



On this day in 1834, [Edgar Degas](#)—French painter and sculptor who was prominent in the [Impressionist](#) group and widely celebrated for his images of the female figure, especially ballet dancers and bathers—was born.

The Briefing for July 19, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, July 13, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

10-Day Weather Forecast for Tallahassee, FL – The Weather Channel

**VOTE
NO on 3**

<https://votenoamendment3.com/>

Vote No on 3 is a committee established to provide information regarding the impact of the proposed Constitutional Amendment that, if adopted, will have significant impacts on individuals, businesses, and governmental services. The link accesses the No on 3! Website which provides comprehensive coverage regarding the proposed amendment.

County Medicaid Cost-Share Estimates for 2026-27

Social Services Estimating Conference set County Contributions to Medicaid per s. 409.915, F.S.
Conference Results for County Contributions to Medicaid,
inclusive of the impact for HB 5003-E (2026)

[County Contributions to Medicaid per s. 409.915, F.S.](#)

[County Medicaid Cost-share Estimates for 2026-27](#)

[County Medicaid Cost-Share Calculations for 2025-26](#)

Here's how the County Financial Contributions are calculated:

Florida counties are legally required to share in the non-federal Medicaid match for certain state expenses. This is calculated annually by the **Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR)**.

- **Calculation method:** The annual contribution is based on the county's historical contribution percentage adjusted by the overall percentage growth in state Medicaid expenditures. [1]
- **Official Data:** To view the county-by-county allocation worksheets and annual conference results, visit the [EDR Medicaid Contributions Page](#). [1]
- **Historical Policy:** For background on the statutory shift from a "utilization" to an "enrollment" based calculation formula, review the [Florida Association of Counties Cost Share Policy Memo](#). [1]

Annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday
July 20, 2026, Through August 20, 2026

Department of Revenue Guidance on School Sales Tax Holiday 2026

Florida's 2026 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday begins on Monday, July 20, 2026, and ends on Thursday, August 20, 2026. During the annual sales tax holiday period, tax is not due on the retail sale of:

- Clothing, footwear, wallets, bags, handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and diaper bags with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Certain school supplies with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles with a sales price of \$30 or less
- Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories with a sales price of \$1,500 or less, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use

GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS DR. HENRY MACK FOR ED COMMISSIONER
APPOINTMENT WILL BE ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA

July 22, 2026 - 9:00 a.m.

Agenda

Governor Ron DeSantis is recommending Dr. Henry Mack to serve as Florida's next Commissioner of Education. The recommendation will be considered on Wednesday during the next State Board of Education meeting in Orlando.

Dr. Mack holds bachelor and master degrees in philosophy and theology from the Catholic University of America and a doctorate in education administration and the philosophy of education from the University of Miami. From 2019 to 2023, Mack oversaw the Divisions of Florida Colleges, Career and Adult Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Blind Services, the Office of Workforce Education and Economic Alignment, and the Commission for Independent Education. He currently serves as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor, where he has advanced policies that integrate education and labor systems to expand Registered Apprenticeships, accelerate credential attainment, root out waste and fraud in the nation's unemployment insurance system, and align training with high-demand industry needs.

Coollest Thing Made in Florida

Showcasing Florida's Manufacturing Excellence: Making More in Florida, Exporting More from Florida!

<https://coolestthingmadeinflorida.com/>

The Top 32 products in the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Florida competition have been determined, and Round 1 of the bracket competition is now underway.

Presented by the Florida Chamber of Commerce in partnership with FloridaCommerce, the competition celebrates the innovation, ingenuity, and manufacturing excellence driving Florida's economy forward.

Vote for Your Favorite Florida-Made Products.

Vote once per day in each Round 1 matchup to help determine which Florida-made products advance to the Top 16 and continue their journey toward being named the 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Florida.

- **Property Tax Proposal** – Impact of the Property Tax proposal is getting better understood. A number of organizations are working together to create websites and information.
 - <https://votenoonaamendment3.com/>
 - [**Florida Association of Counties - Property Tax Proposal - Here's what it says and Here's what it will do!**](#)
- **School Grades** – The Florida Department of Education released the official school and district grades for the 2025–2026 school year on **July 1, 2026**. [[1](#), [2](#)] To see how individual schools or districts performed, you can review the full accountability reports on the [Florida Department of Education](#) website.
 - [**2026 School Grades and Accountability Reports**](#)
- **School Starting Dates – Florida school start dates by county**
 - [**Florida School District Start Dates 2026-27**](#)

