The Briefing for Monday, August 24, 2026

The Last Briefing was Thursday, August 20, 2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

College Football Season Schedules

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

Florida teams at play this weekend!

New Mexico at FSU
FAU at Florida
FIU at USF
Albany State at FAMU
Miami and UCF don't play til next week!

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

Wakulla County Commission Publishes – the plan if Amendment 3 passes

"Plan B" Strategic Organizational Restructuring and Financial Stability Plan

Linked above is the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners "Plan B", official title **Strategic Organizational Restructuring and Financial Stability Plan**. This is the county's official business plan to cope with the anticipated fallout should Amendment 3 pass.

The primary focus of the plan is on maintaining **Mandated** services, while preservation of **Authorized** (but not mandated) services was secondary. The most drastic cuts involve those Authorized service departments, which is consistent with the Legislature's stated intent for Property Tax reform.

Passage of the Amendment will amount to a mandate from voters to cut County spending. The plan proposed very few revenue replacement strategies. The only significant revenue offsets included in current budget calculations are the EMS MSBU, and a 1-cent increase to the PST.

Florida Tax Watch Expresses Caution on Amendment 3 – Too Rushed

Would prefer letting the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission do a rewrite!

Florida TaxWatch has a new website providing information on Amendment 3. The Florida Property Tax Resource Center offers what the group calls "independent, data-driven research to make informed decisions related to Amendment 3." TaxWatch supports property tax reform but has gone on record that the current product was rushed through and that the proper mechanism would be the Florida Taxation and Budget Review Commission.

1000 Friends of Florida Issue Policy Paper Opposing Amendment 3

https://1000fof.org/propertytax/

DOE proposes Rule barring Undocumented Students from Career, Technical Programs

The Florida DOE is moving forward with a proposed rule to block the enrollment of undocumented students in the state's career and technical education programs offered at vocational or technical schools and at Florida's state colleges. Applicants to the CTE programs must certify and submit proof of their U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status before being admitted. For the rule to take effect, it must be approved by the State Board of Education, which is scheduled to consider it at its Sept. 16 meeting at Polk State College. DOE is currently taking public comments on the latest rule impacting CTE programs. The public comment period opened Friday and runs for 21 days, closing on Sept. 11.

State DOH proposes removing immunizations requirements for public and private schools.

The Florida Department of Health is proposing a rule to remove Hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines for public school attendance, a move that has been in play for almost a year after Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo announced his intent to get rid of all vaccine mandates in the state. The rule, which was approved by Ladapo on Aug. 20, has a 21-day period for public input before final approval. DOH did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday. The proposed rule also expands religious vaccine exemptions to include moral and ethical beliefs and lets parents and college students opt out of having their records included in the state vaccine database. Link to proposed rule - https://flrules.org/Gateway/View_notice.asp?id=31292411

Notice / Adopted	Section	Description	ID	Publish Date
	Proposed 64D-3.046	The purpose is to update the immunization and document requirements for child care and school entry, including DH 680, Florida Certification of Immunization, DH 681, Religious Exemption from Immunization, and the Immunization	31292411	8/24/2026 Vol. 52/164

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

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.

On The Docket This Week

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- CENTRAL POLK PARKWAY - - Monday, 6 p.m. - - The Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is holding a series of meeting 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. - Online: www.CentralPolkParkwayEast.com.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

- CENTRAL POLK PARKWAY - - Tuesday, 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. - Lake Eva Event Center, 799 Johns Avenue, Haines City.
- AQUACULTURE REVIEW - - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - - Florida's Aquaculture Review Council will hear final presentations for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 projects. - Nature Coast Biological Station 552 1st Street Cedar Key.

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 From the past few day!

Sentinel: Florida attorney general, a Catholic, fights state bishops over school vaccines

Sentinel: 'Child deserves privacy': DeSantis faces heat for outing victim in Caruso sex case

FlaPol: Prosecutors cite guns, past violence in bid to keep Mike Caruso jailed ahead of child sex abuse trial

WUSF: Climate change reshuffles where people are moving in Florida

My News 13: Volusia County leaders pursue permanent data center ban

FlaPol: Byron Donalds plans to 'study' MMR, Polio vax rollbacks, 'engage' with Legislature before final decision

My News 13: Florida manufactured homeowners say Amendment 3 could leave them without tax relief

TCPalm: Florida property tax amendment risks after-school, child-care funding

FlaPol: 'Unbiased and nonpartisan': Florida TaxWatch rolls out Amendment 3 'resource center' website

