Rest In Peace – Our Sweet Queen!
Icon of Kindness!

The Briefing for Wednesday, August 26, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, August 24 , 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

Are you ready for some Football?

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

Florida teams at play

New Mexico at FSU
FIU at USF
Albany State at FAMU

GOP Nominee for Governor Picks Running Mate

Congressman Byron Donalds GOP Gubernatorial Candidate

State Senator Bryan Avila – Selected as Lt. Gov. to run with with Byron Donalds

U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds, the Republican nominee for governor, tapped State Senator Bryan Avila of Miami as his running mate, who would become lieutenant governor if they win the general election in November. Avila, 42, was elected to the House in 2014 and served eight years there before moving to

the Senate in 2022. He was born in Hialeah and went to the University of Miami and later received masters degrees in criminal justice and public administration from Florida International University.

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

The School Superintendents Association (AASA) will host a virtual town hall on September 9 to discuss these changes 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.

Here is copy of information provided in Monday – August 24 Briefing

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

- 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.

- A January 2026 report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) titled *Federal Awards: Selected Programs Did Not Fully Include Identified Practices to Enhance Oversight and Fraud Prevention* found E-Rate to be the only one out of the five selected federal programs reviewed that successfully met all nine key requirements and best practices for fraud risk management.

Florida Data Center Moratoriums — Every County Ban and Pause, and When It Expires

Nineteen Florida jurisdictions have blocked data centers outright or frozen applications while they write rules. Three of those blocks are permanent. The rest are clocks — and when one runs out, the county is back to having no rules at all unless commissioners pass something first.

- **3 -** Banned permanently
- **16 -** Pause running now
- **5 -** Drafting or awaiting a vote

- **47 -** Counties with nothing on record

Inventory of New Statutes Converted to Laws of Florida

The links below provide an inventory of the new 2026 statutes. Overall, 1,287 statute sections spanning 261 chapters were updated as a result of 2026 legislation. Approximately 160 sections were newly created and 53 were sections repealed.

General Laws Conversion Table (2026)
Florida Statutes Definitions Index (2026)
Index to Special and Local Laws (1971-2026)
Laws of Florida

State Associations Seeking Legislative Proposals for 2027

The Florida Association of Counties and the Florida School Boards Assocaition are receiving proposals for consideration to be included in their 2027 Legislative Programs. Proposals submitted will be reviewed within the prospective association procedures. Only proposals submitted to the website portal will be accepted. The parameters for submitting proposals are as follows:

Florida Association of Counties – Policy Submission Procedures
FAC's Deadline for submittal – September 2
https://www.fl-counties.com/2026-policy-proposal-submission/

Florida School Board Association – Policy Submission information.
Deadline for submittal is September 4 at 6:00pm
The FSBA proposal submission form is on website.
For reference, you can access FSBA platforms from previous years here

On The Docket This Week

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

- SOUTH FLORIDA STATE TRUSTEES - - Wednesday, 1 p.m. - - The South Florida State College Board of Trustees is meeting. - Board Room, Highlands Campus, 600 West College Drive, Avon Park.
- COLLEGE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA - - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - - The College of Central Florida Board of Trustees is meeting. - Ocala Campus, Founders Hall Board Room, 3001 S.W. College Road, Ocala.
- HILLSBOROUGH TRUSTEES - - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - - The Hillsborough Community College Board of Trustees is meeting. - Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson District Administration Center, Tampa.
- BAY COUNTY PLANNING - - Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. CT - - The Bay County Transportation Planning Organization is meeting. - Bayway Public Transit System Administration Facility, 1010 Cone Ave, Panama City.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