On The Docket

MONDAY, JULY 20

- **BOOK CLOSING** - Monday - Today is the deadline to register to vote or change party affiliation for Florida's Aug. 18 primary election. Location: County supervisor of elections offices.
- **BACK TO SCHOOL TAX HOLIDAY** - Monday through Aug. 20. - As part of the 2026 Legislative tax package (HB 7031E) the sales taxes discount period was advanced from all of August in state law. During the "holiday" period, sales taxes are lifted on select clothes priced \$100 or less, school supplies \$50 or less, learning aids \$30 or less, and personal computers and accessories priced \$1,500 or less.
- **BOND FINANCING** - Monday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Local Government Finance Commission is holding a series of public hearing conference calls on the issuance of bonds, including up to \$250 million of its Florida Local Government Finance Commission Tourism Facility Revenue Bonds for the East Coast Zoological Society of Florida Aquarium Project along the Banana River, \$25 million of its Florida Local Government Finance Commission Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds for the Cherry Lakes Preparatory Academy Project in Lake County, and \$50 million of its Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes for the Fleet Landing Riverside Project, an independent and assisted living facility in Jacksonville. Location: Phone 1-877-304-9269. Code: 359237#
- **SOUTH FLORIDA PLANNING** - Monday, 10:30 a.m. - The South Florida Regional Planning Council is holding its regular monthly meeting. Location: 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood.
- **ARTICLE V REVENUE** - Monday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will review Article V revenues. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

- MIAMI DADE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The Miami Dade College Board of Trustees is holding its monthly meeting. Location: James K. Batten Community Room, Room 2106, Wolfson Campus, 300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami.
- SANTE FE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The Santa Fe College Board of Trustees is holding an orientation for new board members. Location: Watson Center, 4150 State Road 21, Keystone Heights.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

- BOARD OF EDUCATION: - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The state Board of Education has an agenda that includes the appointment of commissioner and statewide uniform weighted grading in honors and articulated accelerated courses. Location: Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Blvd., Suwannee 14/15, Orlando.
- ALEC MEETING IN ORLANDO - Wednesday - The 53rd annual American Legislative Exchange Council meeting begins, running through Friday, with appearances scheduled by U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fl., U.S. Sen. Ashley Moody, R-Fl., Former Florida House Speaker Steve Crisafulli, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin and U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Mehmet Oz. Location: JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes, 4040 Central Florida Parkway, Orlando.
- GREENWAYSTime; Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Greenways and Trails Council is holding a meeting to discuss trail projects. Location: Austin Cary Forest Campus, Stern Learning Center, 10625 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville.
- TRIUMPH GULF COAST - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. CT - The Triumph Gulf Coast Board is meeting. Location: Okaloosa County Commission Chambers, Shalimar Annex, 1250 North Eglin Parkway, Shalimar.
- RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Self-Insurance Estimating Conference will review risk management. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- I-95 IN MIAMI - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation District Six is holding a meeting on the Project Development & Environment Study for Interstate 95 from south of NW 62 Street to north of NW 143 Street. Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Miami, 7927 NW 7 Avenue, Miami.
- I-95 INTERCHANGE - Thursday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation is holding a meeting on plans for the Interstate 95 interchange at Linton Boulevard in Delray Beach. Location: Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Avenue Delray Beach.
- HEARTLAND PLANNING - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization is meeting to discuss the Transportation Disadvantaged program and provide input to the Local Coordinating Board serving Glades and Hendry counties. Location: Beardsley Room 110 W Osceola Ave, Clewiston, FL 33440, USA
- ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER SUPPLY - Wednesday, 5:05 p.m. - The St. Johns River Water Management District Board will discuss the 2027 Central Springs/East Coast regional water supply plan. Location: SJRWMD Governing Board Room, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

- FLORIDA MARKET ASSISTANCE - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will review the Florida Market Assistance Plan. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- KIDCARE EXPENDITURES - Thursday, 1:45 p.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will review Kidcare expenditures. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- EAST COLONIAL WIDENING - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation is holding a meeting on proposed widening of East Colonial Drive. Location: Boardwalk Bowl, Bridge Events Center, 10749 East Colonial Drive, Orlando.

