56 days

Until the November 3, 2026 General Election

The Briefing for Tuesday, September 8, 2026

The Last Briefing was Thursday, September 3, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

No disturbances predicted this week!

College Football Scores and Schedules

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

Week 1 Results

SEC teams go undefeated
Most Impressive Win – LSU
Worst Loss – Clemson
Most Points – UCF score 73-6 over Bethune-Cookman
Most Controversial – Michigan's win after getting 1 sec. back on the clock
Coaches on Hot Seat – Norvell and maybe Dabo!

Florida Teams at Play in Week 2

Thursday – FAMU vs Miami
Saturday – USF vs Army
Saturday - Campbell vs UF
Saturday - Buffalo vs FIU
Saturday – Navy vs FAU
Saturday - UCF vs Pitt

Florida Legislative Budget Commission will meet Friday to review state's financial outlook.

The Long Term Financial Outlook, is a snapshot of the state's budget situation for the next three years. The outlook, required by the state Constitution, is meant to put legislators and other state officials on notice about whether a budget surplus or deficit looms.

The outlook is drawn up after economists and legislative staff spend their summer on new forecasts for how much tax money will come into the state's accounts as well as estimates for spending on education, the environment, and healthcare.

- 2027-28 -The outlook projects an estimated budget surplus of $7.1 billion to work with for the 2027-28 fiscal year that will start next July.
- 2028-29 - The surplus will drop to nearly $3.4 billion in the 2028-29 fiscal year and
- 2029-30 - Then slide into a projected deficit of $1.02 billion in the 2029-30 fiscal year.

The Long Term Financial Outlook outlines 15 critical needs and 28 high-priority needs that will drive expenditures over the next three years, including money for Medicaid, the state and federal funded health care safety net program, and a projected deficit in the state employee health insurance program. The State

Group Health Insurance program deficit could grow to nearly $1.8 billion by the end of the 2029-30 fiscal year.

- Also on the agenda are two requests from the Florida Division of Emergency Management
    - 1. Authority to shift $240 million from general revenue into this trust fund to pay "outstanding obligations."
    - 2. Authority to spend $250 million to process payments, including nearly $188 million in the "illegal migration appropriation category."

Leadership Changes - Department of Education and the Division of Emergency Management

Florida Education Commissioner Announces Leadership Reorganization

Florida Education Commissioner Henry Mack announced several leadership and organizational changes. Mack was appointed Florida Education Commissioner in July. The changes include:

- **Senior Chancellor, Dr. Paul O. Burns**: Promoted to oversee all of the Education Department's offices and divisions, including Florida Colleges, Career, Technical and Adult Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Blind Services, the Commission for Independent Education, the Division of Public Schools, Safe Schools, School Choice, and Early Learning. Burns has been with the department since 2018 and holds nearly 20 years of education experience.
- **Suzanne Pridgeon**: Chief Operations and Financial Officer. Pridgeon has been with the department since 2000, including the last seven years as Deputy Commissioner.
- **Flannery Sloan**: Chief of Staff. Sloan previously worked at the U.S. Department of Labor and at Turning Point Action.
- **Katerina Maroney**: Chancellor for the Division of Early Learning. Maroney has been with the department since 2005, including as Deputy Director of Programs and Policy.
- **Steven Koncar:** Chief Strategy and Policy Officer. Koncar previously served as chief of staff for the department.
- **Dr. Jay Menees**: Vice Chancellor of Research and Policy. Menees recently worked as a Senior Policy Director for higher education and the economy at the America First Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

FDEM Announces New Leadership

The Florida Division of Emergency Management announced three leadership appointments as the state enters the historical peak of hurricane season.

- Jay K. Arnold Jr. will serve as Chief of Staff and Deputy Executive Director of Finance and Administration,
- Dr. Frank E. Lumm will lead the State Emergency Response Team, and
- FDEM meteorologist Amy Godsey will become Acting Bureau Chief of Response.

Citrus land shrinking from Florida's landscape
Down nearly 21 percent over the past year, according to a federal report.

