***There are 9 days until the August 18th Primary Election!***
***There are 86 days until the November 3rd General Election!***

# *The Briefing for Monday, August 10, 2026,*

***The Last Briefing was Monday, August 3, 2026***

***Enjoyed a wonderful week in NYC! Glad to be back!***

***What's the weather outlook?***
**10-Day Weather Forecast for Tallahassee, FL – The Weather Channel**

## *Circuit Judge Orders Property Tax to be Rewritten*

In an 18-page order, Leon County Circuit Judge David Frank declared the ballot title and summary for Amendment 3 "clearly and conclusively defective." The order enjoins Secretary of State **Cord Byrd** from placing the current language on the General Election ballot and gives Attorney General James Uthmeier 10 days to draft a replacement that describes the amendment rather than campaigns for it. Frank was explicit that striking the amendment "is not an option" and that whether it's a good idea "is the exclusive domain of the voters." What can't survive, he ruled, is a ballot statement that "does not state the basic legal purpose of the amendment; it endorses it and diverts voters from its actual effect."

## *New Poll: Florida Voters Back Property Tax Relief, Health Care Price Transparency, and School Choice — While Wary of Data Centers*

A new statewide survey of Florida registered voters conducted on behalf of The James Madison Institute finds broad, bipartisan support for property tax relief, health care price transparency, and expanded education options, alongside deep voter skepticism about data center development in their communities. The survey of 1,400 Florida registered voters was conducted July 20–26, 2026, by Targoz Market Research. The margin of error is +/- 2.62%.

**Property Taxes: Broad, Bipartisan Support for Homestead Relief**

- Nearly three-quarters of voters (74%) support the Legislature's proposal to significantly reduce or eliminate property taxes on homesteaded residences, including 44% who strongly support it. Just 17% oppose the idea. Support crosses party lines, with 89% of

Republicans, 64% of independents, and 59% of Democrats backing the proposal. When presented with tradeoffs, 55% of all voters say the cuts are worth it even if local governments have to cut spending or find other revenue.

**The Race for Governor**

- On the Republican side, Congressman Byron Donalds leads the primary field with 49% support among likely primary voters, followed by Lt. Gov. Jay Collins (18%) and former House Speaker Paul Renner (8%).
- Former Congressman David Jolly leads the Democratic primary with 47% among likely primary voters; no other candidate tops 5%.

***House Speaker Confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to Brazil***

Florida Speaker of the House, Daniel Perez is resigning as speaker of the State House effective Aug. 21. Perez was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Ambassador to Brazil. With Perez's resignation effective Aug. 21, Speaker Pro Tempore Wyman Duggan, a Jacksonville Republican, will wield the powers of the House speaker until the end of the current term in November. Perez, of Miami, has served as House Speaker for the last two years, a time littered with disagreements with Gov. Ron DeSantis.

***School Districts Looking at FLEHT to reduce Insurance Costs***

With rising health insurance costs, a third of Florida's 67 school districts have joined the Florida Educator Health Trust (FLEHT), a nonprofit organization under established by the Florida School Board Insurance Trust, also under the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. While the latter helps small school districts with property and casualty insurance, FLEHT is specifically for health insurance. Ted Roush, a former Suwannee County superintendent and now the executive director of FLEHT, said that when a district joins the trust, each district's superintendent becomes a voting member and helps decide what vendors the districts will work with. In the first quarter of 2026, FLEHT said its districts saved more than $7.8 million. Risk sharing means several districts share the financial responsibility for health care claims, which spreads the burden and ensures no district is particularly affected by an expensive year of claims. FLEHT, conceptual plans for the future include local in-house clinics open only to district employees to provide prescriptions at a fraction of the price paid in the normal market, Stitt said.

***On The Docket***

***MONDAY, AUGUST 10***

- SCHOOLS OPEN - Monday - The 2026–2027 academic year begins for public school students in Alachua, Baker, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hendry, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Suwannee, Volusia and Wakulla counties.

