The Briefing for Monday, August 31, 2026

The Last Briefing was Friday, August 28, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

College Football Scores and Schedules

https://www.espn.com/college-football/schedule

Registration is open for the 2026 Rural Economic Development Summit *

Tuesday, November 17 – Thursday 19, 2026

World Equestrian Center® | Ocala, FL

Early Bird Registration - $475- (expires Sept. 4, 2026)

Regular Registration - $550

Register Today!

*The Summit is organized and administered by the Florida Rural Economic Development Association

Focus Now Turns to the General Election – November 3rd

The primaries are over and now attention focuses on the General Election - decisions made during the General will have sweeping impacts!

What's on the Ballot?

- Statewide Races – All Governor and Cabinet Positions
- Congressional Races – 1 US Senate seat and all Congressional Seats
- State Legislative Races - House and Senate members will be decided!
- Election of Local Officials – County and City Commissions and School Board Seats are up! \
- And 3 Proposed Constitutional Amendments will be on the ballot! Each of the proposals were proposed by the Florida Legislature.

What Proposed Constitutional Amendments will be on the Ballot?

Amendment 1- Budget Stabilization Fund

- Proposal: This proposed amendment, if adopted, will require the legislature to increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the budget stabilization fund from 10% to 25% of general revenue collections, require the legislature to transfer the lesser of $750 million or the amount required to reach 25% of the general revenue collections each year unless certain conditions are met, and allow the legislature to withdraw funds for critical state needs.

Amendment 2- Exemption of Tangible Personal Property on Agricultural Land from Taxation

- Proposal: This proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to exempt tangible personal property habitually located or typically present on land classified as agricultural, used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land from ad valorem taxation. If approved this amendment would first apply for tax years beginning January 1, 2027.
- The Florida Legislature's Fiscal Impact Statement will have a negative recurring impact on local government revenues of $31 million, beginning in Fiscal Year 2027-28.

Amendment 3- Save Our Homes From Excessive Property Taxes

- Proposal - This amendment benefits Florida taxpayers by: Exempting homestead properties from taxation. Exempts the first $250,000 of a homestead's value from taxation for all levies other than school
- district levies and requires, through general law, a schedule for full elimination. Ensuring funding for core services. Requires local governments to use remaining property taxes solely for core public needs including public safety, education and schools, infrastructure, and natural resources. Protecting small businesses. Limits future property tax assessments on businesses. Ensuring fairness for Florida residents. Requires any person who establishes Florida residency after January 1, 2027, to maintain Florida residency for five years prior to receiving the increased homestead exemption. If approved, the amendment would take effect on January 1, 2027.

Here's a summary of the impact:

● For homeowners with homesteaded property established by 12/31/26, the homestead exemption for all property taxes, except levied by school districts, would increase to:

  ○ up to $150,000 of the assessed value beginning on January 1, 2027.
  ○ up to $250,000 of the assessed value beginning on January 1, 2028.

● Homesteads established on or after January 1, 2027 are only eligible for these changes after establishing residency status for five years. After the fifth year, these homesteads are eligible for the maximum $250,000 exemption. For homeowners with less than 5 years of homestead exemption, up to $25,000 of assessed value is exempt from all property taxes and an additional $25,000 is exempt from all property taxes, except non-school tax levies. The new exemption values will be adjusted annually for positive inflation growth beginning January 1, 2028.

● For non-homestead residential property (own home, but not permanent resident) and non-residential property, the maximum increase in annual property assessment used to determine property taxes is reduced from 10% to 5%, beginning January 1, 2027.

● Requires the legislature, through general law, to establish a procedure for counties and municipalities to schedule for further exemption of property taxes on all homestead property up to remaining assessed value, if a county or municipality chooses to do so.

- Property tax levied by counties & municipalities is limited to only cover expenditures to:
    - ○ Provide for public safety, (law enforcement, fire service & emergency medical service;
    - ○ Provide funding for education and public schools; Finance or refinance infrastructure, including
      expenditures on road and bridge construction and maintenance and stormwater control;
    - ○ Finance or refinance natural resource projects, including flood control measures;
    - ○ Issue local bonds for uses consistent with the approved used above and to make debt service payments for existing obligations;
    - ○ Meet obligations for retirement benefits of local government employees;
    - ○ Fund the operations and administration of county officers and commissioners established under Article VIII of the Florida Constitution and municipalities, and the expenditures approved by such county officers or county or municipal governing bodies, except those expenditures prohibited by general law.