As the 2026-2027 growing season gets underway, there are 165,359 acres across 23 Florida counties in use for producing oranges, grapefruit and specialty fruits, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's preliminary Commercial Citrus Inventory report states.

That's down 65 percent from the 480,121 acres growers were working with in 2016 and down 73 percent from the 621,373 acres the industry used in 2006.

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service report released on August 29, 2025, key findings include:

- **Acreage Loss:** A net loss of 66,522 acres, the second-largest drop recorded in the past 25 years.
- **Cause of Decline:** The vast majority of acreage reduction stems from the citrus greening disease (HLB).
- **New Plantings:** New plantings rose to 7,512 acres, up from 4,751 acres in the prior season.
- **County Impact:** 21 of the 23 inventoried Florida counties registered declines.

If you receive E-Rate funds – Register for Webinar

If you are an E-rate recipient the AASA has scheduled a Webinar for Wednesday.

You can register for the webinar at this link.

FCC is reviewing Federal E-rate Program

Florida has received $629,420,485 for 21-25 fiscal years.

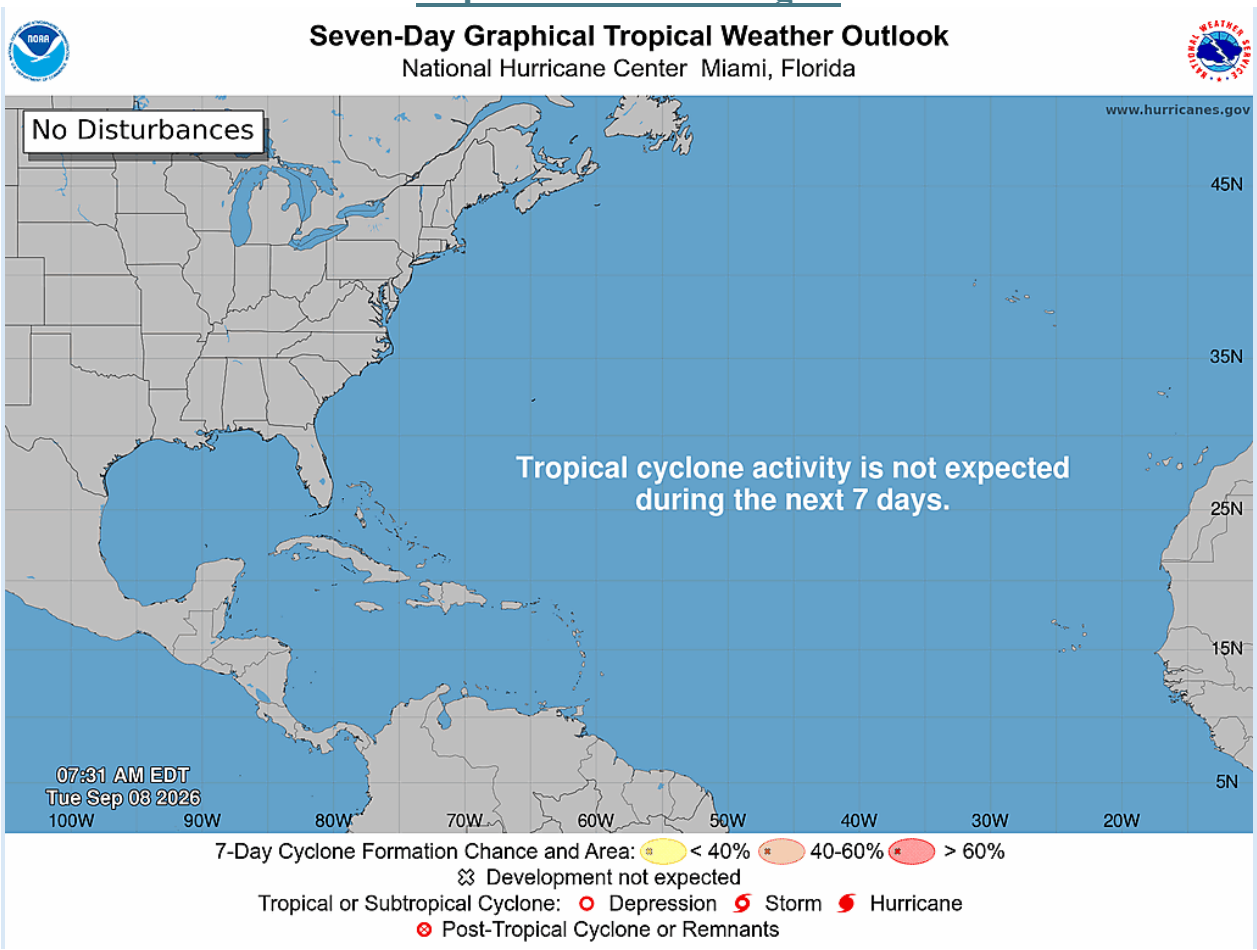
This review could result in significant changes to the program!