- EARLY VOTING - The Early Voting method of voting for the Aug. 18 primary continues through Saturday. Fourteen counties, including Bradford, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Miami-Dade and Orange will continue to provide Early Voting on Aug. 16.
- STATE WORKER HEALTH - Monday, 9 a.m. - The Self-Insurance Estimating Conference will look at State Employees' Health Insurance Enrollment and Expenditures. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- BROWARD COLLEGE TRUSTEES - Monday, 11 a.m. - The Broward College Board of Trustees is meeting on the National Council Licensure Examination. Location: Willis Holcombe Center, 111 East Las Olas Boulevard, Room 1208, Fort Lauderdale.

***TUESDAY, AUGUST 11***

- SCHOOLS OPEN - Tuesday - The 2026–2027 academic year begins for public school students in Bradford, Clay, Collier, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Jefferson, Lee, Okaloosa, Orange, Pinellas, Polk, Sumter, Taylor and Walton counties.
- FISCALLY CONSTRAINTED COUNTIES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will look at Fiscally Constrained Counties. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- REVENUE LIMITATIONS - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference Revenue Limitation Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- ST. JOHNS WATER - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board is meeting. Location: District Headquarters, 4049 Reid Street (Hwy 100 West), Palatka.
- HISTORICAL MARKERS - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Division of Historical Resources Florida Historical Marker Council is holding a meeting. Location: R.A. Gray Building, Room 307, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.
- SOUTH FLORIDA TURNPIKE - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will discuss interchange improvements at Florida's Turnpike and U.S. 1 in Miami-Dade County. Location: Visit: www.floridasturnpike.com/sr821interchangeatus1. Or Phone: (850)739-5589. Code: 660-937-859#.
- DISTRICT 2 FORUM - Tuesday, 12 p.m. - The Capital Tiger Bay Club is holding a candidate form for Congressional District 2 Democratic candidates. Location: Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola Street, Tallahassee.
- FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 12 p.m. - The Florida State College at Jacksonville Board of Trustees is meeting to finalize the College President's performance evaluation and employment contract and to tour the Advanced Technology Center. Location: FSCJ Administrative Offices, 501 West State Street, Jacksonville and the Advanced Technology Center, 401 West State Street, Jacksonville.

***WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12***

- SCHOOLS OPEN - Wednesday - The 2026–2027 academic year begins for public school students in Escambia, Holmes, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Monroe, Union and Washington counties.
- FLORIDA-ALABAMA PLANNING - Wednesday, 9 a.m. CT - The Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization Board and Committees are meeting. Location: Gulf Breeze Community Center, 800 Shoreline Dr, Gulf Breeze.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER - Wednesday, 1:05 p.m. - The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board meets after workshops that begin at 11:30 a.m. Location: District Headquarters, 81 Water Management Drive, Havana.
- HISTORICAL REGISTER - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida National Register Review Board will review proposed National Register nominations that include: the Evins-Wood House in Alachua County, the Cape San Blas Lighthouse and Centennial Building in Gulf County, Weigle House in Highlands County, Georgette's Tea Room in Miami, the Bosque Bello Cemetery in Fernandina Beach, Plymouth Elementary School in Apopka and Hansen House in Winter Haven. Location: R. A. Gray Building, Room 307, 500 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee.
- LEAGUE OF CITIES - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Florida League of Cities Annual Conference opens its annual conference with Nominating Committee Meeting and the Florida League of Mayors Reception. Location: The Diplomat Beach Resort, Great Hall 1-2, 3555 S. Ocean Drive, Hollywood.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 13**