Florida FWC to take input on Oyster Management in the Big Bend

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is holding a series of meetings this week to solicit public input on oyster management in the Big Bend Area. (Dixie, Levy, and Citrus counties)

- Tuesday, 6 p.m. - Location - Dixie County Public Library, 16328 SE Hwy 19, Cross City.
- Thursday, 6 p.m. - Location - UF/IFAS Bronson Extension Office, 625 N Hathaway Ave., Bronson.

FWC outlines Permit Quotas for the 2026 Bear Hunt

This year's hunt is set for Dec. 5 to Dec. 27 at four different parts of the state. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is offering up to 215 permits, of which 193 people can bid on at $5 an entry starting Sept. 11. The rest are to go to large private landowners whose property includes bear populations.

This year's permitting application window runs Sept. 11 through Sept. 21. Those drawn would have between Sept. 25 and Oct. 5 to pay for a non-transferable permit that costs $100 for Florida residents and $300 for non-residents. The state limits non-resident participation to 10 percent.

Unclaimed permits would be redrawn during the acceptance window, from Oct. 9 to Oct. 19.

A third round for unclaimed permits would be held Oct. 23 to Nov. 2.

- 78 permits will be available in the East Panhandle region, which includes the Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area and parts of Bay, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Franklin, Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, and Jefferson counties.
- 31 permits will be available to the North zone, which runs along the Florida-Georgia state line, includes the Osceola Wildlife Management Area encompassing parts of Hamilton, Suwannee, Columbia, Union, and Baker counties.
- 21 permits will be available in the Central zone, which includes the Ocala Wildlife Management Area and encompasses parts of Sumter, Marion, Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Putnam, Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Flagler, and St. Johns counties.
- 63 permits will be available in South zone, which includes parts of Lee, Hendry, and Collier counties but does not include the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area.

- 22 permits will be made available in the four areas to private landowners that meet requirements that include ownership of at least 5,000 contiguous acres and a bear management plan developed by a certified wildlife biologist.

Lake ~~Ontario~~ America

Commissioner of Education Dr. Henry Mack's Post on X

"I've directed the Division of Public Schools to update our academic standards and instructional materials to reflect this change—immediately."

- Florida's Education Commissioner **Henry Mack** has directed the Division of Public Schools to immediately update the state's academic standards and instructional materials to reflect the change name change.
- Google Maps has changed the name from Lake Ontario to "Lake America" as the name for users in the United States following the President's order renaming the lake. Canadian users will continue seeing "Lake Ontario," while users elsewhere will see both names. Google says the change follows its policy of using names assigned through the U.S. Geographic Names Information System.

National Webinar Scheduled to Discuss Changes to E-Rate
Changes to E-Rate will be discussed

A virtual town hall meeting will be held on September 9 to discuss potential changes E-Rate and their potential impact on schools. Register for the webinar here.
For additional background, please review AASA's one-page overview of the issue and view the Notice of Proposed Rule.

- Check out how much E-Rate money the schools and libraries in your state have received over the last five years. CLICK HERE.
- Look up your E-Rate funding data at the state and Congressional district level here.