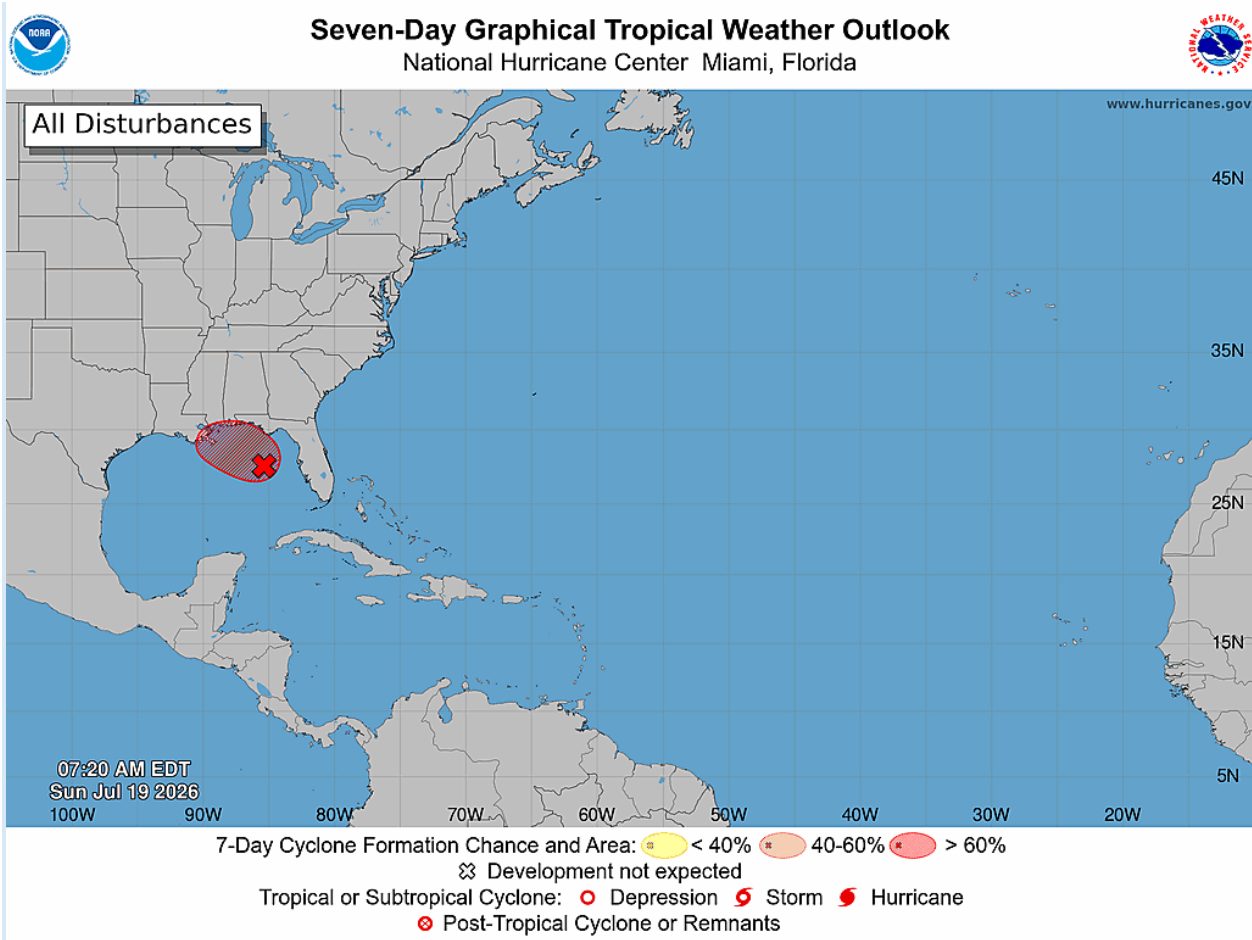
- NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING - Thursday, 6 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting. Location: Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Santa Fe Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

- COMMISSION ON ETHICS - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Ethics is meeting, where it will be asked to consider a staff-recommended letter to a state legislator advising that the in-office representation ban will prevent them from personally representing a client before the Department of Health while in office. Location: First District Court of Appeal, First Floor Conference Room, 2000 Drayton Drive, Tallahassee.
- PSC - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is holding a prehearing conference on the Sunshine Water Services Company's petition to establish rate base value of an acquired system. Location: Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- HIGHWAY SAFETY REVENUE - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will review highway safety revenues. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- TAMPA BAY PLANNING - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Coastal Master Plan Technical Workgroup is meeting. Location: Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite 100, Pinellas Park.
- CENTRAL FLORIDA TOURISM - Friday, 10:30 a.m. - The Central Florida Tourism Oversight District is meeting. Location: 1900 Hotel Plaza Boulevard, Lake Buena Vista.
- HISTORIC MARKERS - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Division of Historical Resources' Florida Historical Marker Council will discuss historical marker applications. Location: R.A. Gray Building, Room 307, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.
- COMMUNICATION SERVICES TAX - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will review gross receipts and the Communication Services Tax. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, the Capitol.
- FINANCE REPORTS - Friday - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between July 11 and July 17. Location: Department of State, Division of Elections, Bureau of Election Records, R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.