- SCHOOLS OPEN - Thursday - The 2026–2027 academic year begins for public school students in Calhoun, Miami-Dade and Pasco.
- LEAGUE OF CITIES - Thursday, 8 a.m. - The Florida League of Cities Annual Conference continues its annual conference with the Florida League of Mayors Board of Directors meeting and panel discussions that include talks on data centers, local land use and disaster planning. Location: The Diplomat Beach Resort, Great Hall 1-2, 3555 S. Ocean Drive, Hollywood.
- FORT MYERS HOUSING - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corporation is holding a hearing on the potential future issuance of up to $36 million in tax-exempt bonds for a proposed 143-unit multifamily residential rental development called Southward Village in Fort Myers. Location: Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000, Tallahassee.
- MIAMI HOUSING - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corporation is holding a hearing on the potential future issuance of up to $31 million in tax-exempt bonds for a proposed 132-unit multifamily residential rental development called Harvest Point at the intersection of SW 216th Street and SW 109th Avenue in Miami-Dade County Location: Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000, Tallahassee.

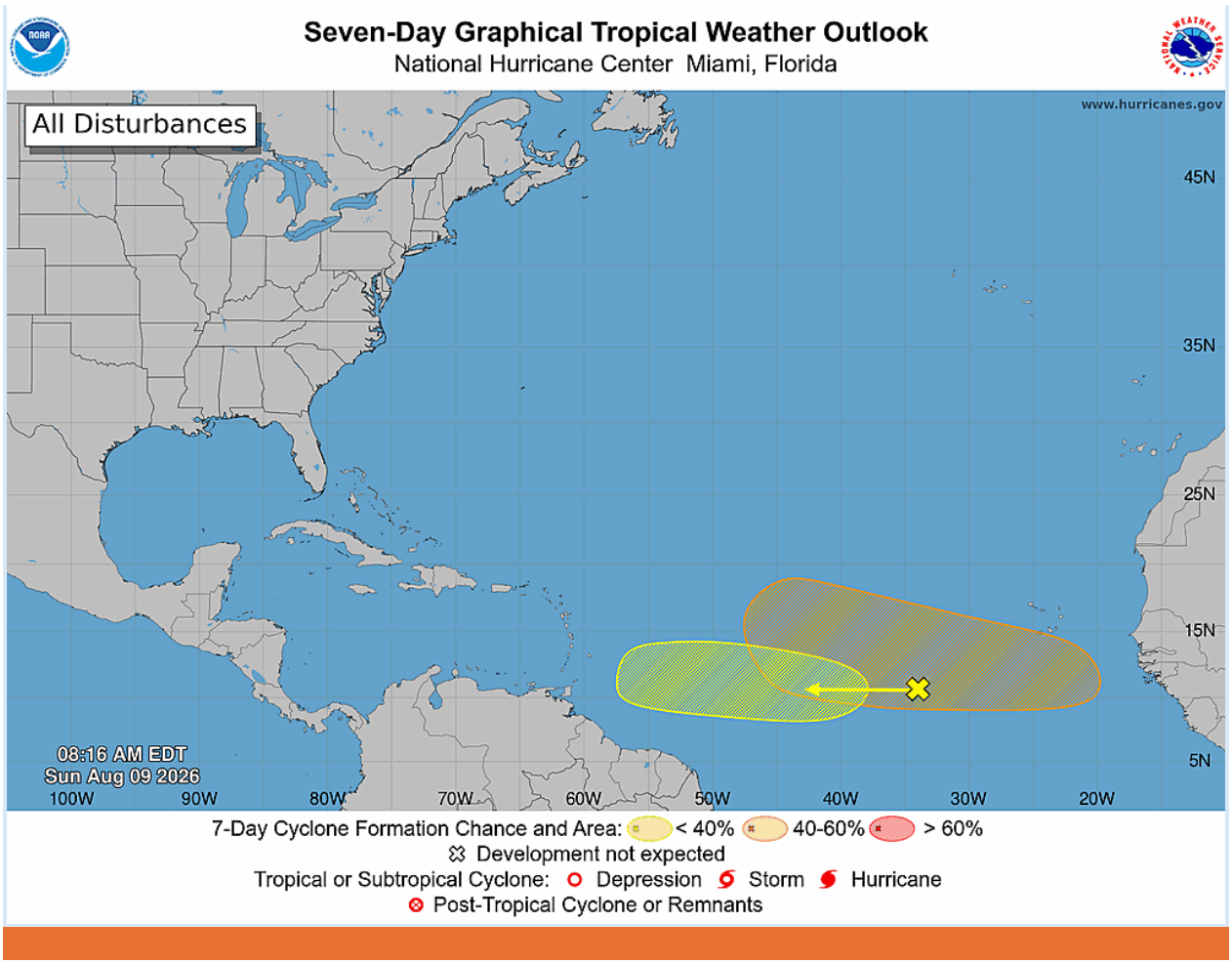
- FEDERAL JOB FAIR - Thursday, 11 a.m. - Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson will host a Federal Job Fair in partnership with Miami-Dade County Commissioner Oliver G. Gilbert III, Miami Dade College, CareerSource South Florida, and the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project. Location: Miami Dade College, North Campus, Conference Center, 11380 NW 27th AvenueBuilding 3, Room 324, Miami.
- SOUTH FLORIDA TURNPIKE - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will discuss interchange improvements at Florida's Turnpike and U.S. 1 in Miami-Dade County. Location: Phichol Williams Community Center, 951 SW 4th St, Homestead.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 14**