- ELECTION CERTIFICATION - - Thursday, 8 a.m. - - The Elections Canvassing Commission is to certify the returns of the 2026 primary election. - R.A. Gray Building, 500 S Bronough St, Room 307, Tallahassee.
- FSU BOARD COMMITTEES - - Thursday, 12 p.m. - - The various committees of the Florida State University Board of Trustees are meeting ahead of the board meeting on Friday. Topics include the president's evaluation and compensation and changes to the student conduct code. - Augustus B. Turnbull Conference Center, 555 W Pensacola St, Tallahassee.
- CENTRAL POLK PARKWAY - - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - - The Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is holding a series of meetings on the project development and environment studies for Central Polk Parkway East from U.S. 27 to North of U.S. 17 in Polk County. - Tom Fellows Community Center, 207 North Boulevard West, Davenport.
- SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER - - Thursday, 12 p.m. - - The Southwest Florida Water Management District has scheduled a public meeting to solicit stakeholder input on the District's proposed 2026 minimum flows and levels priority list and schedule. - -
  Link: https://bit.ly/3SqvGmr. Phone: (786)749-6127. Code: 562 912 452#
- APALACHEE PLANNING - - Thursday, 10 a.m. - - The Apalachee Regional Planning Council is holding its regular bi-monthly board meeting. - 2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100, Tallahassee.
- STORM PROTECTION - - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - - The Florida Public Service Commission is holding a pre-hearing conference for a Sept. 15 meeting on the Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause and Natural Gas Facilities Relocation Cost Recovery Clause. - Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING - - Thursday, 6 p.m. - - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting. - Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Santa Fe Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

- COMMISSION ON ETHICS - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Commission on Ethics is meeting. - First District Court of Appeal, First Floor Conference Room, 2000 Drayton Drive, Tallahassee.
- FSU BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - - The Florida State University Board of Trustees will discuss the president's evaluation and compensation and changes to the student conduct code. - Augustus B. Turnbull Conference Center, 555 W Pensacola St, Tallahassee.
- MINIMUM FLOWS - Friday, 10 a.m. - - An online joint meeting is planned with the St. Johns River Water Management District, Southwest Florida Water Management District and the South Florida Water Management District to solicit stakeholder input on the proposed 2026 minimum flows and levels priority lists for the Central Florida Water Initiative area. - Phone: 1(386)256-1151. Code: 263 689 344 #
- BIG CYPRESS BUDGET - - Friday, 11 a.m. - - The South Florida Water Management District's Big Cypress Basin Board is to approve the submittal of the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. - Collier County Board of County Commissioners Chambers, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd Floor, Naples.
- FINANCE REPORTS - - Friday - - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between Aug. 15 and Aug. 21. - 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

Times: Inside DeSantis' $2 million quest to put up bronze American statues

My News 13: Doctors, parents weigh in on Florida proposal to drop four school vaccine requirements

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis, following Donald Trump proclamation, orders flags half-staff for Dolly Parton

Democrat: Property tax cuts, FEMA cuts could cripple Florida hurricane recovery

NBC 6: Declining enrollment forcing Broward school district to close more schools

Herald: Broward is closing schools to save money. Schools of Hope could complicate that

WLRN: Ten schools could close next year in Broward County. What to know

WLRN: Miami-Dade County School Board to review future of 27 schools amid sharp enrollment decline

Herald: These Miami-Dade schools face review or reassessment. Could closure be next?

Post: Florida may finally protect this species as populations may be slipping

Politico: Donalds picks Florida legislator Bryan Ávila as running mate, leaning into anti-communist message

Post: Byron Donalds picks 'most conservative' running mate Bryan Avila

NBC 6: Who is Bryan Avila, Byron Donalds' running mate in Florida?

Herald: What to know about Bryan Ávila, the Hialeah native running for Lt. Governor

Sun-Sentinel: Palm Beach County could be next local government to temporarily ban data centers

WUSF: Florida utility regulators will decide if Duke Energy's data center tariff protects residents

My News 13: Seminole County studies potential service cuts as Amendment 3 tax vote nears

WLRN: Florida is about to have a long sports and recreation tax holiday

News4JAX: Florida cattle ranchers push back as Trump seeks to increase beef imports

FlaPol: Florida has a new rival for America's vacation dollars

NBC 6: Florida tourism drops in second quarter

Herald: With fewer Canadians visiting, Florida tourism numbers are down

The Capitolist: Florida adds jobs as unemployment stays above US rate

FlaPol: Byron Donalds, David Jolly trade blows on taxation

WLRN: Did school vaccines just become a campaign issue in Florida?

