The Weather is Cooling Down!
High of 80 in Tallahassee today!
Low of 59 predicted for tomorrow morning!
Great Football Weather!!
What say you?
Have a good weekend!

The Briefing for Friday, September 25, 2026

The Last Briefing was Monday, September 21, 2026

There are 42 days until November 3, 2026.

What's the weather outlook?

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

College Football Scores and Schedules

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

Florida Teams at Play

#4 Ole Miss at #21 Florida
Central Michigan at #6 Miami
Central Arkansas at FSU
Alabama A&M at FAMU
Long Island University at FIU
FAU at UL Monroe
TCU at UCF
USF at Bowling Green

Commissioner of Education Underscores Instructional Materials Safeguards and Responsibilities

FLDOE Instructional Materials Memo.pdf

Commissioner of Education Henry Mack sent a seven-page memo telling school superintendents and charter school leaders to continuously audit books, review their collections and remove instructional materials that contain sexually explicit material, even if a parent or county resident has not submitted a complaint in that district.

The Commissioners' memo directed school districts to cross-check the DOE's official list of removed books with their own list of instructional materials and library books for review. The memo

stated that if a book is included on that list and was removed in another county, a district that has the same book is "required" to review it. The memo outlined a nine-point plan for the next 90 days for school districts to follow to improve their removals of age-inappropriate books from school shelves.
If a district does not comply, it risks losing state funds, grants, Florida Lottery money or any other funds appropriated by the Legislature.

Current Florida law says a school district can review and remove a book after a complaint has been made that a book is pornographic, obscene or isn't age appropriate. Books can also be removed as part of a regular selection process in which a media specialist can decide to remove them if they are outdated, rarely circulated or no longer relevant to the curriculum. The law does not explicitly require district personnel to immediately remove the book or to double check the list of already removed books in other districts for preemptive review.

Recent poll shows support for Amendment 3 falling short of 60% requirement!

Link to recent poll

Governor has doubts whether it will pass!

Amendment 3 will be the ballot on Nov. 3

A recent statewide poll shows Amendment 3 falling short of the 60% threshold it would need to pass in November. According to a St. Pete Polls survey conducted Sept. 15-17, 44.9% of 913 Florida voters surveyed said they would support Amendment 3. Another 30.4% said they would oppose it, while 24.8% remained undecided. These results show a significant shift from a University of North Florida poll conducted in late July. That survey found 61% support for the proposal when voters were asked about it without additional context. Support dropped to 45% when voters were told the amendment could result in a nearly $12 billion budget shortfall for local governments.

The proposed constitutional amendment would gradually increase Florida's homestead exemption and could ultimately pave the way for the state to eliminate homestead property taxes. Local officials and law enforcement agencies have increasingly raised concerns about how eliminating or reducing property tax revenue could affect funding for essential services.
Gov. Ron DeSantis is raising doubts about whether Florida's proposed property-tax amendment can win enough support to pass in November. The final version approved by the Florida Legislature does not go as far as the governor had wanted.

. "It's a live issue. I don't know if it's going to pass with 60%, I wanted to be bolder." DeSantis said. "That would bring out more voters who were unenthused about voting. We'll see if those folks are enthused enough about the Legislature's proposal."

The poll found Amendment 3 has its strongest support among Republicans, with 63% in favor. Among independent voters, 40% support the proposal while 32% oppose it. Democrats oppose the amendment by a 48% to 24% margin.

Here is the link to a voters guide provided for your information

Florida Phoenix voter guide for State and Federal positions and the constitutional amendments

State announces 14-Day Atlantic Red Snapper Season

The federal government has approved Florida's request to expand the 2026 Fall Atlantic red snapper season. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announced the approval will allow the agency to test management of recreational and for-hire operations for red snapper in both state and federal waters off the East Coast from October 9 through October 22.

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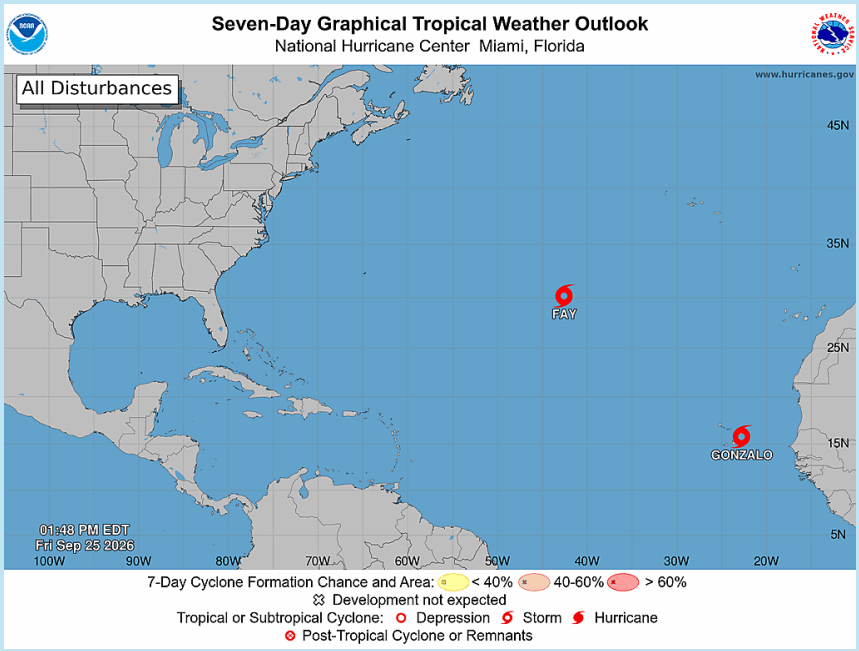
Tropical Weather Outlook