- LEAGUE OF CITIES - Friday, 8 a.m. - The Florida League of Cities Annual Conference continues its annual conference with a keynote presentation from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin and a discussion on the property tax Amendment 3 on the November ballot from former state Senator Jeff Brandes, the president and CEO of the Florida Policy Project. National League of Cities President Kevin Kramer, a Louisville, Kentucky councilmember, is to address the general session on Saturday. Location: The Diplomat Beach Resort, Great Hall 1-2, 3555 S. Ocean Drive, Hollywood.
- GENERAL REVENUE - Friday, 9 a.m. - State economists sitting as the Revenue Estimating Conference will meet to come up with a consensus estimate for how much the state can expect to collect in general revenue this year and next, trying to make different forecasts line up. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- LICENSE REINSTATEMENT - Friday, 10 a.m. - Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is holding a workshop on a proposed rule change regarding the review process for a person petitioning the department after their license has been cancelled, suspended, disqualified, or revoked. Location: Neil Kirkman Bldg, Rm B-203, 2900 Apalachee Pkwy, Tallahassee.
- FINANCE REPORTS - Friday - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between July 25 and July 31. 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**

**2026 Events**

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|---|---|
| August 18 – | Primary Elections |
| Sept 16-17 – | FAC Policy Conference – Jacksonville |
| Nov 3 – | General Election |
| Nov. 17-19- | Rural Summit – Ocala – Sponsored by FREDA |
| Nov. 30 – Dec. 3 | Legislative Committee Meetings |
| 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 |

**2027 Events**

| | |
|---|---|
| January 4 – 7 | Legislative Committee Meetings |
| January 11 – 14 | Legislative Committee Meetings |
| February 1 – 4 | Legislative Committee Meetings |
| February 8 – 11 | Legislative Committee Meetings |
| February 15 – 18 | Legislative Committee Meetings |

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|---|---|
| March 2 - | Legislature convenes |
| March 16 - | Small County Coalition/Small School District Joint Legislative Reception |
| March 17 - | Small School District Council Consortium Legislative Briefing |
| March 17 - | Florida Association Counties – Legislative Day |
| March 17-18- | Rural Days 2027 – Tentative |
| April 30 - | Legislative Session 60 Days – Sine Die! |
| June 9 – 11 | FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference, Kissimmee, FL |
| June 10 - | Small School District Council Consortium – Annual Meeting |
| June 22-25 | FAC Annual Summer Meeting - Hilton Orlando |
| June 22 - | Small County Coalition Annual Meeting Breakfast – Orlando |
| Nov. 30 – Dec. 3 | FSBA/FADSS 82nd Annual Joint Conference, Kissimmee, FL |