WUSF: Florida seeks to repeal four vaccines from school entry requirements

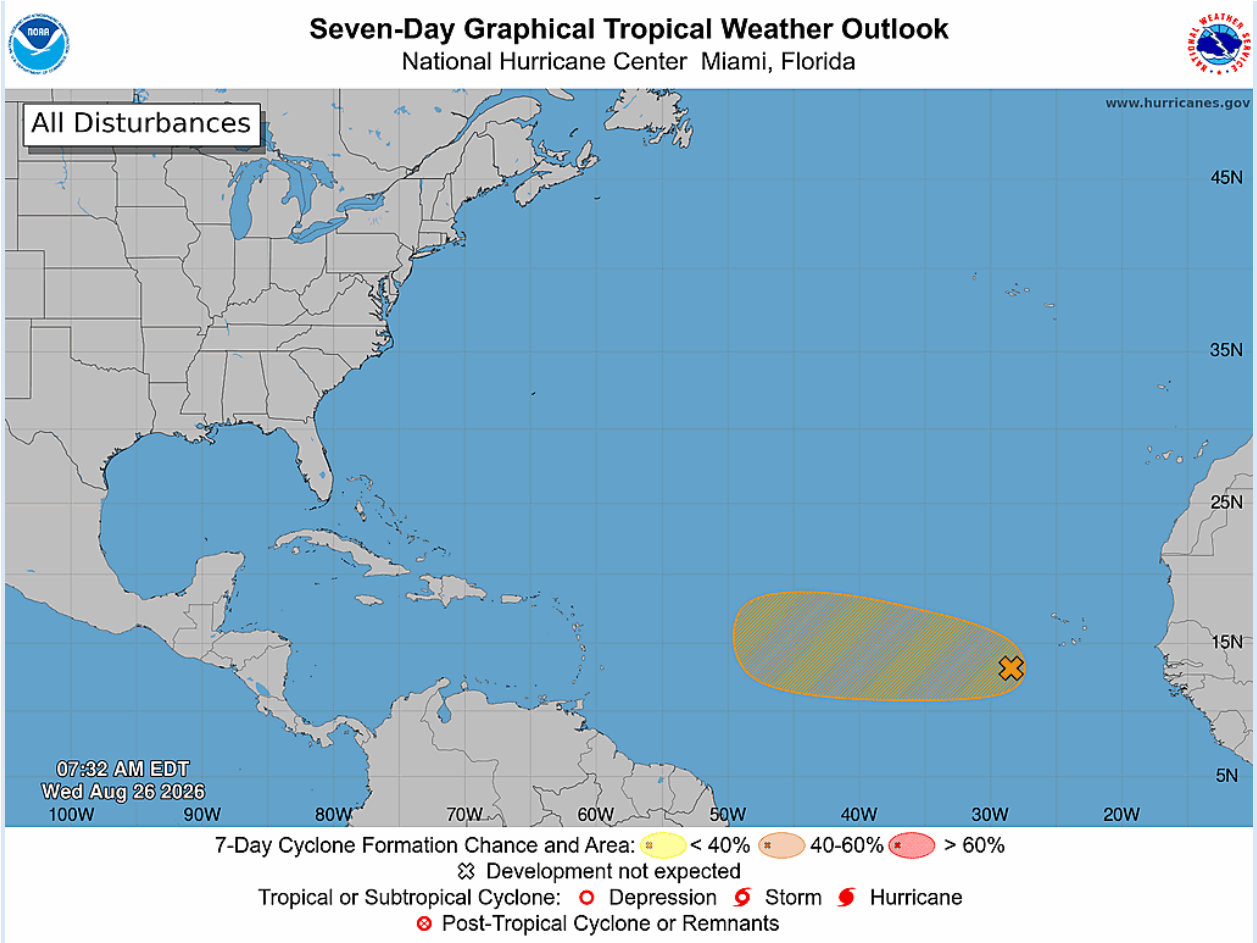
Sentinel: Board of Florida Realtors backs Amendment 3 tax break

WUSF: County administrator warns of potential cuts to sheriff's office, key services if Amendment 3 passes

Democrat: School board ponders improvements – but first voters must OK sales tax

Tropical Outlook

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



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