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



On The Docket

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- FLORIDA HOUSING - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corporation is meeting. - Miami Airport Marriott, 1201 NW 42nd Avenue, Building A, Miami.
- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Commission for Independent Education is meeting regarding non-degree granting institutions. - Mission Inn Resort and Club, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-In-The-Hills.
- CABINET AIDES - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Cabinet aides for Gov. Ron DeSantis, Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia, Attorney General James Uthmeier and Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson meet ahead of the September 29 Cabinet meeting and September 30 Board of Executive Clemency meeting. - Cabinet Meeting Room, Lower Level, the Capitol.
- FINANCE REPORTS - Friday - State candidates and political committees face a deadline for filing reports showing finance activity between Sept. 11 and Sept. 17. - 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

Friday - SEP. 25, 2026

Floridian: Alex Rizo Adds Endorsement from Blaise Ingoglia in SD 39 Campaign

Florida Phoenix: DeSantis, Uthmeier announce arrests of 20 people in Florida for voter fraud

FlaPol: Ashley Moody spotlights leaders for her campaign in all 67 Florida counties

FlaPol: Florida GOP says Amendment 3 protects renters, removes barriers to homeownership

The Hill: Donalds calls Trump agenda 'common sense' after some mentions removed from campaign website

News Herald: Florida schools must audit books or lose funding

Thursday - SEP. 24, 2026

The Hill: Decision Desk HQ shifts Florida governor race to 'toss-up'

FlaPol: Ashley Moody promises to support 'fair' immigration enforcement as protesters march at Orlando office

Herald: Amid whistleblower claims, advocates ask lawmakers to visit ICE office in Miramar

DBNJ: Woman tells Senate how Flock photo helped spark her wrongful arrest

Sun-Sentinel: Citizens Property Insurance president: The market is working

Post: Florida races to stop tiny pest ruining sugarcane, lawns

WLRN: South Florida counties put out call for voter registrations as midterm nears

Today: Man sentenced for threats against Florida lawmaker Randy Fine

Sentinel: Governor candidates Donalds, Jolly offer competing economic visions. Same stage, same questioner — but no debate

CBS Miami: Byron Donalds, David Jolly outline differences on property taxes, insurance at Fort Lauderdale summit

WLRN: Donalds might retain Joseph Ladapo as surgeon general — Jolly says he'd fire him

NBC 6: Miami-Dade sheriff backs Amendment 3, breaking with state sheriffs association

Herald: Fla. sheriffs warn of 'train wreck' tax-cut plan. Miami-Dade sheriff: Don't be scared

FlaPol: Renters could pay the price if Amendment 3 passes, new analysis finds

WUSF: DeSantis commerce secretary approved as Pensacola State College president

Sentinel: 'Combative and aggressive': Personnel file of Orange school board candidate shows years of complaints

WUSF: Parents push back against Pinellas school closures

Times: After parent outcry, Pinellas school board open to changing closure plan

Wednesday - SEP. 23, 2026

Politico: Florida Democrats court GOP voters who fear data centers

FlaPol: Fox News ratings move 7 of Florida's U.S. House contests in Democrats' direction

TCPalm: Florida Democrats take (very) early lead in mail-in ballots

Times: Why are Florida senators against the Protect College Sports Act?

News4JAX: Florida AG sues insulin makers, pharmacy benefit manager over high prices

FlaPol: FSU falls 3 spots in U.S. News & World Report rankings despite gains in key metrics

FlaPol: USF extends Top 50 public university streak to 8 years

FlaPol: Florida Poly extends 6-year streak atop U.S. News regional ranking

Times: Florida tops in conservative Education Freedom metrics, group says

FlaPol: Sabato's 'Crystal Ball' sees David Jolly's odds improving — and Byron Donalds is taking notice

Sun-Sentinel: Byron Donalds strips Trump references from his campaign website

ABC News: Rep. Donalds downplays Trump connection on his governor campaign website

Times: Jay Collins endorses Byron Donalds after heated words in GOP primary battle

NBC 6: Florida Democrats want data centers to be halted, while Republicans believe it's the future

Herald Tribune: Florida AG wants Sarasota teacher fired over alleged 'bullying'

Floridian: Lauren Book is Ready to Take Fight Back to Tallahassee in SD 30 Bid

FlaPol: 'Shoulder to shoulder': Alex Rizo nabs Florida Professional Firefighters nod in SD 39

WLRN: New report shows 12,300 enrollment decline for Broward schools, larger than first-day count

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