Protect E-Rate — What's at Stake for America's Schools & Libraries

Write Your FCC Comment — Keep Schools Connected: Protect E-Rate

Tropical Weather Outlook

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



On The Docket This Week

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- ST. JOHNS WATER - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The St. Johns River Water Management District is meeting. - District Headquarters, 4049 Reid Street (Hwy 100 West), Palatka.
- SBA - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The State Board of Administration is holding its quarterly meeting. - The Hermitage Centre, Hermitage Room, 1801 Hermitage Boulevard, Tallahassee.
- VISIT FLORIDA - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - Visit Florida committees meet ahead of a Sept. 9 board meeting. - Hilton West Palm Beach, 600 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach.
- SUWANNEE RIVER WATER - Tuesday, 5 p.m. - The Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board will go over the tentative tax rate and fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. - District Headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak.
- PASCO ROAD WORK - Tuesday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation District Seven is holding meetings on plans for State Road 54 from east of S.R. 589/Suncoast Parkway to west of U.S. 41 and for State Road 54 from east of U.S. 41 to west of I-75 in Pasco County. - Hilton Garden Inn Tampa Suncoast Parkway, 2155 Northpointe Parkway, Lutz.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism opens with a morning golf tournament at PGA National Resort & Spa, an afternoon meet and greet with members of Visit Florida, and a reception that will include the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame ceremony and the Flagler Awards. - Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.
- CITIZENS - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Market Accountability Advisory Committee of the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation will hold a teleconference meeting. - Dial-in: 786-635-1003; Code: 938 4697 3798
- VISIT FLORIDA - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Visit Florida Board of Directors will get an update on the state of tourism and the agency's strategic planning. - Hilton West Palm Beach, Coral Ballroom ABC, 600 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach.
- SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in four cases starting at 9 a.m., including: an appeal by Brien Austin Kim over his judgment and sentence for resisting an officer without violence; Derrick L. Clay's request for post-conviction relief over his indictment for the first-degree murder for killing Joseph Chance, his cellmate, in February 2024 while in prison; and inmate Guerry Wayne Hertz's appeal for post-conviction relief from his death sentence for the first-degree murders of Melanie King and Robin Keith Spears in 1997. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 S Duval St, Tallahassee.
- SPACE FLORIDA - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - Space Florida is holding a workshop in the nature of a business "retreat" where board members discuss long-term strategic philosophy and other long-range topics. - Florida Atlantic University, College of Business Executive Education Building, Room #SF-109¸ 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton.
- NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATERS - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The Northwest Florida Water Management District Board of Governors is meeting that will include a public hearing on the public hearing on the tentative tax rate and budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. - 81 Water Management Drive, Havana.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM - Thursday, 8 a.m. - The Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism continues with a morning 5K fun run along the Intracoastal Waterway in West Palm Beach, presentations and an networking event at TGL Golf Arena at SoFi Center. - Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.
- SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENTS - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in four cases starting at 9 a.m., including: Thomas Dexter Lewis assertion that his 35-year sentence for possession of a firearm during a robbery was "illegal" because "there was no statutory authority for the additional term of years beyond the selected mandatory minimum of 25 years under the 10-20-Life statute;" and an appeal by Zephen Xaver who a jury voted 9-3 to recommend the death penalty for killing five women inside a Sebring SunTrust bank in January 2019. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 S Duval St, Tallahassee.
- SPACE FLORIDA - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Space Florida Board of Governors is meeting. - Florida Atlantic University, College of Business Executive Education Building, Room #SF-127-128, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton.
- PSC - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is meeting. - Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- PASCO ROAD WORK - Thursday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation District Seven is holding meetings on plans for State Road 54 from east of S.R. 589/Suncoast Parkway to west of U.S. 41 and for State Road 54 from east of U.S. 41 to west of I-75 in Pasco County. - Land O'Lakes Recreation Center, 3032 Collier Parkway, Land O'Lakes.
- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BUDGET - Thursday, 2 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. - The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board is holding its monthly meeting before a public hearing at 5:15 p.m. on the tentative tax rate and budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. - SFWMD Headquarters, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM - Friday, 8 a.m. - The Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism concludes. - Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.
- FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida League of Cities is to consider meeting material from the Florida Association of Counties. - Drury Plaza Hotel Tallahassee, 1690 Raymond Diehl Road, Tallahassee.
- FINANCE REPORTS - Friday - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between Sept. 5 and Sept. 11. - 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