State Associations Seeking Legislative Proposals for 2027

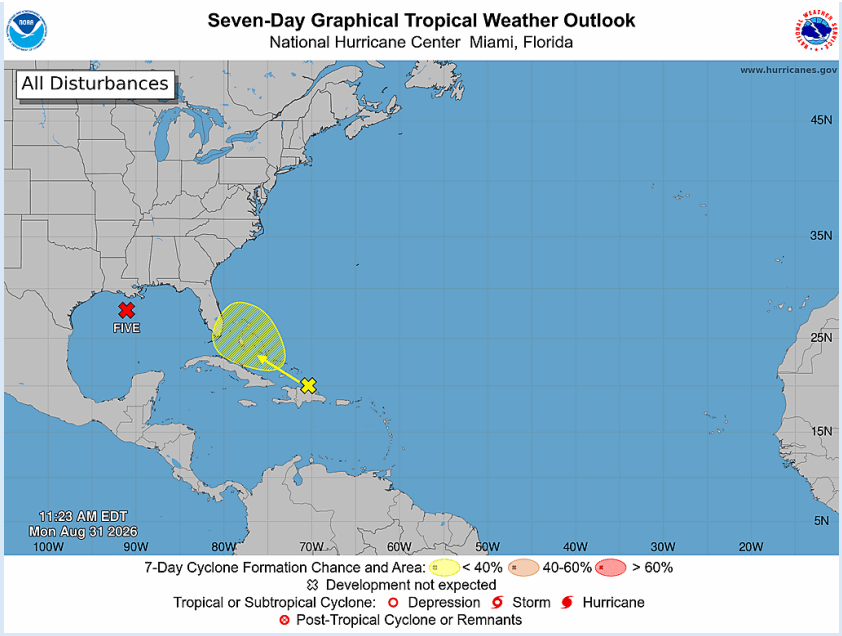
The parameters for submitting proposals are as follows:

Florida Association of Counties –Deadline for submittal – September 2
https://www.fl-counties.com/2026-policy-proposal-submission/
Florida School Board Association – Deadline for submittal is September 4 at 6:00pm
The FSBA proposal submission form is on website.

Tropical Outlook

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

Keep your eye on Dolly – storm tracking toward Florida.



On The Docket This Week

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

- MONTHLY REVENUE - Monday, 9:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will review monthly revenue estimates. Location - Senate Office Building, Conference Room 301, The Capitol, Tallahassee.
- VISIT FLORIDA - Monday, 2:30 p.m. - The Visit Florida Board of Directors Executive Committee is meeting on Zoom ahead of the regular board meeting on Sept. 9. Location - Visit Florida states the meeting will be available on the Florida Channel.
- SOUTH FLORIDA PLANNING - Monday, 9:30 a.m. - The South Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting to consider an audit firm bid opening.PLACE: South Florida Regional Planning Council, 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood.
- BIG BEND OYSTER INPUT - Monday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is holding a series of meetings to solicit public input on oyster management in Dixie, Levy, and Citrus counties. Location - Coastal Region Library, 8619 W Crystal St., Crystal River.
- SBA - Monday, 10 a.m. - The State Board of Administration is meeting. Location - Hermitage Room, First Floor, The Hermitage Centre, 1801 Hermitage Blvd, Tallahassee.
- I-75 IMPROVEMENTS - Monday, 4 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation is holding a meeting on improvements to Interstate 75, from north of Golden Gate Parkway to south of Alico Road. Location - Estero Community Park, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard, Estero.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- FOREST SERVICE COUNCIL - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Forest Service Council is meeting. Location - Omni Amelia Island Resort, 39 Beach Lagoon Road, Fernandina Beach.
- ELECTION RULES - Tuesday, 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - The Division of Elections is to consider updates to Rule 2.041 regarding address and eligibility records maintenance, Rule 2.042 involving third-party voter registration organizations, and Rules 2.009 and 2.0091 involving

Constitutional Amendment by Initiative Petition. Location - R.A. Gray Building, 500 S Bronough Street, Room 307, Tallahassee.

