



There are 20 days until the August 18th Primary Election!
There are 98 days until the November 3rd General Election!

The Briefing for Wednesday, July 29, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, July 27, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

Court Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Amendment Today at 2:30PM

A circuit court judge in Leon County will hear arguments over whether the property tax amendment put on the November ballot should be overhauled before it goes to voters. The court hearing will begin at 2:30pm and can be watched live on The Florida Channel. <https://thefloridachannel.org/>

Amendment 3 — which needs a "yes" vote from 60 percent of voters — calls for increasing the current homestead exemption for Florida residents from \$50,000 to \$250,000 over a two-year period.

Three separate lawsuits contend that the ballot title and summary are misleading and full of “political rhetoric.” If the legal challenges are successful Attorney General James Uthmeier would be required to draft a new ballot title and summary. Attorneys for the state are asking Judge David Frank to reject the lawsuits. The state's court filing insists that Amendment 3 is not misleading and that it “fairly informs” voters about the potential impact of the measure.

NEW LAW GOVERNS VARIOUS THRESHOLDS IN SETTING MILLAGE RATES

Under Florida's newly enacted property tax administration law (SB 4-F), exceeding the rolled-back millage rate requires a **supermajority vote** of the local governing body, with the exact threshold depending on how much the rate is increased:

- **A two-thirds vote** is required to adopt a millage rate **up to 110%** of the rolled-back rate.
- **A unanimous vote** (or a **three-fourths vote** if the governing board has 9 or more members) is required to adopt a millage rate **above 110%** of the rolled-back rate.
- **Alternatively, a voter referendum** can be used to pass a rate exceeding 110%.
- **A simple majority vote** can only be used to pass a millage rate that is *at or below* the adjusted rolled-back rate.

When Electors Chosen In the General Election Take Office?

F.S. 100.041 - Officers chosen at general election.

- Each county commissioner elected will take office on the second Tuesday following such election.
- School board member and school superintendents of schools will take office on the second Tuesday following the general election in which such member or superintendent is elected.
- The term of office of each county and each district officer not otherwise provided by law shall commence on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following his or her election.

U.S. Department of Education rescinds the Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services on the Basis of Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, and Handicap in Vocational Education Programs

Effective July 23, 2026, the U.S. Department of Education rescinded the Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services on the Basis of Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, and Handicap in Vocational Education Programs, first issued in 1979. The Guidelines addressed civil rights responsibilities of recipients operating career and technical education programs across nine issue areas, including recruitment, admissions and counseling, comparable facilities, physical accessibility, services for students with disabilities, financial assistance, work-study and job placement, housing, and employment. Section II.B. of the Guidelines established the Methods of Administration (MOA) structure, under which state education agencies collect and analyze civil rights data, conduct periodic compliance reviews of subrecipients operating CTE programs, provide technical assistance, and submit biennial reports to the Office for Civil Rights; that structure is eliminated. The Department states that the rescission does not change recipients' obligations under Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504, that the substantive regulations at 34 CFR parts 100, 104, and 106 remain in effect and are otherwise unaffected by this action, and that nothing prevents states from continuing to collect the same information under their own authority. The rule was issued without prior notice and comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2). Rescinding Guidelines for Eliminating Discrimination and Denial of Services on the Basis of Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, and Handicap in Vocational Education Programs, 91 FR 46285 (July 23, 2026), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/07/23/2026-14892/rescinding-guidelines-for-eliminating-discrimination-and-denial-of-services-on-the-basis-of-race>.

Registration is now open for the

Florida Rural Economic Development Summit 2026

Space to Live, Power to Grow

Tuesday, November 17 – Thursday 19, 2026

World Equestrian Center® | Ocala, FL

Note - A separate email has been sent to School And County officials to register for this meeting

On The Docket

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

- TOBACCO TAX - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference is looking at the tobacco tax and surcharge. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, The Capitol.
- TOBACCO SETTLEMENT - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference is reviewing the tobacco settlement. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, The Capitol.
- FLORIDA CITY GAS - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is holding a hearing on Florida City Gas's request to adjust natural gas rates provided to 125,000 customers in Miami-Dade, Broward, Brevard, Palm Beach, Hendry, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. Location: Brevard County Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera.
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE ESTIMATING - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Criminal Justice Estimating Conference is meeting. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, The Capitol.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Commission for Independent Education will hold a meeting on degree granting institutions. Location: Mission Inn Resort and Club, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-In-The- Hills.
- MANATEE RESEARCH FUNDING - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is holding a teleconference meeting on one-year funding for Manatee Research Projects with Mote Marine Laboratory and to allow retroactive start dates for projects funded in the fiscal year 2026-2027 General Appropriation Act. lines 2033A and 2045A. Location: Phone: 1(850)270-2928. Code: 133 104 581#
- UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference is reviewing the forecast for the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund Forecast Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, The Capitol.
- TRANSPORTATION REVENUE - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference is reviewing transportation revenues. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, The Capitol.

