



250 Songs for 250 Years

What are the essential American songs?

[See the full songbook here.](#)

The Briefing for Sunday, June 28, 2026

The Last Briefing was Friday, June 19, 2026

Briefings will be limited this week and we focus on family and country.

Note – All previous Briefings can be accessed at www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org

Click the Briefing button at the website!

What's the weather outlook?

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

Bits and Pieces

- State government offices to be closed from Thursday through Monday to mark the nation's 50th birthday.
- State Budget should be signed this week – possibly Monday- it will be accompanied by a veto list of legislative appropriations that will be cancelled by the Governor.
- State Board of Education to meet Tuesday, 10 a.m. to consider appointing an interim commissioner of education. [Agenda](#) - Webcast: <https://thefloridachannel.org/>
- Congratulations to Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon on her election to serve as the 2nd Vice President of the Florida Association of Counties
- Statewide meetings of the Small School District Council Consortium and the Small County Coalition have been held. Focus now will turn to Primaries , major policy issues – Property Tax Proposals, Data Centers, Accountability in tracking State Voucher Program, and, addressing the needs of fiscally constrained counties and funding small districts.

Political Committee formed to Opposed Amendment 3 – Property Taxes

[Vote No on 3 – Stop Unfair Tax Shifts](#)

A political committee has launched a campaign opposing the proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would increase the state's homestead property tax exemption, Stop Unfair Tax Shifts unveiled its website, [VoteNoOnAmendment3.com](#).

If approved, Amendment 3 would increase the state's homestead exemption to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028, reduce the assessed growth cap on non-homesteaded properties, and create a path for full elimination of non-school property taxes on homestead properties.

The committee points out that if Amendment 3 receives the 60% vote required for passage on Nov. 3 — it will either “cripple cuts to critical services, or shift the tax burden to benefit some but hurt others.” Some consequences of the proposal may lead to consolidation or elimination of counties that are unable to fund critical services.

[Estimates](#) released by the Legislative Office of Economic and Demographic Research revealed that local governments would see a nearly \$5 billion reduction in property tax revenue during the 2027-28 fiscal year if the amendment passes. The projected losses would grow to nearly \$8.8 billion in the second year, \$9.7 billion in the third year, and \$10.75 billion in the fourth year.

History of DeSantis Vetoes

Governor DeSantis is expected to release his line-item veto list on the FY 2026-27 budget in the coming days. Provided below is a record of veto amounts for the Florida Legislature during the eight years of the DeSantis administration. Use this information to review past activity, or researching session-specific statistics. Click the Veto Amount to see the Veto List.

Fiscal Year	GAA Bill	Total GAA Budget	Veto Amount
2026-2027	5001E	\$114,461,515,410	Not yet released
2025-2026	2500	\$115,137,650,858	\$1,351,028,249
2024-2025	5001	\$117,463,274,374	\$949,611,399
2023-2024	2500	\$117,026,747,547	\$510,865,232
2022-2023	5001	\$112,071,034,002	\$3,132,314,537
2021-2022	2500	\$101,543,642,583	\$1,507,611,105
2020-2021	5001	\$93,215,530,723	\$1,000,337,940
2019-2020	2500	\$91,106,375,235	\$131,281,341

Pre-Veto Link to County by County Allocations

[County By County Allocations FY 26-27 \(HB 5001E\)](#)

