The Briefing for Thursday, August 20, 2026

The Last Briefing was Tuesday, August 18, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

Are you ready for some Football?

Here's the complete 2026 NCAAF season schedule.

Here are the Final Pre-season Rankings

Amendment 3: Concerns and Risks for Rural Counties

My thoughts - Chris Doolin
Consultant to Small Counties and Small School Districts

Speaking today in rural Holmes County, Governor DeSantis once again said that the state could offset the revenue reduction in Fiscally Constrained counties, if Amendment 3 passes.

The Governor's comments are appreciated but not new! Governor DeSantis has called attention to this issue for at least 18 months. Offsetting the revenue loss in Florida's counties has been researched and discussed. The actual effect of Amendment 3 on fiscally constrained counties is well-known. ***Attempts have been made to address the impact on these counties during the 2026 Legislative Session and the Special Session on Tax Reform, BUT, offset language was not included in any of the tax proposals considered during the 2026 Legislative session or passed during the Special Session on property taxes.***

Small counties appreciate the Governor continuing to identify that the impact on fiscally constrained counties is as a major problem with Amendment 3. HOWEVER***, backstopping revenue reductions with state funding is not guaranteed!*** The legislature will have to act to make this a reality!

In his remarks, the Governor stated that a Special Session could be called after the General Election to pass the legislation addressing rural funding before his term expires in January. The legislature would have to pass an implementing bill requiring the "backstop", and the revenue offset would have to be appropriated. This would require Florida's new Legislative leadership to agree. Given that a new Governor will take office in January, legislative leaders may prefer to wait until the new administration is seated.

The impact on Fiscally Constrained counties is not the only problem with Proposed Amendment 3, there are other concerns –

- There are no protections for funding Law Enforcement, Fire Services and Emergency Services and other important local programs.
- The amendment will shift the tax burden to property owners with Non-Homesteaded property and businesses.
- Owners of rental property will see an increased tax burden that will, more than likely, be passed to renters, and,
- There will similar impacts on cities and counties throughout the state.

What's the best course of action regarding Amendment 3 – defeat it!
Turn the conversation over to the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, which will convene in 2027, for a comprehensive look at Florida's tax and budget laws, policies and procedures.

Primaries are over – Here are the results!

Here are the links to the results of the primary elections in small counties and school districts:

- 26-28 Small County Coalition Member Commissioners comparing 24-26 and 26-28 As of August Primary Results .docx

- Small District School Board and Supts - 26-28 compared to 24-26 - Resulting from August Primary .docx

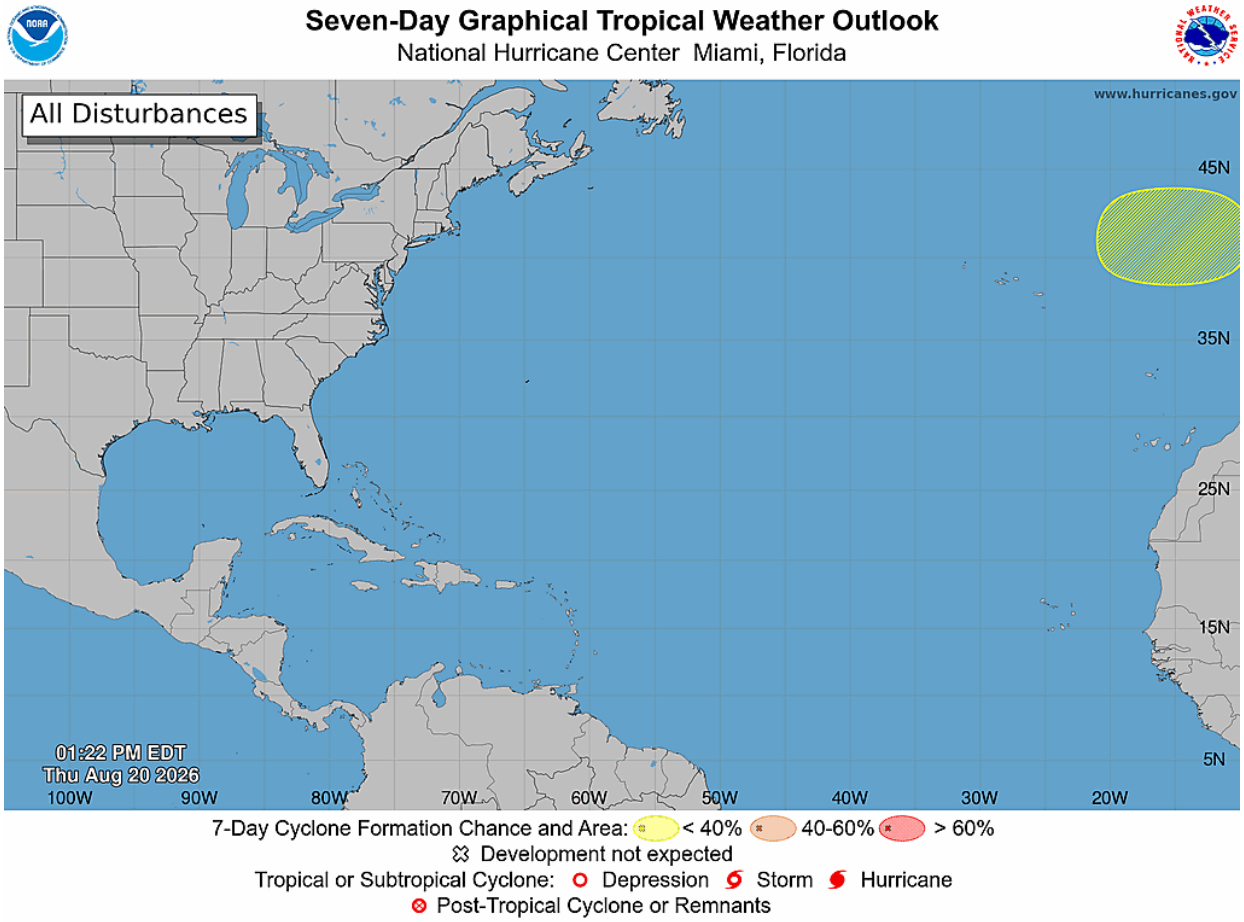
Here are the statewide election results prepared by the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida School Boards Association