Herald: Inside the Schools of Hope charter that moved into a closed Miami public school

Post: County chief warns tax amendment could drive towns into insolvency

Floridian: DeSantis Awards Nearly $8.8M in Infrastructure Upgrades, Community Projects to Northwest Florida

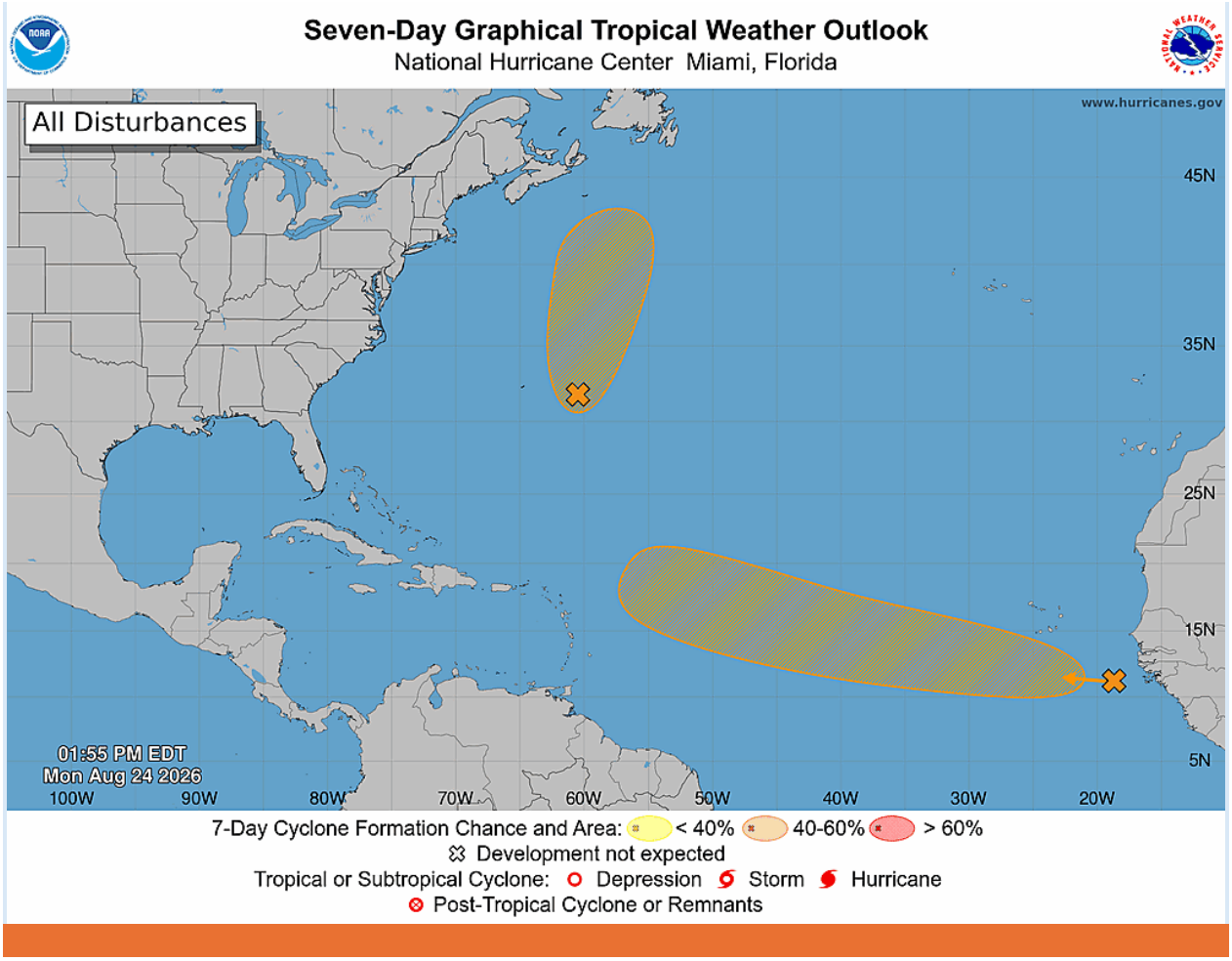
TCPalm: Data center concerns unseat council members in local Florida election

Post: Florida emergency chief Kevin Guthrie exits at peak hurricane season

Florida Phoenix: Jay Collins lost big — but he did win 16 counties in North Florida and 17 overall

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

cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

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