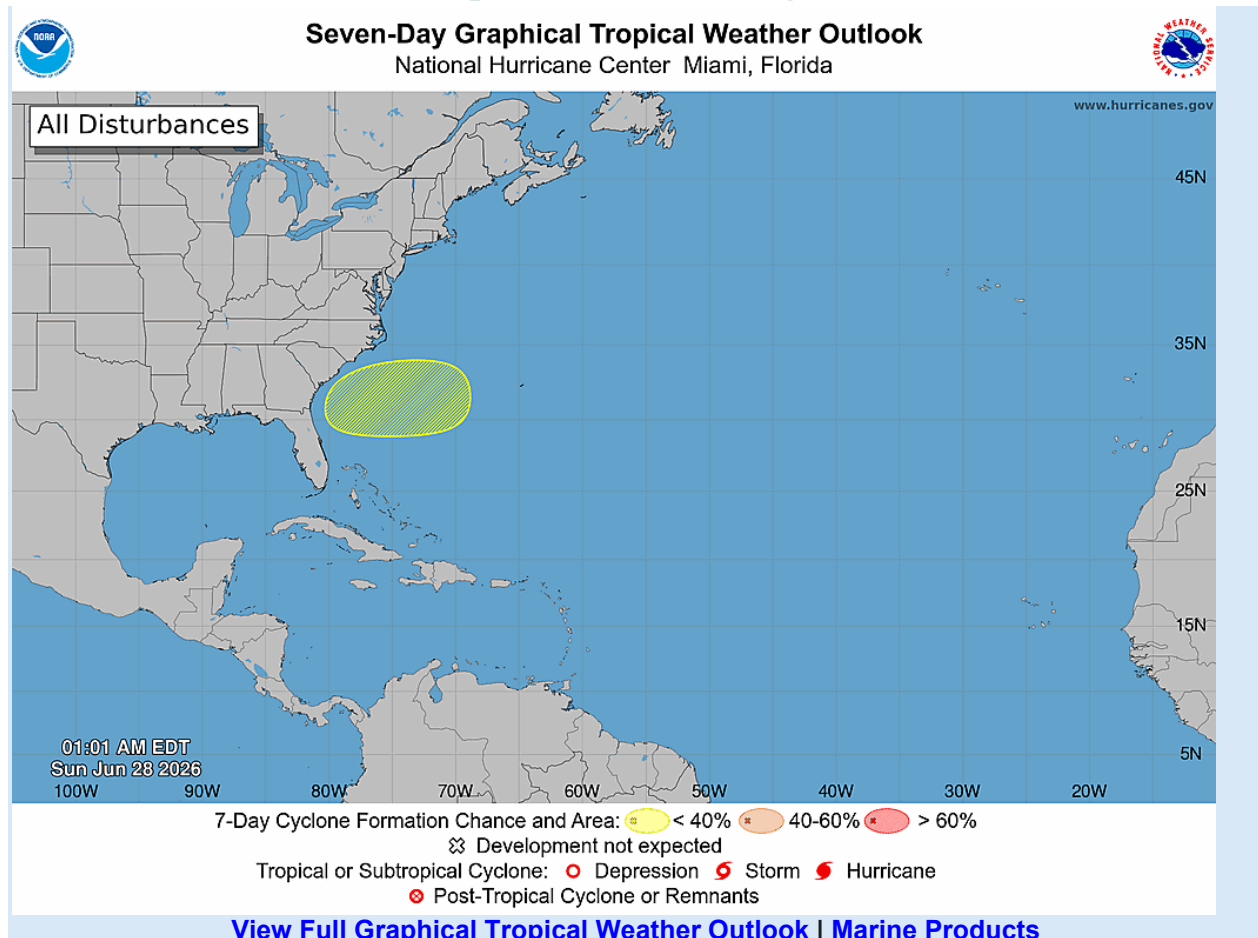
Park Admission Fees to be Waived – July 3-5

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection will be waiving admissions at most state parks for the upcoming Independence Day holiday. Free day-use only admissions will run from July 3 through July 5. The discount doesn't apply to overnight accommodations and rentals, or

to Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, Skyway Fishing Pier State Park and Weeki Wachee Springs State Park.

Tropical Outlook

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



On The Docket

MONDAY, JUNE 29

- NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING - Monday, 7 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is holding a public meeting. Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Suwannee Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

- INTERIM EDUCATION LEADER - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Department of Education will hold an online call to consider rule changes regarding student performance standards, out-of-state high school equivalency diplomas, and consideration of an interim commissioner of education. The meeting will be streamed on the Florida Channel.

