There are 15 days until the August 18th Primary Election!
There are 93 days until the November 3rd General Election!

The Briefing for Monday, August 3, 2026

The Last Briefing was Friday, July 31, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

First Week of August – Not much going on!

Government meetings are at a lull as summer comes to a close!
Primary Campaigning closing in on August 18th election day
Race for Governor showing major differences on Data Centers and AI
Indications are if Property Tax amendment goes down – there will be additional efforts to address property taxes!
Last week of summer for kids before returning to school
A lot of rain around the state!
AG is questioning Catholic Schools on Vaccination Policies – says they may lose eligibility for vouchers if parents can't exempt their kids from "vax" requirement.
Will be out of office from Tuesday – Friday in NYC celebrating 50th Anniversary!
Watch the Today Show – somebody may be in the crowd on the patio – probably Thursday!

Long-time County Manager Retires in Gilchrist County

Gilchrist County manager Bobby Crosby has announced his retirement from his position. He has served in his position for 15 years and has been an influential voice for rural Florida. Best Wishes to him on his future plans!

Florida Gas Prices just below National Average!

Gas prices in most of Florida were below the $4-mark, AAA put the average gallon of gas in Florida at $3.83, or 27 cents lower than the national average. Averages ranged from $3.80 a gallon in Escambia County, which includes Pensacola, to $4.04 in Monroe County, which

includes the Florida Keys. Parts of the Big Bend region and South Florida were at or just below the $4 mark.

On The Docket

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

- EARLY VOTING - Monday Early in-person voting for the Aug. 18 primary begins in Bradford, Calhoun, Hendry, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Putnam and Santa Rosa counties.
- LOXAHATCHEE RIVER MANAGEMENT - Monday, 12 p.m. The South Florida Water Management District is holding a meeting of the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative. Location: Jupiter Utilities Field Office, 3133 Washington Street, Jupiter.
- EMERALD COAST REGIONAL PLANNING - Monday, 5 p.m. The Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization Board is meeting on the FL-AL TPO TMA Certification. Location: Clay Ford room, the Gulf Breeze Community Center, 800 Shoreline Dr, Gulf Breeze.
- PECO FUNDS - Monday, 1:30 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference is looking at school Public Education Capital Outlay, or PECO, money. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

- COASTAL PROTECTION - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Team is getting an update on the finalization of the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, SEFCRI website, Technical Advisory Committee recommitment and upcoming project teams. Location: Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton Campus, 777 Glades Rd., Boca Raton.
- INDIAN GAMING MONEY - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference is looking at revenue impacts from "slots; Indian Gaming; Pari-mutuels. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- DUKE ENERGY TARIFFS - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Public Service Commission beings a hearing on a petition for a limited proceeding to approve large load tariff by Duke Energy Florida, LLC. Location: Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- COLLEGE SPORTS - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The State University System Board of Governors' Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics is meeting. Location: University of Central Florida, FAIRWINDS Alumni Center, 12676 Gemini Blvd North, Orlando.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

- PREK-12 ENROLLMENT - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Education Estimating Conference will review PreK-12 enrollment. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.

- DUKE ENERGY TARIFFS - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Public Service Commission continues a hearing, if needed, on a petition for a limited proceeding to approve large load tariff by Duke Energy Florida, LLC. Location: Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting. Location: Hardee County Agri Civic Center, Training Room; 515 Civic Center Drive; Wauchula.
- OYSTER UPDATE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. CT The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will get an update on the first season of Apalachicola Bay wild oyster harvest, which reopened on January 1, 2026, after being closed in 2020, and an overview of the Big Bend oyster fishery. Location: Panama City Beach Conference Center at Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort, 520 Richard Jackson Blvd. Panama City Beach.
- STUDENT FINANCIAL AID - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. The Education Estimating Conference will review student financial aid impacts. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- WILDWOOD WIDENING - Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. The Florida Department of Transportation is holding an open house on plans to widen U.S. 301 from County Road 470 to exit 304 on Florida's Turnpike. Location: Wildwood Community Center, 6500 Powell Road, Wildwood.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

- EARLY VOTING - Thursday. The Early Voting method of voting for the Aug. 18 primary begins in Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Levy and Nassau counties, joining 10 other counties that have already started the process.
- SCHOOL READINESS - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference will review school readiness program enrollment. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- COLLEGE ENROLLMENT - Thursday, 2 p.m. The Education Estimating Conference will consider the Florida College System enrollment. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- GAMING COMMISSION - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Gaming Control Commission is meeting. Location: Joseph P. Cresse Hearing Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.