Tropical Outlook

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



Here are key dates for 26-27

August 18 –	Primary Elections
Sept 16-17 –	FAC Policy Conference – Jacksonville
Nov 3 –	General Election
Nov. 17-19-	Rural Summit – Ocala – Sponsored by FREDA
Dec 2-4 –	Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference
Dec 2 -	Small County Coalition Breakfast –
Dec 2-4 –	FSBA Legislative Conference – Tampa
Dec 3 -	Small District Breakfast – SSDCC Legislative Meeting
Dec - Feb. -	Legislative Committee Meetings
March 2 -	Legislature convenes
March 16 -	Small County Coalition – Legislative Reception
March 17 -	Small School District Council Consortium
March 17-18-	Rural Days 2027 – Tentative
March 17-18 –	FSBA Days in the Legislature
March 17 -	Florida Association Counties – Legislative Day
April 30 -	Legislative Session 60 Days – Sine Die!

Headlines Around The State

FlaPol: David Jolly rallies Democrats, attacking Byron Donalds at Leadership Blue

FlaPol: Now or never: Spending exceeds fundraising in race for GOP gubernatorial nomination

FlaPol: Jay Collins frustrated by lack of grant process for fiscally-constrained counties in property tax amendment

Florida Phoenix: DeSantis recommends Trump administrator, former Florida official, to be next ed commissioner

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis eyes Henry Mack to be Florida Education Commissioner

FlaPol: Byron Donalds picks up Florida Retail Federation endorsement in Governor's race

Floridian: Lauren Book Addresses Rise in Antisemitism, Affordability in SD 30 Bid

FlaPol: Paula Stark hires Anthony Sabatini — hours after a judge shredded his last ballot case

FlaPol: 'We didn't know that was coming': Krista Joseph caught flat-footed by massive development push unleashed by new law

Ledger: RFK Jr. promotes rule change to boost Florida's citrus industry

FlaPol: Byron Donalds: Fiscally constrained counties shouldn't 'sing for supper' if Amendment 3 passes

FlaPol: 'Florida will not become a surveillance state': Byron Donalds doubles down on Flock camera opposition

Post: Cyclospora parasite sickens at least 90 in Florida amid US outbreak

Florida Phoenix: New numbers show counties will pay nearly \$420M for Medicaid this year

NBC 6: Florida's jobless rate drops for first time since 2024

FlaPol: 'Sideshow antics': Jay Collins rebuts claims of conflict with Ron DeSantis' staff

FlaPol: Rick Scott lauds Daniel Perez at confirmation hearing, with implicit digs at Ron DeSantis

FlaPol: Blaise Ingoglia announces arrest of man charged with making bogus health insurance claims

FlaPol: Orange County officials warn of cuts to public transportation, mosquito control if property tax measure passes

Capitolist: Florida Chamber Endorses Wilton Simpson for Agriculture Commissioner Reelection

Florida Phoenix: RFK Jr. comes to Tampa to roll out 'Make Hospital Food Healthier' pledge

Floridian: 'These Guys Are in Single Digits': Byron Donalds Points to Polling Lead for not Debating Opponents

FlaPol: Equality Florida Action PAC endorses Ken Welch for re-election

Capitolist: Florida Fire Chiefs Oppose Amendment 3 Over Public Safety Funding Concerns

Democrat: Republicans debate over who's best to replace Neal Dunn in Congress

WLRN: 'Not compatible': Palm Beach County rejects controversial Project Tango AI data center

DBNJ: Many Florida workers can't save enough to buy a first home

Times: Florida leads efforts to make daylight saving time year-round

Post: Florida Social Security COLA expected to be high, may not be enough

Post: Florida battling fast-spreading tiny pest that kills crops | Exclusive

WUSF: Florida corals are once again under threat of a hot El Niño, three years after historic bleaching

Democrat: With less than 6 months left, DeSantis legacy taking some late hits

Ledger: David Jolly calls for halt on construction of data centers

Democrat: Gwen Graham says school choice hurts public schools

Ledger: How some Florida municipalities might make up for lost property taxes

Axios: How Florida's property tax cut would affect renters

WLRN: What comes after book bans? Some Florida school officials are questioning traditional libraries

WLRN: Do Florida's record-high school grades mask concerns about student achievement?

Times: 'A handout to developers'? New Florida law has meant more Tampa Bay wetlands filled in

WLRN: State Rep. Fabian Basabe of Miami Beach liable for sexual harassment; jury awards \$450K in damages

Herald: State Rep. Fabian Basabe is found liable by jury in sexual harassment case

TCPalm: Florida elected official calls constituents needy, liars, 'big mouths'

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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