The Briefing for Tuesday, September 1, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, August 31

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

J. Alex Kelly

Commerce Secretary Leaving for College Post

Alex Kelly has been tapped to become the next president Pensacola State College. Kelly currently serves as Secretary of the Florida Department of Commerce, where he leads the state agency responsible for economic development, workforce and community development programs. In his role, he has been instrumental in supporting programs to enhance services and capacity in rural counties.

Kelly has a long record of public services with experience in education, economic and workforce development, public policy and state government.

CONGRATULATONS ALEX!

THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT FLORIDA'S RURAL AREAS!

DeSantis Will Push for Property Tax Break Amendment

Gov. Ron DeSantis said Monday that he will be involved in trying to get a property tax cut amendment passed by voters in November after earlier criticizing the proposal and saying he would vote for it but wouldn't campaign. "I'll be involved somehow," DeSantis said during an event in Jacksonville on Monday. "I don't know if it's going to be, like, barnstorming and holding campaign events. I have other ways where I can kind of get this out and do it, and I think we're going to do it because I think it's important." The amendment seeks to increase the homestead exemption amount in 2027 and 2028 to

provide property tax relief to homeowners. The Governor had previously indicated that he did not favor how the legislature amendment his original proposal.

If the amendment fails to pass, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission will take up this issue when it convenes in 2027.

Governor orders the removal of Flock cameras from state roadways – Counties follow suit!

FDOT Memorandum - Flock Cameras

DeSantis has ordered all Flock cameras removed from the "state highway system" within the next 30 days, which would include interstates like I-10 and I-75, along with roads on the state highway system. According to the Florida Department of Transportation memo, if the cameras aren't removed from the state right-of-ways within 30 days, then the state government will take them down on their own. The memo also says FDOT will deny any other permits for cameras in the future. The new order only applies to the "State Highway System," so it appears cameras can remain on city and county roads unless the legislature moves to further restrict the cameras next year.

In light of the Governor's Flock Ban - several Florida law enforcement agencies and sheriffs have suspended or halted the use of Flock Safety and other automated license plate reader (LPR) camera systems following a state directive. Counties halting the cameras include: Leon, Brevard, Bradford, Gilchrist, Duval, Lee, Clay, Nassau, Putnam, Manatee, Calhoun, Liberty, Holmes, Santa Rosa, Seminole, and Volusia Counties

Governor DeSantis Floats Potential for Special Session

DeSantis is floating his interest in having a Special Session to address artificial intelligence protections and "medical freedom". These issues remain unfinished business for DeSantis after former Speaker **Daniel Perez** blocked them earlier this year. The Governor says he believes lawmakers could address the proposals before the General Election, though time is running short. The measures include an "AI Bill of Rights" aimed at consumer protections and medical freedom legislation addressing vaccine mandates and related policies.

The Governor has previously indicated that a Special Session is possible in order to provide protections for rural counties, if Amendment Three passes. Any return to Tallahassee would require the Governor to call lawmakers back or agreement from legislative leaders.

Deadlines are this week -if you have a Legislative Policy that you want considered by the Florida Association of Counties or the Florida School Board Association -

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.

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.

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

Constitutional Amendments 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

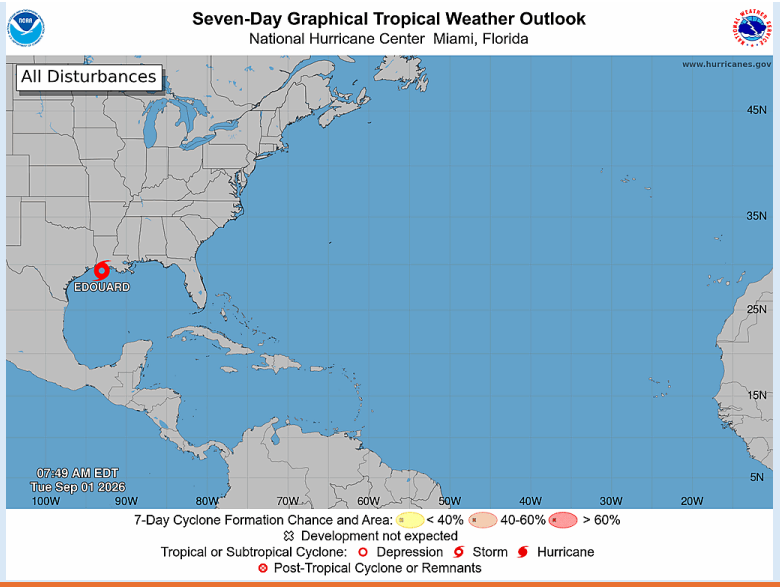
- Proposal: This proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to exempt tangible personal property habitually located or typically present on land classified as agricultural, used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land from ad valorem taxation. If approved this amendment would first apply for tax years beginning January 1, 2027.

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.

Tropical Outlook

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



On The Docket This Week

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

News4JAX: DeSantis says Florida must avoid becoming a 'digital AI surveillance state'

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says he will campaign for Amendment 3 after all

Floridian: DeSantis Backs Rewritten Property Tax Amendment Language

Yahoo News: Nixon fires back at Loomer for Trump advisor's 'racist tirade'

Floridian: Florida Dems Call on Ashley Moody to Denounce Laura Loomer's Attacks on Angie Nixon

FlaPol: Ashley Moody backs local control on data center question

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis gives $23M in grants for workforce, defense industry

News4JAX: 440,000 Floridians drop ACA plans after federal subsidies expire

FlaPol: Judges denies AHCA's motion to dismiss lawsuit over funding for children on Medicaid

The Capitolist: UF Ranks Fourth Among Public Universities in TIME College Rankings

Times-Union: Supreme Court may decide if you can distill liquor in Florida

WUSF: Byron Donalds doubles down on cutting - or even eliminating - property taxes if elected

WLRN: Donalds and Jolly call for Hope Florida reforms after scathing grand jury report

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis courts Wyman Duggan, suggests AI and medical freedom bills could be up in Special Session

WUSF: FDOT revokes permits for 'Flock cameras' installed on state land next to roads

Herald: Florida Department of Transportation blocks Flock cameras on state roadways

Herald: Another DeSantis ally gets a job as president of a Florida state college

WUSF: Commerce Chief Kelly named sole finalist for Pensacola State College president

Yahoo News: Florida to stage another December bear hunt — but no debate this time

WLRN: State expands bear hunt permits, adds private lands

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