- RESEARCH/EDUCATION DORM - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The University of Florida/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center marks the opening of a new dormitory facility that will accommodate 16 graduate students. UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center, 4253 Experiment Road, Highway 182, Jay.
- STONERIDGE FARMS - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Department of Environmental Protection is holding a meeting to collect public input on proposed corrective measures at Stoneridge Farms, the former Solite facility where mining operations have ceased and site assessments have identified contamination in specific areas. Russell Baptist Church, 2299 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs.
- CIVICS BEE - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - Florida State University's Institute for Governance and Civics is hosting the [2026 Florida Statewide Finals of the National Civics Bee®](#) sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and chambers of commerce across Florida. Augustus B. Turnbull III Florida State Conference Center.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

- NEW BUDGET AND LAWS - Nearly 150 new laws take effect, including the approximately \$114.5 billion budget (HB 5001-E) and a wide-ranging tax package that in part removes taxes at a couple of tennis tournaments at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens along with guns, gun accessories, camping gear and fishing equipment at the end of the year (HB 7031-E).
- PRESIDENTIAL CONTRACTS - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Governors of the State University System is holding a meeting where the agenda includes a contract extension for Florida Gulf Coast University President Aysegul Timur and the contract for Stuart Bell to be president at the University of Florida. University of South Florida, Morsani College of Medicine, 560 Channelside Dr., Tampa.
- GAMING CONTROL - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission is meeting. Joseph P. Cresse Hearing Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

FRIDAY, JULY 3

- State government offices have been directed to be closed by Gov. Ron DeSantis from Thursday through Monday to mark the nation's 250th birthday.

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: Deprived of debate, Jay Collins and Paul Renner counter Byron Donalds at GOP confab

News Herald: Panama City Beach City Council working to ban data centers

FlaPol: Flush with \$31M, Wilton Simpson steers \$3M to Senate GOP campaigns

FlaPol: Money gap widens between James Uthmeier and Jose Javier Rodriguez

Floridian: Florida Police Benevolent Association Endorses Jay Collins for Governor

Floridian: DeSantis Touts Success of Progress Monitoring for Students in Language Arts, Mathematics

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis says he vetoed e-bike bill because it would lead to police surveillance

FlaPol: Byron Donalds continues to stack cash while GOP field lags

Post: Young men are flocking to a Florida campaign shaking up Republicans

TCPalm: Florida DEP fines Fort Pierce for unpermitted docks at iconic bar

DBNJ: City fears more 'neighbor disputes' from building permit exemption law

FlaPol: Florida Education Association backs David Jolly for Governor

Bay County could lose \$38 million under property tax plan

News-Press: Lee County, Florida County Commission applauds anti-LGBTQ message

Capitolist: Matt Gaetz Appointed to Four-Year Triumph Gulf Coast Term

Florida Phoenix: Campaign launches to oppose property tax cut constitutional amendment

Ocala Star-Banner: AI boom meets backlash in Florida over water and energy use

Floridian: DeSantis Announces Closure of 'Alligator Alcatraz' Detention Center

FlaPol: Byron Donalds committee to flood Florida airwaves with \$20M ad blitz

Floridian: Manatee County Sheriff Rick Wells Endorses Jay Collins for Governor

Floridian: Paul Renner Urges Fox News, NewsMax to Host Gubernatorial Debate

DBNJ: Florida farms are disappearing. You may pay the price at the store

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis vetoes bipartisan bills to protect kids on e-bikes and let teens volunteer at polls

DBNJ: Ahead in polls and money, what could stop Byron Donald

FlaPol: Judge fast-tracks challenge to Florida property tax ballot language

Daily News: Will Florida residents' voices be loud enough to halt AI data centers?

WLRN: Florida kids are uninsured at a high rate

My News 13: Florida preschool teacher shortage raises concerns about access to early childhood education

Sun: Governance fight throws UF presidency into turmoil

Times: UF, state board chairs clash over trustee leadership concerns

FlaPol: Jay Collins expects Ron DeSantis endorsement 'when he decides to jump in' to Governor's race

News4JAX: DeSantis signs bills targeting local government spending, property tax increases

Times: DeSantis signs bills to tamp down local tax raises

Bradenton Herald: DeSantis signs tax, budget bills for greater accountability in Bradenton

Democrat: DeSantis signs companion measure to property tax cut

FlaPol: Florida Chamber backs Byron Donalds for Governor

The Capitolist: Labor Groups Back Jolly-Graham Ticket in Governor's Race

FlaPol: Three counties moving forward with one-year data center moratoriums

WUSF: No state fireworks ban, but officials recommend 'responsible' use

FlaPol: Three-quarters of a million raised in crowded Tallahassee mayoral race

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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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