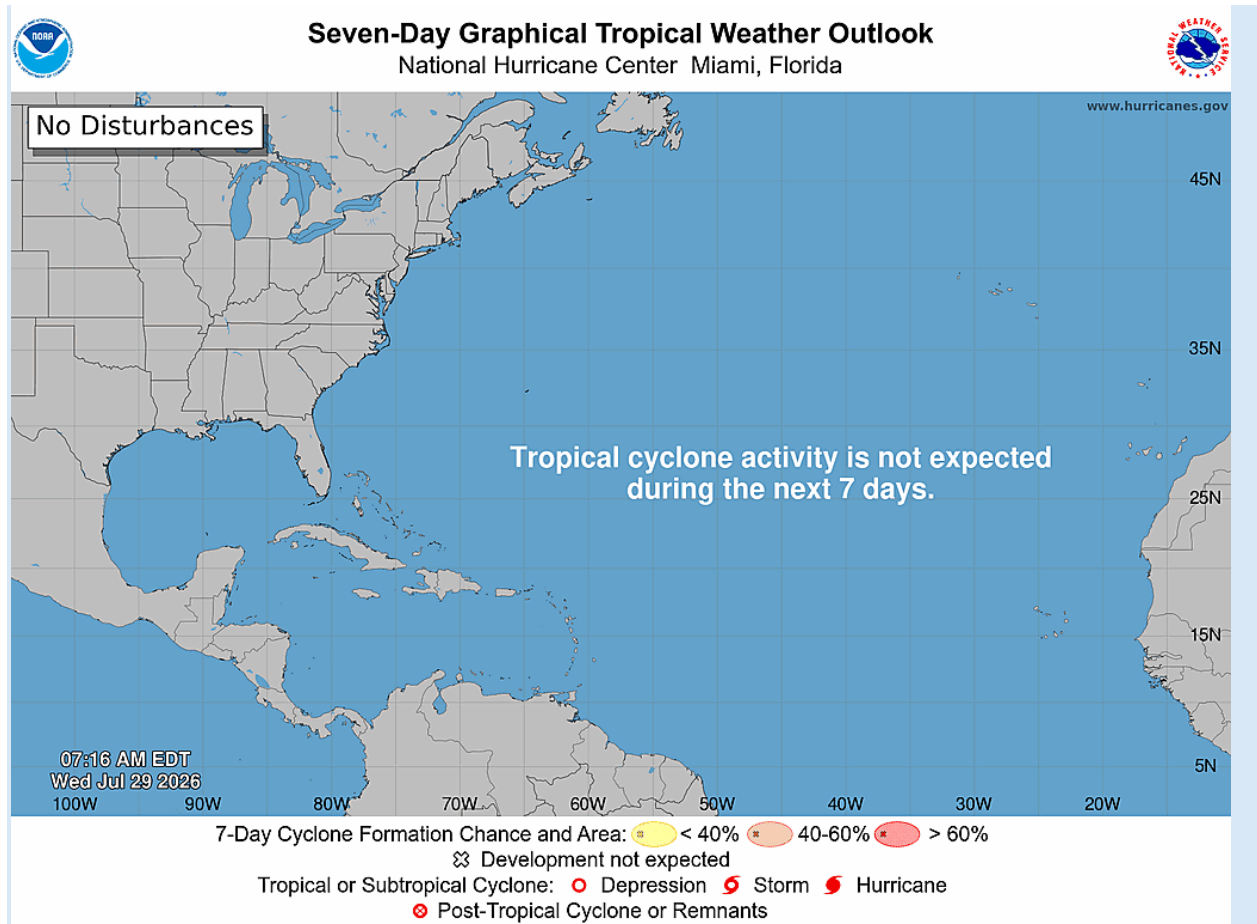
FRIDAY, JULY 31

- REVENUE ESTIMATORS ON AD VALOREM - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference is looking at ad valorem taxes. Location: Senate Office Building, Room 301, The Capitol.
- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Commission for Independent Education will hold a meeting on non-degree granting institutions. Location: Mission Inn Resort and Club, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-In-The- Hills.

- **FINANCE REPORTS - Friday -** State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between July 18 and July 24. 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– SSDCC Legislative Meeting in Tampa
Dec - Feb. -	Legislative Committee Meetings
March 2 -	Legislature convenes

March 16 -	Small County Coalition – Legislative Reception
March 17 -	Small School District Council Consortium Briefing
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: Absent Charlie Crist draws fire as St. Pete mayoral rivals meet at Suncoast Tiger Bay

WUSF: Glades superintendent to represent county, state and rural Florida on the national stage

Floridian: Byron Donalds Slams 'Pretty Far-Left' David Jolly After Frost Endorsement

Post: Lawmakers may try to kill property tax, State Rep. warns in Palm Beach

FlaPol: Jerry Demings thanks supporters as he recovers from prostate cancer surgery

The Capitolist: Parental Choice Provided for Artificial Intelligence Tools in Schools

News4JAX: Hard to fathom: Derelict boats cost Florida taxpayers millions — and boaters say removal takes too long

WUSF: Florida's growth is fueling a new migration pattern in the state

Bradenton Herald: AI data centers in Manatee County? Commissioners look to block them for now

The Capitolist: Florida Leads Nation With 19 Cities Ranked as Fast-Growing “Boomtowns”

Herald: Lawsuit claims government isn't doing enough to protect Florida's Queen Conch

Sun-Sentinel: Gas price up over \$4 again in parts of Florida

Floridian: Paul Renner Discusses State's Affordability Crisis, Solutions in Seven-Figure Ad Buy

FlaPol: Voters reject property tax initiative once they understand what's at stake, pollster says

Axios: Report: Hospitals could lose millions if Florida's property tax overhaul passes

News4JAX: Florida approves \$564K for school-safety drone program; state spending tops \$1M

Democrat: Do Florida public schools plan to start later? School starts soon

WUSF: Florida is on track for deadliest year on record for childhood drownings

Democrat: Leon County Schools faces 'worst' budget in a decade

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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