

WSMR Public Radio

Florida Matters Public Affairs Show

News Stories

July 1 – Sept. 30, 2025

FLORIDA MATTERS – THIRD QUARTER, 2025

Florida Matters Quarterly report July 1- Sept. 30, 2025

Time aired: Tuesdays at 6:30 – 7 p.m. on WUSF 89.7 FM; Monday at 10 – 10:30 p.m. on WSMR 89.1 FM

[A new USF president, the D.C. shutdown, and post-hurricane challenges and emotions](#)

Sept. 30, 2025

Betty Castor is here to talk about USF's new president and Rep. Vern Buchanan offers insight on the impending government shutdown. (Higher education, government, extreme weather)

[Waiting on the Rays sale, wrestling's Tampa roots and the end of remote work](#)

September 29, 2025

We get into the latest on the Tampa Bay Rays, then tag up to talk about pro wrestling's place in local culture. (Sports, business, government, minorities, popular culture)

[The future of Florida's coral reefs and more](#)

September 23, 2025

On this episode of "Florida Matters," we discuss how the future of Florida's corals hangs in the balance, HOA-issued speeding citations are raising privacy concerns in Sarasota and more. (Environment, global warming, housing, law and order)

[A closer look at the health risks of extreme heat](#)

September 16, 2025

On "Florida Matters," WUSF's Jessica Meszaros explains the impact of hot weather on pregnancy and more. (Global warming, health, agriculture)

[Meet the man behind Tampa International Airport's popular social media feed](#)

Sep 9, 2025

On "Florida Matters" this week, hear from the guy behind Tampa International Airport's popular social media accounts. Plus, there are new rules for beginner drivers and learn what it takes to train a service dog. (Transportation, law and order, social media)

[How immigration policies are playing out for families in the Tampa Bay region](#)

Sep 2, 2025

On "Florida Matters," we discuss how immigration enforcement is playing out in the area and give an update on the state-mandated removal of street art, including an iconic crosswalk in St. Petersburg. (Immigration, family issues, agriculture, law enforcement, art)

[Why childhood vaccination rates are dipping in Sarasota County](#)

Aug 26, 2025

On "Florida Matters," we talk about what's behind the drop in childhood vaccination rates in Sarasota County. Plus, how to protect yourself against mosquitoes. (Health, environment)

[Rising grocery prices and looming SNAP cuts squeeze Tampa-area families](#)

Aug 19, 2025

On "Florida Matters," we run down the grocery list of how inflation and big changes to SNAP benefits are affecting Tampa Bay families and beyond. Plus, a pediatrician talks about healthy school lunch options. (Family issues, minorities, education)

[What to know as school is back in session across Tampa Bay](#)

Aug 12, 2025

This week on "Florida Matters," we get a peek inside the backpack as another school year across the greater Tampa Bay region is underway. (Education, government)

[How spikes in lot rent are causing Floridians to leave their 'forever homes'](#)

Aug 5, 2025

On "Florida Matters," we hear reporting from WUSF's "Not So Forever Homes" series. This is a collection of stories documenting the spiraling lot rents at manufactured home communities. (Housing)

[Millennial caregiving: Balancing life while caring for a loved one](#)

Jul 29, 2025

On "Florida Matters," we speak to caregivers about how they balance life with caring for their loved ones. (Health)

[How staffing changes at the National Weather Service affect local forecasting offices](#)

Jul 22, 2025

On "Florida Matters," a meteorologist who led the National Weather Service's Tampa area forecasting office weighs in on a recent staffing exodus at the NWS. (Environment, global warming, government)

[Trust fund fraud victims seek reassurance after prosecutor's firing](#)

Jul 15, 2025

On "Florida Matters": how a federal prosecutor's firing could affect the fraud case he was leading. Also, assessing flash flood risks and demystifying sharks. (Law and order, finance, extreme weather, environment)

[How Floridians feel about the state budget and what it means for Tampa Bay](#)

Jul 8, 2025

On "Florida Matters," WUSF reporters Meghan Bowman and Douglas Soule explain what Gov. Ron DeSantis vetoed and what survived, as well as new laws you might want to know about. (Government, education, health, transportation, environment)