## *Headlines Around The State*

***Floridian: Fake Voter Guides Are Confusing Florida Voters — And Now They're Coming by Text***

***Florida Phoenix: Pasco state Rep. Kevin Steele resigns from his legislative seat***

***News-Press: Commissioners talk flat budget, no tax increase - sheriff wants $41M boost***

***Floridian: DeSantis Highlights Florida's Top Position in Education Ahead of School Year***

***FlaPol: 'Completely false': Byron Donalds campaign blasts James Fishback's 'baseless and defamatory sideshow'***

***FlaPol: Ron DeSantis closes door on gubernatorial endorsement before GOP Primary***

***Ocala Star-Banner: DeSantis says new tax amendment ballot summary fixes judge's concerns***

***Florida Phoenix: Amendment 3 rewrite is already underway, Gov. Ron DeSantis says***

***NBC 6: Proposed Florida property tax measure could reduce funding for children's programs across the state***

***Florida Phoenix: No on 3 campaign focuses on the pain for renters if property tax cut passes***

***Ocala Star-Banner: Vibrio vulnificus 'flesh-eating' cases rising in Florida in new update***

***Today: What happened to Moms for Liberty influence on Florida school board races?***

***TCPalm: Affordability is heart of Florida's upcoming primary governor's race***

***Politico: Florida AG, alongside 2 other red states, subpoenas Fauci***

***News4JAX: Growing concerns over Amendment 3 as more groups speak out against the property tax proposal***

***FlaPol: Democratic lawmakers join advisory committee for anti-Amendment 3 push***

***WUSF: Challenges facing Florida's corrections system: At the top and inside the walls***

***CBS Miami: South Florida officials, residents react to Tallahassee court's ruling for rewrite of property tax ballot language***

***WLRN: What Florida's Amendment 3 could mean for affordable housing, CRAs and Miami-Dade neighborhoods***

*PNJ: Citizens worry Escambia's data center ban promises fall far short*

*USA Today: 50,000 empty seats push Florida district toward more school closures*

*Sentinel: Florida has 12 of the best hospitals in the United States*

*Post: Eight Florida hospitals earned the lowest rating from patients*

*FlaPol: 'Often wrong': Byron Donalds raises doubt about Revenue Estimating Conference read on Amendment 3*

*WLRN: Judge orders Florida to rewrite the property tax amendment ballot language*

*Herald: Florida's tax-cut amendment is 'clearly and conclusively defective,' judge rules*

*FlaPol: James Uthmeier says team is taking a 'hard look' at court demand for revised property tax amendment language*

*Ledger: Grady Judd calls Florida's property tax amendment 'ludicrous'*

*FlaPol: Catholic school parents'cmplaints compelled James Uthmeier to challenge vax mandate*

*News4JAX: 'An arrogant pride': 2 sitting commissioners return to meeting, face more public scrutiny amid fake voter-guide charges*

*Democrat: What does Forbes' new HBCU ranking say about FAMU?*

*FlaPol: Byron Donalds says fiscally constrained counties need a funding formula, not a Governor who can 'pick and choose'*

*FlaPol: Time is running out as Jay Collins says Ron DeSantis 'has not said no' to endorsing him*

*FlaPol: Jay Collins says property tax amendment puts first responders 'at risk,' but he backs it anyway*

*WLRN: 'Block Flock': Debate over license plate surveillance cameras seeps into Florida's gubernatorial race*

*WLRN: First responders sound the alarm over Florida's property tax proposal*

*Sentinel: Florida sheriffs 'significantly concerned' with amendment rolling back property taxes*

*FlaPol: Sheriffs warn that Amendment 3 hurts home rule in latest opposition to homestead exemption hike*

*TCPalm: Data centers are prohibited in these Florida cities, counties*

***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