Sun-Sentinel: For fired DeSantis campaign staff member, a second chance at State Department

Democrat: FSU launches new School of Design amid program expansion

Times: Jolly said majority of Floridians oppose new data centers. Polls back that up.

Herald: How Hope Florida scrutiny rattled the final years of the DeSantis administration

FlaPol: Realtors put $10M into property tax amendment

Times: These 5 Pinellas schools found success after being among Florida's worst

WUSF: Flock cameras are being shelved across Florida. They may not be gone forever

Herald: Florida university leaders seek rule changes on paid athletics

Democrat: Florida manatees threatened by surge in boat strikes

Times: Pinellas schools are shrinking. Which ones are feeling it most?

Sun-Sentinel: Democrat David Jolly promotes tourist tax reform as he runs for governor

Herald: DeSantis pledged millions for restoring reef 'then pulled the rug from under us'

FlaPol: Cynthia Chestnut says David Jolly chose an 'all-white ticket.' So she chose Byron Donalds.

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis reaffirms John Rood's service on the Prepaid College Board

WUSF: How Sarasota youth helped flip a conservative school board

WUSF: Sarasota school board member called report leak a crime. Experts disagree

NYT: In Red States, Law-and-Order Republicans Turn Against Flock Cameras

Capitolist: Study: Florida legal reforms strengthen insurance market

Florida Phoenix: One last time: Legislative Budget Commission meets to discuss immigration, long-term outlook

Post: Man who threatened school board member sentenced

DBNJ: Budget ire prompts cries of de-funding from Volusia Sheriff Chitwood

Floridian: David Jolly Expresses Optimism After Another Analysis Moves Florida From 'Safe R' to 'Likely R'

Floridian: Florida Education Commissioner Henry Mack Announces Leadership Changes

NBC 6: Fort Lauderdale uses social media to explain property taxes ahead of Amendment 3 vote

Ledger: Could property tax plan mean longer wait times, less access to hospital care?

DBNJ: Ten Florida truck-driving schools shut down by Trump administration

Capitolist: Hillsborough approves annual fee, inspections for vacation rentals

Floridian: Ashley Moody Proposes Legislation to Bring U.S. Space Academy to Florida

Today: Exclusive: Aerospace project at NASA's KSC could bring more Space Coast growth

DBNJ: DeSantis steps back into GOP spotlight amid Hope Florida hits

Florida Phoenix: Florida's universities are off-limits for anyone in the US 'unlawfully'

Ledger: Polk Commission removes CareerSource Polk leader after state complaint

NBC 6: Miami-Dade budget cuts spark debate as voters weigh Amendment 3 property tax proposal

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