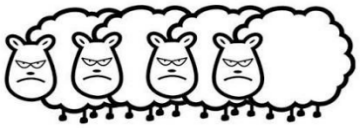

The Briefing for Thursday, September 3, 2026

The Last Briefing was Tuesday, September 1, 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

Florida Teams at Play in Week 1

Thursday – Bethune-Cookman at UCF
Friday – UM at Stanford
Saturday – FIU at USF
Saturday FAU at UF
Sunday – So. Carolina St. vs FAMU
Monday – SMU vs FSU – this will be a season defining game for the Noles!

FWC will hold Public Input Session on BIG BEND OYSTER tonight in Bronson

Thursday, 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.

Rural Schools and Libraries Need to Engage on this issue!

FCC proposing changes to E-Rate including ending the program!

Between 2021 and 2025 Florida received $629,420,485 for schools and libraries.

The FCC is considering changes to the E-Rate program that could undermine the broadband access that schools and libraries rely on for teaching, learning, and preparing students for an AI-driven economy. School and community leaders are urging Congress to protect and strengthen E-Rate, the nation's most important education broadband program. As the FCC considers these proposals, preserving a strong, stable, and predictable E-Rate program remains critical for schools, libraries, and the millions of students and communities they serve.

National Webinar Scheduled to Discuss Changes to E-Rate

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.

Here are the specifics of the proposal–

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that proposes significant changes to the E-Rate program. Among the proposals under consideration are:

- Ending the E-Rate program.
- Restricting eligibility primarily to rural schools.
- Excluding PreK and Head Start programs.
- Reducing or eliminating funding based on Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance issues.
- Conditioning funding on new requirements such as screen-time policies, expanded internet filtering, social media restrictions, or mandatory digital literacy curricula.
- Redistributing funding in ways that could reduce support for many suburban and urban school districts.

The E-Rate (Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism) is one of four programs supported by the Universal Service Fund (USF) and administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). For nearly 30 years, E-Rate has helped ensure that schools and libraries across the country can afford reliable broadband and internet connectivity. Today, E-Rate supports more than 100,000 schools and approximately 11,000 libraries, providing roughly $3 billion in annual discounts.

Governor expresses support for Amendment 3 but will not lead efforts or fundraise to pass it!

Final Staff Analysis of Amendment 3 Impact

Gov. Ron DeSantis continues to express increased support for the property tax cut measure the Legislature put before voters on the November ballot. However, he said he won't lead a political committee and fundraise across the state for Amendment 3. A legislative staff analysis of the resolution put the revenue impact on local governments at $4.95 billion in fiscal year 2027-2028, growing to $8.78 billion the following year and eventually $11.86 billion by fiscal year 2031-2032.

July Revenue Just Under Forecast

State general revenue collections for July came in slightly below expectations.

The Legislature's Office of Economic & Demographic Research reported Wednesday the state collected $3.68 billion in net general revenue in July, $16.3 million under the amount projected in a revenue forecast set in January. The panel of economists known as the Revenue Estimating Conference increased state general revenue projections by nearly $1 billion on Aug. 14. The amount is considered relatively minor as Florida annually takes in about $50 billion in general revenue. General revenue is closely watched because it plays a major role in funding education, health and pri son programs.

- The July report showed sales tax, which makes up the bulk of the revenue, accounted for $3.2 billion, $166.8 million more than anticipated.
- Corporate income taxes totaled $199.2 million, which was $48 million over the forecast.
- Earnings on state investments totaled $114.1 million, $7 million more than expected.
- Revenue from documentary stamp taxes on real estate transactions came in at $53.6 million or $14.8 million below the forecast.

- The beverage tax also fell short of the forecast, totaling $20.7 million for the month, $2.1 million less than anticipated.

First-time unemployment claims in Florida rose slightly as August came to an end.

The U.S. Department of Labor estimated 5,294 initial unemployment applications were filed in Florida last week, up from a revised count of 5,205 the week ending Aug. 22. The pace of new applications has mostly been on a decline since hitting 7,334 the week ending July 11.

- Florida's 4.6 percent unemployment rate represents an estimated 515,000 Floridians qualified as out-of-work from a labor force of 11.1 million in July. The national rate stands at 4.1 percent.

Gaetz to File Bill on Hope Florida Jury Suggestions

Republican Sen. Don Gaetz, the chairman of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee, will file "comprehensive" legislation addressing recommendations by a grand jury that investigated the diversion of Medicaid settlement money through the Hope Florida charity and into a political fund that paid for an effort by state leaders to defeat ballot initiatives. The grand jury said the money was "misappropriated," but didn't recommend criminal charges. Gaetz said his bill will include severe consequences for anyone, any public officer or anyone else, who engages in such wrongful activity."

Statewide Drought & Wildfire Outlook

Link to FDEM Advisory on Statewide Drought & Wildfires

Tropical Weather Outlook

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

Registration is open for the 2026 Rural Economic Development Summit *

Tomorrow is the last day to receive Early Bird Registration

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

On The Docket This Week

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 CONTROL - 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 INPUT - Thursday, 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

CBS Miami: Miami-Dade County Public Schools new superintendent pauses over 2 dozen planned school closures pending review

USA Today: Enrollment drop hits another Florida school district, hiring halted

WLRN: DeSantis endorses Donalds for Florida governor despite past tensions

Herald: Erika Donalds says more AI can benefit FL students, warns against overregulation

FlaPol: Blaise Ingoglia backs Flock camera removals

WLRN: South Florida officials compare Amendment 3 property tax cut proposal to payday loan scam

Herald: 'It threatens everything': Miami-Dade mayor launches campaign against Fla. tax cut

FlaPol: Lauren Book adds $34K more to SD 30 coffers after low-funded GOP Primary resolves

Times: After RFK visit, board members seek new policy to keep politics out of schools

Times: How a proposal to ditch Duke Energy could get on St. Petersburg ballots

WUSF: Public wins access to Ziegler investigation records as appeals court reverses secrecy order

TCPalm: Former chairman of a Florida Republican Executive Committee arrested

WUSF: New study says municipalizing utilities will be $4.1 billion

FlaPol: Donald Trump backs eight GOP candidates for Congress in Florida open and battleground districts

WUSF: A wide range of reaction as the removal of Flock cameras from state roads begins

WLRN: Public can weigh in on Florida's proposal to make 4 vaccines optional in schools, daycares

News4JAX: More foreign beef is coming to lower grocery prices — Florida farmers say it could hurt domestic production

WLRN: In Florida, a policy change threatens care medically fragile children get at home

FlaPol: Florida families turning to credit card rewards to offset school supply costs

My News 13: Florida governor candidates weigh in on Flock camera restrictions

Herald: Will lawmakers take up Hope Florida grand jury's call to change state law?

Herald: Donalds' choice of running mate launches race for state Senate in northwest Dade

FlaPol: 'Ready to continue fighting': Alex Rizo makes race for open SD 39 a two-person contest

FlaPol: 'Ignore the hecklers': Protesters liven up Florida GOP leadership forum

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