The Briefing for Thursday, October 1, 2026

The Last Briefing was Tuesday, September 29, 2026

There are 33 days until the General Election - November 3, 2026.

What's the weather outlook?

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

A significant rain event will be crossing North Florida in the next few days!

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

State Releases Report on Local Elected Official Salaries for 26-27

The EDR report, ***Salaries of Elected County Constitutional Officers and School District Officials for FY 2026-27***, has been published on the EDR's website via the link below.

https://edr.state.fl.us/Content/local-government/reports/finsal26.pdf

History of State of Florida Local Elected Official Salaries

Link to Local Official Salary Reports - Starting in 1985 through 2026.

The practice of determining the compensation of Florida's county constitutional officers by state law was sanctioned by the Constitution of 1885 and has been maintained since the 1968 constitutional revision. However, it was not until 1973 that the Legislature authorized the salary compensation formula that was the precursor to its present form

Governor and Cabinet Approve Land Purchases

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Cabinet approved conservation measures Tuesday covering more than 10,770 acres across the state, representing an investment of more than $72.6 million. The projects include land protected through the Florida Forever program and the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, with more than 2,700 acres located within the Ocala-to-Osceola Wildlife Corridor.

Among the approvals:

- 2,708-acre conservation easement in Putnam County within the Etoniah/Cross Florida Greenway Florida Forever Project. The property will help connect the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area with other conservation lands while protecting water resources, wildlife habitat and aquifer recharge areas.
- 3,567-acre conservation easement in Hendry County within the Panther Glades Florida Forever Project. The property will remain in agricultural use while providing a connection between Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area and nearby protected lands.
- More than 4,500 additional acres of working agricultural land will be protected through permanent easements under the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program. That includes 1,034 acres at Limestone Creek Ranch, a cattle ranch that has operated for more than 70 years.

Since 2019, Florida has invested more than $1.5 billion through Florida Forever, protecting more than 500,000 acres, according to the governor's office.

Understanding the Impact of Amendment 3

As more people understand the impact of Proposed Constitutional Amendment 3 – support for the amendment declines. Here are three reports that have been issued analyzing the impact on local communities if it passes. Also provided is a "My View" written to provide insight into 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 could cause Florida counties to lose nearly $3 billion in the first year (FY 2027–28) and over $5 billion in the second year (FY 2028–29).
- **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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

- REVENUE ESTIMATING - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will review the long-term revenue analysis. Location: 301 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.
- NORTH FLORIDA PLANNING - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors is meeting. Location: Flagler County Library, 2199 Commerce Pkwy, Bunnell.

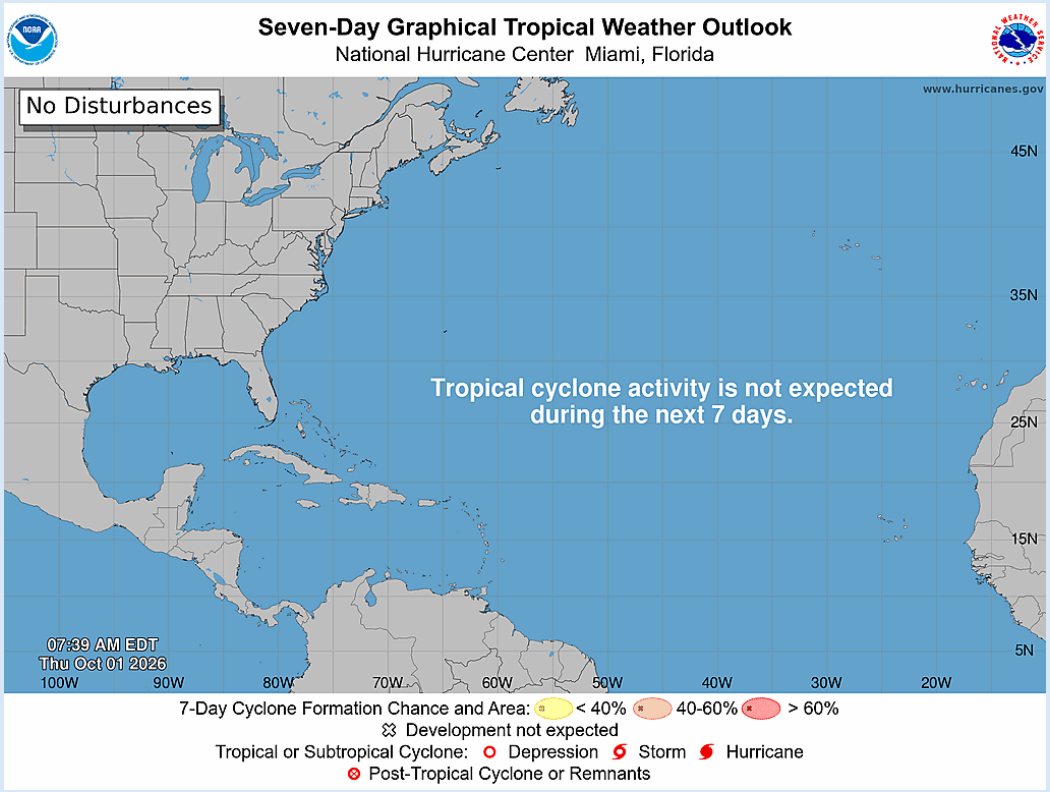
- HISTORICAL MARKERS - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Division of Historical Resources Florida Historical Marker Council is to review submitted historical marker applications. Location: R.A. Gray Building, Room 307, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- TRIUMPH GULF COAST - Thursday, 10:30 a.m. CT The Triumph Gulf Coast Board is meeting. Location: Walton County Commission Chambers, South Walton County Annex, 31 Coastal Centre Blvd., Santa Rosa Beach.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