- FAC Election Results – Florida Association of Counties

- Election Results for School Board members - All Districts prepared by FSBA

Tropical Outlook

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



Headlines Around The State

News4JAX: Angie Nixon pulled off a huge upset win in the Florida U.S. Senate primary. Does it reflect a broader Democratic shift?

FlaPol: 'He wouldn't listen': Donald Trump endorses Ryan Elijah, says he encouraged Cory Mills to drop out

My News 13: RNC chairman weighs in on Florida primary results

News4JAX: Florida AG sues online sweepstakes casinos over allegations of illegal gambling

WUSF: How Florida is challenging climate change in textbooks, while quietly updating its science standards

Today: Drought has helped Lake Okeechobee flourish as water levels lower

Today: How safe is living off campus? A look at Florida college safety measures

Daily News: Florida's Byron Donalds now a step closer to rare U.S. political feat

The Capitolist: David Jolly Begins General Election Campaign With $1 Million Statewide Ad Campaign

Times: Where Florida governor hopefuls Donalds and Jolly stand on key issues

FlaPol: Resignation or firing? Ron DeSantis, Kevin Guthrie still diverge on circumstances of DEM Director's exit

Herald: Florida's emergency director surprised campaign decision cost his job: report

Democrat: Gov. Ron DeSantis leaves office soon. What could he do next?

Herald: Caruso's old sexual abuse allegations are easy to find. Why didn't DeSantis know?

WUSF: Florida school board races see less partisan politics this year

Sentinel: Suspended Florida clerk of courts denied bond on child abuse charges

News4JAX: Sheriff Waters backs Byron Donalds but hasn't given opinion on property tax reform as other sheriffs take a stand

WLRN: If Amendment 3 passes, Florida Keys could see revenue 'shortfall', less money for firefighters

Democrat: FSU, FAMU awarded millions for rural healthcare transformation

WLRN: Cursive writing and autism-specific teacher training among new laws for the new school year

ABC News: Divergent Democratic results in Florida give the party another 2028 proving ground: ANALYSIS

WLRN: Rep. Moskowitz fends off progressive challenger in FL-25 Democratic primary contest

Sentinel: U.S. Rep. Randy Fine caught snooping inside home's mailbox

FlaPol: Jimmy Patronis sails through GOP Primary as he seeks full term representing CD 1

Democrat: Florida vaccine exemptions rising, CDC says, as measles cases surge

Daily News: Florida congressman pushes review of alligator protections after attacks

DBNJ: Florida's monthly grocery shop spending exceeds most states. Why?

Politico: Florida governor's race is set

Times: How David Jolly won the Democratic nomination for Florida governor

Herald: Jolly appeals to decency, rejects socialism after Florida Democratic primary win

FlaPol: Blaise Ingoglia, Annette Taddeo poised for General Election showdown in CFO race

CBS News: Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie resigns to jump onto Collins ticket

Post: Florida voters now face choice on property tax changes

WUSF: DeSantis makes election day stop at Sarasota's New College to push higher ed agenda

WLRN: Why does Florida spend so much money on treatment for children with autism and special needs?

News4JAX: St. Johns County commissioners greenlight $100M conservation bond for November ballot

On The Docket This Week

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

- SOCIAL STUDIES MATERIALS - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Department of Education is holding a public bid opening for the adoption of instructional material for K-12 Social Studies. - Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee.
- TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council is meeting. - Wolf High Technology Center, Indian River State College - Chastain Campus, 2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart.
- JULY UNEMPLOYMENT - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Department of Commerce will release the July unemployment report.

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