. The North Florida College Board of Trustees will meet. ----- North Florida College, Student Center, 325 N.W. Turner Davis Dr., Madison.

# WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

- EDUCATION ISSUES Wednesday, 9 a.m. The State Board of Education will meet. ------Okaloosa County school district, 202A Highway 85 North, Niceville.
- PAROLE CASES 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.
- DUKE RATE SETTLEMENT AT ISSUE Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an internal-affairs meeting, followed by a hearing on a proposed settlement that would lead to increased base electric rates for customers of Duke Energy Florida. -------Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.

- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES EYED Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission is scheduled to meet. ----- Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Code: 261180880
- LABOR MARKET Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Labor Market Estimating Conference will meet. ----- 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Florida Agricultural Museum Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet. ----- Flagler County Princess Place, 2500 Princess Place Road, Palm Coast.
- EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. ------ LYNX, 455 North Garland Ave., Orlando.
- ST. JOHNS COLLEGE BOARD Wednesday, 2 p.m. The St. Johns River State College Board of Trustees will meet. ----- St. Johns River State College, board room, 5001 St. Johns Ave., Palatka.
- DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD Wednesday, 2 p.m. The Florida Development
  Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. ------ Florida Development Finance Corp., 156
  Tuskawilla Road, Suite 2340, Winter
  Springs. <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88357199620?pwd=vFbe6ushBTE">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88357199620?pwd=vFbe6ushBTE</a> 5wy3ODSFXGbpX3nZb
  UH.1. Meeting ID: 88357199620. Code: 127560. Call-in number: 1-646-558-8656.
- HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE BOARD Wednesday, 4 p.m. The Hillsborough Community College Board of Trustees will meet. ------ Hillsborough Community College, Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson District Administration Center, 4115 North Lois Ave., Tampa.
- LAKE-SUMTER COLLEGE BOARD Wednesday, 5 p.m. The Lake-Sumter State College Board of Trustees will meet. ----- Lake-Sumter State College, Kelly Convocation Center, 9501 U.S. 441, Leesburg.

# THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024

- PHARMACY ISSUES Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Pharmacy will meet. ----- Sheraton Orlando North, 600 North Lake Destiny Dr., Maitland.
- TRIUMPH GULF COAST BOARD Thursday, 10:30 a.m. Central time. The Triumph Gulf Coast Board of Directors, which administers settlement money from the Deepwater Horizon disaster, will meet. ------ Bay County Commission chamber, 840 West 11th St., Panama City.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- DAYTONA STATE TRUSTEES Thursday, 2 p.m. The Daytona State College Board of Trustees will meet. ----- Daytona State College, Deltona Campus, 2351 Providence Blvd., Deltona.

# FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024

- HOUSING ISSUES Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Housing Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. ------ Hyatt Place St. Petersburg/Downtown, 25 Second St. North, St. Petersburg.
- FSDB TRUSTEES Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Board of Trustees will meet. ------ Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Moore Hall, 207 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.
- DIVERSION PROGRAM Friday, 10 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss the tax-collection enforcement diversion program. ------ 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- MONTHLY TAX COLLECTIONS Friday, 10:15 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss monthly revenue estimates. ----- 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024

- TAX 'HOLIDAY' STARTS A tax "holiday" will begin that allows shoppers to buy disaster-preparedness supplies without paying sales taxes. The holiday, which comes in the middle of hurricane season, will end Sept. 6.
- UNCLAIMED PROPERTY AUCTION HELD Saturday, 9 a.m. The Florida Department of Financial Services will hold an unclaimed property auction. The auction will include such things as property left in abandoned safe-deposit boxes. ------ Embassy Suites by Hilton, 1601 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach.

#### **CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES PROJECTED FOR FY 24-25**

Activities listed involve local elected county commissioners, school board members and school superintendents.

# 2024

	2024
August 20 -	Primary Election Day
Sept. 18-19-	FAC Policy Conference – Pensacola
November 5 -	General Election Day
November 19 -	Newly Elected local officials take office
November 20-22	Rural Economic Development Summit
December 3-6 -	FSBA/FADSS - Winter Meeting – Tampa
December 4 -	Small County Coalition Legislative Meeting - Tampa
December 5 -	Small District Meeting – Tampa
December 4-6	FAC Legislative Conference – Tampa
	<u>2025</u>
January-February -	Legislative Committee Weeks
February 2 -	Deadline for release of Governors recommended budget
March 4	Regular Session Begins
March 18 -	Small County Coalition Legislative Briefing/Reception
March 19-	FAC Day in the Legislature
March 19 – 20	FSBA 38th Annual Day in the Legislature, Tallahassee, FL
March 19	Small School District Legislative Briefing
March 19 -20	Rural Counties Day in the Legislature
May 2 -	Regular Session Ends
June 11 – 13	FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference, Tampa, FL
June 12 -	Small School District Breakfast Meeting
June 24-27	FAC Annual Summer Meeting - Orlando
June 25	Small County Coalition Annual Business Meeting - Orlando

#### **DAYS UNTIL**

- Democratic National Convention begins 6; '
- Florida Primary 7
- Second Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday begins 11;
- Georgia Tech to face Florida State in 2024 opener in Dublin − 13;
- UCF opens the season hosting New Hampshire at FBC Mortgage Stadium 16;
- Time Sales Tax Holiday begins 20;
- 2024 NFL season kicks off 25;
- Packers will face Eagles in Brazil 25;
- Trump/Harris debate 28;
- Vice-Presidential Debate 44;

- Taylor Swift's Eras Tour stops in Miami 68;
- 2024 Florida Chamber Annual Meeting & Future of Florida Forum 75;
- Florida TaxWatch's 45th Annual Meeting 83;
- 2024 Presidential Election 84;
- Legislature's 2025 Organizational Session 98;
- Florida Chamber Annual Insurance Summit begins 111;
- Football Playoff begins 131;
- Peach, Rose & Sugar Bowls 141;
- Orange Bowl 149;
- Sugar Bowl 151;
- Florida's 2025 Legislative Session begins 203;
- 2025 Session ends 262;
- '2028 Los Angeles Olympics Opening Ceremony 1431;

#### 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 <a href="mailto:-cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com">-cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com</a>

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

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