- FINANCE REPORTS - Friday State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between Sept. 11 and Sept. 17. 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

WLRN: Ron DeSantis' terms in office fundamentally altered Florida's political landscape through conservative policies

WUSF: Evolution and climate change are missing from Florida's new K-12 science standards

Times: Florida education leaders: We'll listen to teachers on science standards

Democrat: Florida warns against resuming Apalachicola River dredging

FlaPol: Personnel note: Francis Rooney joins U.S. Term Limits Board of Directors

WLRN: $15 minimum wage is here, but it's not a livable wage, group says

CBS Miami: Florida's new $2,000 crash-reporting threshold leaves drivers asking how to judge the damage

WUSF: Trade tensions mean fewer Canadians flocking to South Florida

TCPalm: You could get a $500 Obamacare refund check in Florida. Who is eligible

FlaPol: FWC opens commercial and recreational oyster harvesting in Apalachicola Bay

WLRN: Byron Donalds says solar power is a 'fad' but Florida utilities are expanding its use

FlaPol: Byron Donalds says he'll weigh raising Florida's sovereign immunity caps following Gov. DeSantis veto

WLRN: Florida Democrats think they'll break Republican supermajorities. What does that mean?

WLRN: 'Crime, costs and corruption': José Javier Rodríguez on the battle for Florida's AG office

WLRN: 'A power grab scam': Common Cause Florida joins opposition to Amendment 3

WUSF: Sarasota County School District responds to attorney general in teacher probe

WLRN: Miami's first elected Supervisor of Elections openly advocates for Amendment 3. She sees no conflict

My News 13: State of Osceola County address focuses on Amendment 3's potential impact to programs

WLRN: Amendment 3 financial impact on Arts & Culture in Palm Beach County could be 'devastating'

Bradenton Herald: Climate change is changing Florida. A 'Living Laboratory' could help state adapt

WUSF: Pinellas death from 'flesh-eating bacteria' reported by Florida health department

Wednesday - SEP. 30, 2026

Post: DeSantis vowed to restore Florida's environment. Did he?

FlaPol: Ashley Moody votes 'yes' on college sports bill after amendment, Rick Scott remains 1 of 2 GOP 'no' votes

TCPalm: Florida city forms committee to prioritize buying sensitive lands

Sun-Sentinel: Rest stop upgrades added to $20B plan to widen Florida's Turnpike

WLRN: A royal mess: King tides are back—and more annoying than ever

Herald: What is Carnegie Mellon? Inside the university's big move into Miami

Today: 3 Florida cities had some of the most movers per capita in August

Sentinel: Democrats running for Florida CFO, AG vow to scrutinize insurer profits

The Capitolist: DeSantis, Cabinet approve $72.6M in land conservation projects

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis talks new Florida Turnpike plaza food vendors, says he wants to end tolls

WLRN: The pro-Amendment 3 property tax relief campaign is outspending the opposition by a 33-1 ratio

WLRN: Online tool shows hidden impact of Amendment 3 property tax relief on local government services

WUSF: If Florida ends school rules for vaccines, a new study predicts a wave of measles nationwide

Sentinel: Orlando signs off on $1.88 billion budget as Amendment 3 looms

Times: Hillsborough school board weighs new rules on partisan politics on campus

Sentinel: Underdog faces state lawmaker in Orange District 4 commission race

News4JAX: Who helped write SB 686? Inside the law reshaping development in St. Johns County

News4JAX: Florida licenses, IDs get new design, highlighting space coast and state symbols

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

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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

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