



DEP is currently receiving [venue suggestions!](#)
Preserve or open them for private development?

The Briefing for August 26, 2024

The Last Briefing was August 23, 2024

Plan to add hotels and golf courses to Florida's state parks is met with high level opposition!

Tuskegee Dunes, the foundation behind the proposal, is now pulling the plug on the plan. The Delaware-registered foundation sent a note to media representatives. Dubbed the Great Outdoors Initiative – the proposal faced immediate and substantial opposition. Both U.S. Senators, several congress members, and other state officials including Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson and CFO Jimmy Patronis opposed the plan. Opposition to the plan did prompt the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to delay Aug. 27 meetings about proposals at nine impacted state parks to the week of Sept. 2; **the state is receiving input and venue suggestions now.** However, the DEP has yet to back off plans. Below are links to the DEP proposal.

Great Outdoors Initiative -

- [Anastasia State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)
- [Camp Helen State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)
- [Dr. Von. D Mizell Eula Johnson State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)
- [Grayton Beach State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)
- [Hillsborough River State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)
- [Honeymoon Island State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)
- [Jonathan Dickinson State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)
- [Oleta River State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)
- [Topsail Hill Preserve State Park - Reference Map - Conceptual Land Use Map](#)

Special Facility Construction Program Committee to Meet Next Week

Baker, DeSoto, Holmes, and Union school districts will be presenting

The Special Facility Construction Committee meeting to review district submissions has been rescheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, 5 September 2024 on the 17th floor of the Turlington Building in Tallahassee (325 W. Gaines Street). During the meeting, committee members will review project requests from Baker, DeSoto, Holmes, and Union school districts, evaluate the ability of each to relieve

critical needs, and rank the requests in priority order. The committee is composed of two representatives from the Florida Department of Education, a representative from the Executive Office of the Governor, a representative selected by district school boards and a representative selected by district superintendents. School district staff and community leaders will discuss how the project will relieve a critical need and answer related questions. The meeting is open to the public and expected to be finished by 5:00 p.m.

State Sets New Standards for VPK Programs

The Florida Board of Education has approved new standards for voluntary prekindergarten programs. The grading system will take effect at the end of the 2024-2025 school year and the scores will be made available to parents through the providers and [My Florida Schools](#). The scoring system will evaluate – Quality; Achievement; and, Learning Gains. The metrics for evaluation - 50% of the score is based on the “quality” of teacher-child interaction and classroom instruction; “achievement” makes up 20% of the score and “learning gains” make up 30%. Based on how providers scores, they will be assigned a designation ranging from “excellent,” “above expectations,” “meets expectations,” “below expectations,” and “unsatisfactory.”

Deadline Looms for FSBA Legislative Proposal Submission

Proposals for the legislative platform are due by September 6 at 5pmET. The submission form [HERE](#). All submissions are considered by the Legislative Priority Workgroup and then reviewed by the Legislative Subcommittee to develop a proposed platform. The final platform is adopted by the full FSBA Advocacy Committee which includes representatives from each member district.

Defeated Broward School Board member appointed to the State Board of Education

Governor DeSantis has now appointed Daniel Foganholi to the Florida Board of Education. Foganholi was defeated in the last weeks primary in his bid to continue on the Broward School Board. Foganholi is a lobbyist for New Generations Children’s Ministry, which helps churches program religious education for children.

Headlines Around the State

[FlaPol: Marco Rubio, Rick Scott lead elected official slam of Dickinson Park golfing plan](#)

[My News 13: Final decision on Citizens Insurance rate hike expected Monday](#)

[WUSF: Port Canaveral halts cruise expansion amidst concerns for space industry](#)

[Times: At Honeymoon Island State Park, urgency grows to defend 'the real Florida'](#)

[News-Press: Will we see Lake Okeechobee discharges this year to the Caloosahatchee? What to know](#)

[TCPalm: Jewish leaders want antisemitic flyers charged as hate crime, not littering](#)

[Times: Why Florida Democrats should be optimistic — and why they should be pessimistic](#)

[WUSF: Florida Rep. Spencer Roach discusses his support for partisan school board elections](#)

[Sentinel: Amendment 3: Will pot legalization spark a stoned driving epidemic in Florida?](#)