- SENATE 21 CERTIFICATION - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The Elections Canvassing Commission will consider certification of the returns of the special primary election for state Senate District 21. Location - R.A. Gray Building, 500 S Bronough St., Room 307, Tallahassee.
- I-75 IMPROVEMENTS - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation is holding a meeting on improvements to Interstate 75, from north of Golden Gate Parkway to south of Alico Road. Location - North Collier Regional Park, Exhibit Hall Room A, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples.
- LUCAS EXECUTION SLATED - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - Florida Death Row inmate Harold Gene Lucas for the 1976 death of a 16-year-old girl in Bonita Springs. Location - Florida State Prison, 23916 N.W. 83rd Ave., Raiford.
- BIG BEND OYSTER INPUT - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is holding a series of meetings to solicit public input on oyster management in Dixie, Levy, and Citrus counties. Location - Dixie County Public Library, 16328 SE Hwy 19, Cross City.
- GOP LEADERSHIP FORUM - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - Florida Republican leaders and candidates are to promote a united front ahead of the General Election with a Republican Leadership Forum that will feature Gov. Ron DeSantis along with candidates that include gubernatorial nominee U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds, Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson, Attorney General James Uthmeier, and Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia. Location - TPepin's Hospitality Centre, 4121 N 50th Street, Tampa.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- MOTE MARINE LAB - Wednesday, 9 a.m. CT - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Mote Marine Laboratory are holding a meeting on the Florida Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative. Location - Bayview Community Center, 2001 East Lloyd Street, Pensacola.
- FLORIDA FOREVER PROPOSALS - 3 p.m. - The Department of Environmental Protection Acquisition and Restoration Council is taking public testimony on Florida Forever 2026 Cycle 2 project proposals. Location - DeSoto County Commission Meeting Room, 201 East Oak Street, Arcadia.
- STATE BOARD OF GOVERNORS - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - Committees of the state university systems Board of Governors are meeting in advance of the board meeting on Thursday. Location - Florida Gulf Coast University, Cohen Student Union Ballroom, Room #203, 10501 FGCU Blvd. S., Fort Myers.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- STATE BOARD OF GOVERNORS - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The state university systems Board of Governors is meeting. Location - Florida Gulf Coast University, Cohen Student Union Ballroom, Room #203, 10501 FGCU Blvd. S., Fort Myers.
- GAMING CONTROLTime; 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.

- NORTHEAST FLORIDA PLANNING - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors are meeting after the 9 a.m. meeting of the Personnel, Budget & Finance Policy Committee. Location - 40 East Adams Street, Jacksonville.
- SOUTH FLORIDA PLANNING - Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - The South Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting to rank audit proposals received on Aug. 26. Location - South Florida Regional Planning Council, 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood.
- BIG BEND OYSTER INPUTThursday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is holding a series of meetings to solicit public input on oyster management in Dixie, Levy, and Citrus counties. Location - UF/IFAS Bronson Extension Office, 625 N Hathaway Ave., Bronson.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- ST. JOHNS RIVER MANAGEMENT - Friday, 5:05 p.m. - The St. Johns River Water Management District will review the fiscal year 2026-27 tentative millage rate and tentative budget. Location - District Headquarters, 4049 Reid Street (Hwy 100 West), Palatka.
- FINANCE REPORTS - Friday - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between Aug. 22 and Aug. 28. Location - Department of State, Division of Elections, Bureau of Election Records, R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.

Headlines Around The State

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis vows to clear Flock cameras from state right-of-ways

WUSF: Trump wants cheaper beef. DeSoto County ranchers worry that plan will backfire

My News 13: Florida cattle rancher says he's concerned over beef tariff pause

My News 13: Florida proposal would regulate AI use at all 28 state colleges

WUSF: How NIL deals have changed the landscape of Florida high school athletics

Sun-Sentinel: Many Florida kids aren't ready for kindergarten, businesses should help, chamber says

My News 13: Florida housing report finds affordable options shrinking as costs pressure millions

Sun-Sentinel: Palm Beach County seeks remaining $2.75M from Florida for Trump airport renaming

FlaPol: Byron Donalds credits crowded field, not race, for losses in rural counties

FlaPol: Byron Donalds promises to 'respect' local data center bans if elected Governor

Times: Florida's sales tax holiday on guns, outdoor goods starts soon

News-Press: Florida affordability crisis hits voters on all levels as election looms

Ocala Star-Banner: Bryan Avila key Hispanic voice for Byron Donalds' governor campaign matter?

Gainesville Sun: Property tax cuts, FEMA cuts could cripple Florida hurricane recovery

Post: Judge finds flaws in Caruso investigation, grants bail for suspended clerk

Daily News: Florida schools to start using Trump's 'Lake America' 'immediately'

Post: Palm Beach County school enrollment drop imperils budgets, staffing

Capitolist: Florida's Tourism Brand Valuation Reaches $162 Billion

Here are key dates for 26-27

2026 Events

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
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

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