The Briefing for Saturday, October 3, 202

The Last Briefing was Thursday, October 1,2026

What's the weather outlook?

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

College Football Scores and Schedules
Major League Baseball - Playoff Bracket
WNBA Playoff Bracket

There are 31 days until the General Election - November 3, 2026.

Monday, October 5 is the last day for Floridians to register to vote or change party affiliation for Florida's Nov. 3 General Election. Location: County supervisors of elections offices.

Florida TaxWatch Issues Report on Data Centers

Earlier this week, Florida TaxWatch released a report entitled, *"Data Centers and Florida's Tax Base: Balancing Fiscal Opportunity, Responsible Development, and Taxpayer Protection."* The purpose of this project was to: (1) quantify the direct fiscal impacts of the construction and initial operations of a hypothetical 500-megawatt (MW) AI hyperscale data center on fiscally constrained local governments and the state; and (2) to offer recommendations for policymakers

TaxWatch acknowledged that concerns about the facilities are legitimate. "Florida taxpayers have genuine concerns about how data centers may affect their water supply, electric utility costs, and overall quality of life," the report states.

While the report finds the facilities could deliver significant fiscal benefits to the state's tax base, it urges caution, warning that safeguards should be implemented to protect taxpayers and natural resources.

October is National Farm to School Month

In recognition, Agriculture Commissioner Simpson is inviting Florida students to participate in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' annual "Florida Farm to School Essay Contest" and the brand-new "Florida Farm to School Art Contest." The contests are open from Oct. 1 through Nov. 16 and invite middle and high school students to actively explore how agriculture connects to their own schools, communities, and everyday activities.

Resources for Schools

Link to Farm to School Month Resources

Whether you're a teacher, parent, school nutrition professional, or community partner, the resources connect students to Florida agriculture through local foods, school gardens, agricultural education, and more, including lessons aligned with Florida education standards. Explore tools and activities like:

- **Virtual Farm Field Trips:** Transport students to Florida farms where's they'll learn how their favorite foods are grown, with corresponding standards-aligned worksheets and activities.
- **Student Contests:** Inspire students to explore Florida agriculture through creative writing and art. These statewide contests make great classroom activities and provide opportunities for students to earn prizes and recognition while celebrating Farm to School.
- **Lunch180 Cookbook:** Discover fresh, student-approved school meal recipes featuring Florida-grown commodities and portioned for school lunchroom serving sizes.

Understanding the Impact of Amendment 3

- **Florida TaxWatch -** Florida TaxWatch - Property Tax Resource Center - The Florida TaxWatch site provides a county-by-county map to calculate local impact.
- **Two Reports from the Florida Association of Counties -** REPORT ON FLORIDA COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES and Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Property Tax Map details that proposed property tax changes.
- **The Florida League of Cities -** The Florida League of Cities Property Tax Study- details how proposals to reduce or eliminate homestead property taxes would create severe fiscal strains and uneven revenue losses for municipal governments across the state.
- Amendment 3 - The Rest of the Story .docx - The following My View shows who benefits and who does not.
- Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (TBRC) - If Amendment 3 is not approved taxation and budgeting will be reviewed by the TBRC. The TBRC is established by the Florida Constitution and will convene in 2027.

On The Docket

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

- DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Monday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Department of Education is holding a series of meetings on Science State Academic Standards. Location: Walton High School, 116 Hunters Ridge Road, DeFuniak Springs.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

- PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is holding an agenda conference on an application by Florida Power & Light Company to issue a combination of long-term debt and equity securities not to exceed $9 billion during calendar year 2027 and to issue short-term securities not exceed $6 billion during calendar years 2027 and 2028. Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is holding a workshop on ten-year site plans submitted by Florida's electric utilities. Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

- CENTRAL FLORIDA WATER - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is meeting. Location: Okeechobee County Courthouse, County Commissioners Chambers; 304 NW 2nd Street, Okeechobee.
- PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission is to consider CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC's petition to establish the rate base value of the Wastewater System of Forest Utilities, Inc. Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- NORTHWEST WATER - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Northwest Florida Water Management District is holding a meeting. Location:81 Water Management Drive, Havana.
- AMENDMENT 3 IN MARTIN COUNTY - Wednesday, 6 p.m. - State Rep. Toby Overdorf, R-Palm City, is one of the speakers for a panel discussion hosted by the League of Women Voters of Martin County on Amendment 3 on the November ballot regarding property taxes. Location: Unity of Stuart, 211 SE Central Parkway, Stuart.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