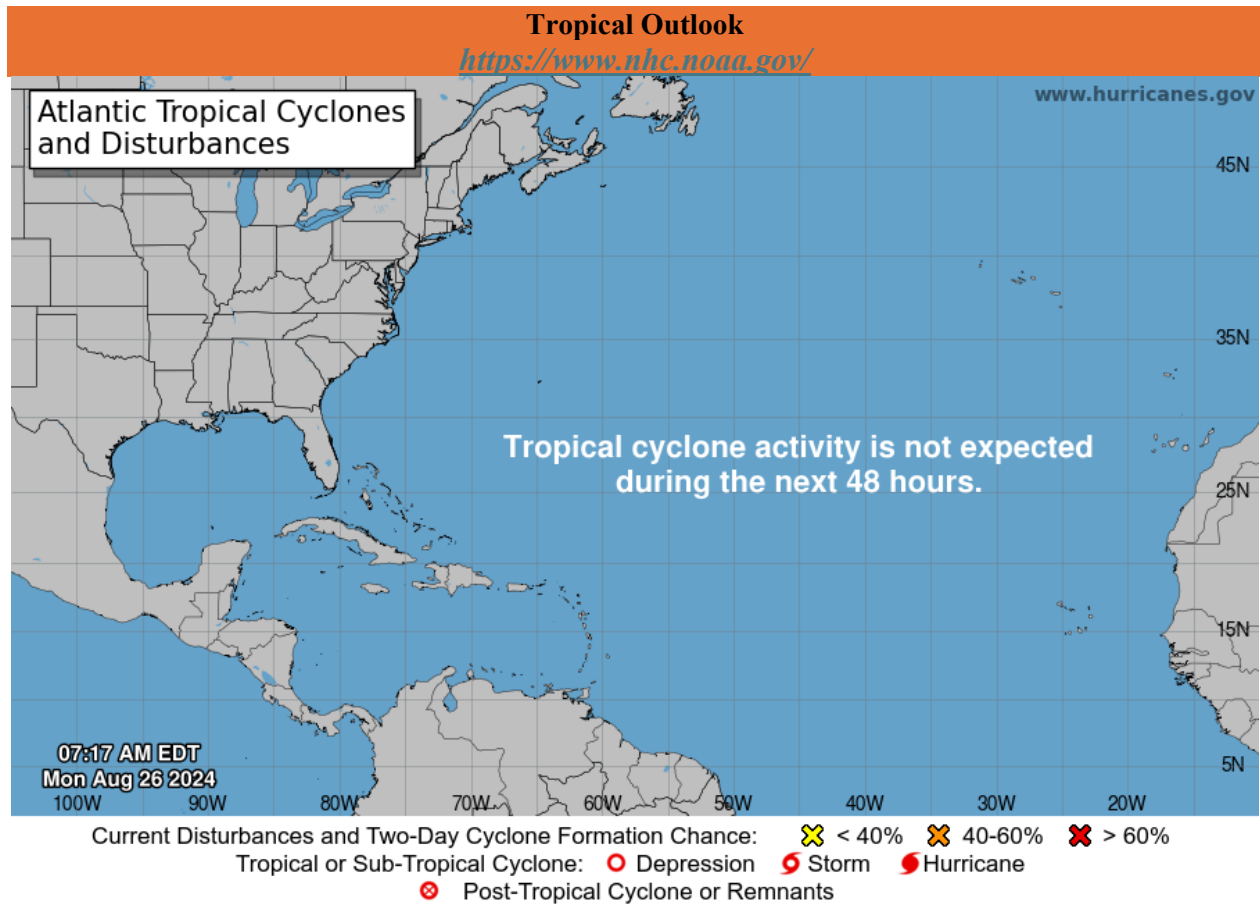
[WUSF: Keep Florida's state parks pristine, environmentalists urge as plan unfolds](#)

[Democrat: FSU, FAMU post-tenure reviews lead to bonuses and increases. But faculty remain concerned](#)

[Democrat: Leon Schools superintendent's race heats up with questions, accusations about spending](#)

[Today: How will 2024 elections impact the political makeup, decisions of Brevard's school board?](#)

Times: At Tampa Bay charter roiled by lawsuits, parents feel left in the dark



On The Docket

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

- SOUTHWEST WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2379 Broad St. Brooksville.
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Statewide Council on Human Trafficking will meet. - Information at <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/human-trafficking/council/meetings>
- FORESTRY ISSUES - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Forestry Council is scheduled to meet. - Omni Amelia Island Resort, 39 Beach Lagoon Road, Amelia Island.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024

- MESSAGE THERAPY BOARD - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. - Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 985532741
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - 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
- PORT ISSUES - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council is scheduled to meet. - Hilton Garden Inn Pensacola Downtown, 8 Ninth Ave., Pensacola.

- TOURISM ISSUES - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Visit Florida Board of Directors will meet. - Tampa Convention Center, 333 South Franklin St., Tampa.
- CENTRAL FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The College of Central Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - College of Central Florida, Founders Hall, 3001 S.W. College Road, Ocala.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

- ELECTION RESULTS CERTIFIED - Thursday, 8 a.m. - The state Elections Canvassing Commission, made up of Gov. Ron DeSantis and two state Cabinet members, will certify the results of the Aug. 20 primary elections. - R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough St., Tallahassee.
- APALACHEE COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Apalachee Regional Planning Council is scheduled to meet. - Information at <https://www.arpc.org/>
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- LAND CONSERVATION - Thursday, 4 p.m. - The state Acquisition and Restoration Council, which works on land-conservation issues, will hold a meeting in Highlands County to discuss proposed Florida Forever projects. - Highlands County Commission meeting room, 600 South Commerce Ave., Sebring.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024

- GAMBLING ISSUES - Friday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. - Information at <https://flgaming.gov/meetings/>
- FINANCE REPORTS DUE - State candidates and political committees face a Friday deadline for filing reports showing finance activity through Aug. 23.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES PROJECTED FOR FY 24-25

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

2024

- 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

2025

- 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

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

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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