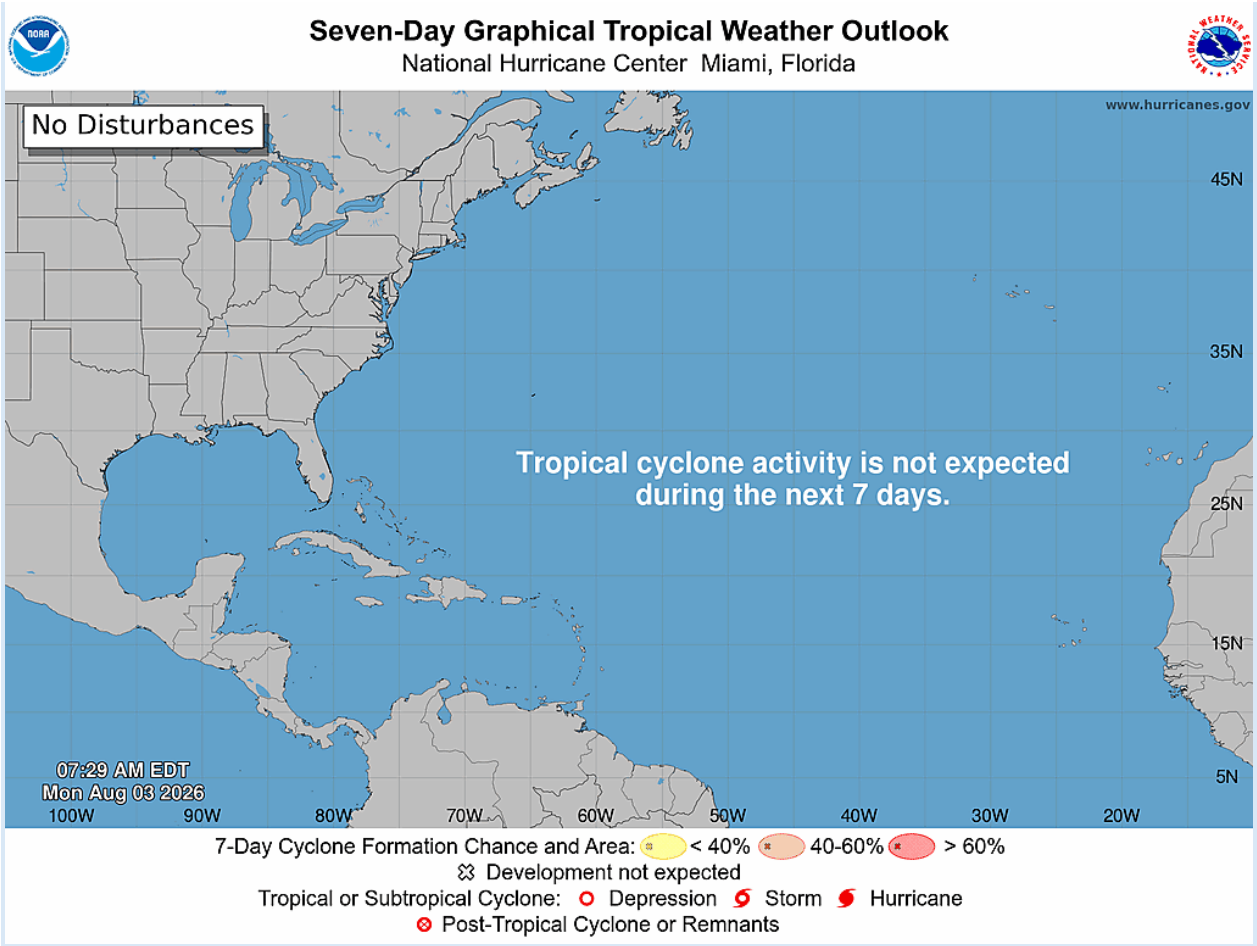
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

- EARLY VOTING - Friday. The Early Voting method of voting for the Aug. 18 primary begins in Alachua, Citrus, Duval and Osceola counties, joining 15 other counties that have already started the process.
- LOTTERY SALES - Friday, 10 a.m. The Revenue Estimating onference will review state Lottery sales. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.

- 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

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

Sentinel: Backers of these 3 Florida data centers giving big to politicians

Herald Tribune: Why are Florida home insurance costs finally falling?

WUSF: Florida state parks grapple with mounting maintenance backlog and not enough money

WUSF: Florida Rural and Family Lands Program keeps sprawl out of Peace River Valley

WUSF: What Byron and Erika Donalds' gospel of school choice could mean for Florida

WUSF: Gubernatorial candidate Jay Collins talks affordability, property taxes ahead of primary election

WUSF: Could lower property taxes come at a cost to children's healthcare?

Today: Inside the revolt against Florida's controversial police security cameras

Times: Florida wants to use cash meant for electric car chargers on flying cars instead

DBNJ: Did 'politics' influence Volusia Schools' budget, tax rate?

Ledger: Polk teachers' union faces do-or-die vote on certification | Exclusive

FlaPol: John Mitten again returns to Hernando Commission, courtesy of Gov. DeSantis appointment

FlaPol: Byron Donalds vows 'full and complete' property tax overhaul, with or without Amendment 3

FlaPol: Orange County gets a surprise new Commissioner

FlaPol: Byron Donalds launches 'Space Race' policy rocket

FlaPol: Lauren Book dusts GOP foes with $1.3M raised so far for SD 30

Ocala Star-Banner: Florida attorney general warns Catholic schools on vaccine policy

TCPalm: Florida DOH issues alert for continuing Lake Okeechobee toxic algae

Floridian: 'Acting Tough:' Annette Taddeo Criticizes Ingoglia's Politically Incorrect Campaign Ad

NBC 6: Broward superintendent charting the course for the new school year

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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