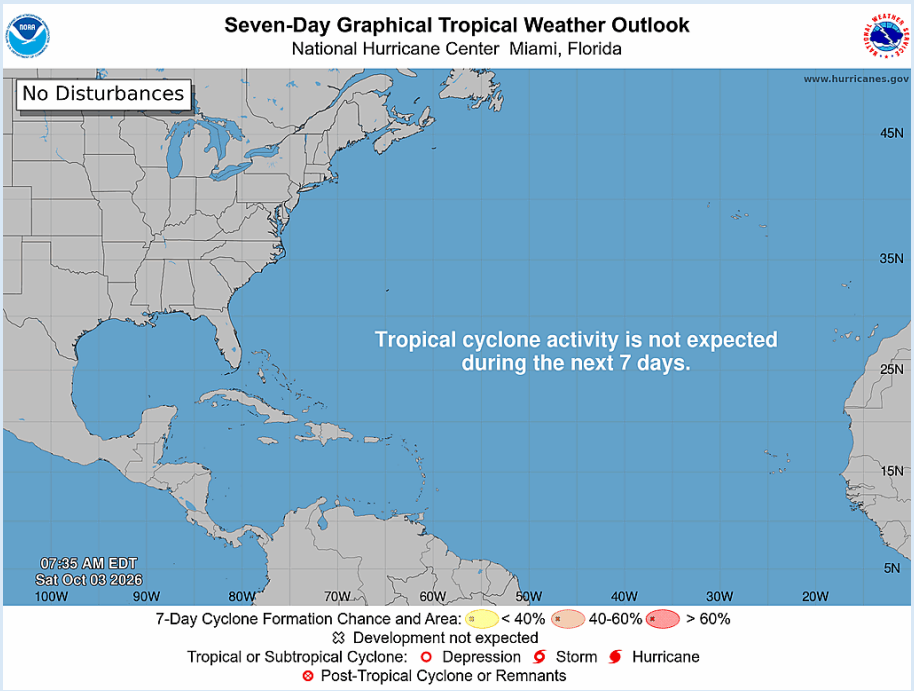
- IMMUNIZATION RULES - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Department of Health is holding a hearing on proposed revisions to immunization requirements for school entry. Location: Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Grand Ballroom E, F, G, H, 1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary.
- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board is meeting. Location: SFWMD Headquarters, B-1 Building, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach.
- GAMING COMMISSION - 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.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- CARD SOUND BRIDGE STUDY - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation, District Six, is holding a meeting to evaluate alternatives to address the degradation of the Card Sound Road Bridge in Monroe County. Location: Murray Nelson Government Center, BOCC Room located at 102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

- RINGLING BRIDGE - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation District 1 is holding a workshop on plans for reconstruction of the Little Ringling Bridge between Bird Key Drive and Sarasota Harbour West. Location: Sarasota City Hall, Conference Room 112, 1565 1st St, Sarasota.
- CITRUS FORECAST - Friday, 12 p.m. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture will release the first outlook for Florida's 2026-2027 citrus growing season.
- FLATHEAD CATFISH - Friday, 5 p.m. CT - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is holding a meeting on flathead catfish in Panhandle rivers. Location: 361 N. 10th St., DeFuniak Springs.
- FINANCE REPORTS - Friday - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between Sept. 26 and Oct. 2. Location: Department of State, Division of Elections, Bureau of Election Records, R.A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.

Tropical Weather Outlook

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



Headlines Around The State

***Saturday** - OCT. 3, 2026*

FlaPol: Dem-turned-GOP candidate who said America is 'run on hate' is back on the ballot in Broward

The Hill: Ex-GOP lawmaker sentenced to 10 years in prison

Floridian: Rep. Wyman Duggan Announces Jacksonville Mayoral Run

NYT: How Trump's Deportation Policies Have Rocked a South Florida House Race

Politico: Democrats Have a Money Problem in the Races That Matter the Most

Floridian: Rick Scott & Ashley Moody Introduce Bill Banning Oil & Gas Projects Along Pivotal Military Readiness Range

Friday - OCT. 2, 2026

Florida Phoenix: Uthmeier alleges Pfizer misled Florida about its COVID vaccine's safety

Capitolist: Florida Supreme Court to hear Citizens arbitration process for insurance claims

Floridian: 'We Will Not let Evil Win': Randy Fine Reacts to Attempted Hijacking On Israeli-Bound Flight

Floridian: Questions Mount Over Taxpayer-Funded Castro Trip That Coincided With Ethics Hearing

FlaPol: Florida Clerks of Court are raising awareness of assistance programs during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

FlaPol: September closes out with a decrease of new unemployment filings in Florida

NBC 6: No Crocs in class? Florida Dept. of Education eyes dress code for employees

FlaPol: Richard Lamondin releases snappy second TV ad touting business background, Tallahassee plan

The Hill: Rubio ordered Iranians out of US as negotiations stalled

FlaPol: Florida Democrats score more new voter registrations than GOP in September

Florida Phoenix: In Lakeland visit, JD Vance says Angie Nixon 'doesn't belong in America'

FlaPol: JD Vance rallies for Florida Republicans against 'far-left socialists' and 'washed-up losers'

FlaPol: Maxwell Frost, Anna Eskamani warn that Florida renters will be hit with rent hikes if Amendment 3 passes

FlaPol: Chambers of Commerce are increasingly opposing Amendment 3

FlaPol: Cook Political Report upgrades David Jolly's November chances

Floridian: Miami Herald Endorses David Jolly For Governor

FlaPol: Anne Huffman, a Democrat on the Haines City Commission, endorses Byron Donalds for Governor

Here are key dates for 26-27

2026 Events

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

Chris Doolin
President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates
Mobile – 850-508-5492
Email – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com