

WSMR Public Radio

Florida Matters Public Affairs Show

News Stories

Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025

FLORIDA MATTERS – FOURTH QUARTER, 2025

Florida Matters Quarterly report Oct. 1- Dec. 31, 2025

Time aired: Monday-Thursday at noon – 1 p.m. on WUSF 89.7 FM; Sundays at 6:30 p.m. on WSMR 89.1 FM

Dec 16, 2025

[Digging into the drilling dilemma, books get an afterlife, Harlem Globetrotting, Tampa bowl talk](#)

From debates on energy and environmental risks to rescued books, basketball legends, and college football thrills, "Florida Matters Live & Local" celebrates curiosity, community and local stories. (Environment, literacy, sports, minority issues)

Dec 15, 2025

[USF's new president, local reaction to Australia terror, state park devotees, urban farms](#)

Sky Lebron is the guest host on "Live & Local," with segments on USF's new man in charge, faith congregations' reaction to violence, a couple who loves Florida's parks and front-lawn food production. (Higher education, antisemitism, minority issues, environment, agriculture)

Dec 11, 2025

[The boss signs off, Circus City, reinventing the 'Greatest Show,' avoiding TSA drama](#)

On "Florida Matters Live & Local," hear 23 years of radio insight from WUSF's outgoing leader, JoAnn Urofsky. Then it's off to the circus, to learn about big-top lore and a modern script. Finally, the quirks of airport security. (Public media, entertainment, transportation, government)

Dec 10, 2025

[Screen time showdown, an F for voucher chaos, parks need a tuneup, a pastor's miracle](#)
"Florida Matters Live & Local" scrolls from social media and voucher mismanagement to underfunded state parks and a church leader's survival against the odds. (Social media, environment, religion)

Dec 9, 2025

[Buying into a grocery co-op, thrown under the syllabus, Capitol ideas, a star-spangled sprinter](#)

On "Florida Matters Live & Local," host Matthew Peddie directs listeners from south St. Pete's food concerns, a dustup over oversight of college courses, a preview of the upcoming legislative session and a patriotic runner. (Food insecurity, minority issues, government, sports)

Dec 8, 2025

[Meet Madam Mayor, Palladium's next act, chasing pursuit questions, driverless cab rides](#)
"Florida Matters: Live & Local" explores topics on leadership, culture, safety and innovation that are shaping communities across the state. (Politics, local government, transportation)

Dec 4, 2025

[Fundraiser encore: Vets deploy in the business world, Dr. Deep Sea resurfaces, Florida Man cometh](#)

During WUSF's holiday fundraising drive, "Florida Matters Live & Local" revisits some of the best conversations from this fall. (Veteran's issues, business, environment, Florida trivia)

Dec 3, 2025

[Fundraising encores: 'Re-volt' readiness, a neighborhood for the books, half-pipe dreams](#)

During WUSF's holiday fundraising drive, we're asking for your support to keep our newsroom strong. In the meantime, "Florida Matters Live & Local" revisits some of the best conversations from this fall. (Electric utilities, government, skateboarding)

Dec 2, 2025

[Giving Tuesday encore: Doctor shortages, a chronicler of racial injustice, booze without the buzz](#)

During WUSF's holiday fundraising drive, we're asking for your support to keep our newsroom strong. In the meantime, "Florida Matters: Live & Local" revisits some of the best conversations from this fall. (Health issues, minority issues)

Dec 1, 2025

[Holiday hunger, sea cow survival, bipartisan dinner tables and a December to remember](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," we cover families facing food insecurity, endangered manatees, navigating tricky holiday conversations and exploring festive local events. (Food insecurity, politics, environment)

Nov 26, 2025

[Why is the Florida Wildlife Corridor so important to the state?](#)

The conservation effort to protect millions of acres of wildlife habitat illustrates how expeditions, fundraising, media storytelling, and local, state and federal governments can work together. (Environment, government, politics)

Nov 25, 2025

[ACA on edge, the Trop's looking up, kicking the color barrier, holiday shopping ideas](#)

On "Florida Matters Live and Local," we explore anticipated rising health care costs, updates on Tropicana Field, a dancing trailblazer and tips for finding unique gifts. (Health issues, local government, sports, business)

Nov 24, 2025

[Treading water restrictions, a changing neighborhood and amendment 'toke' 2](#)

On "Florida Matters Live & Local," the conversations cover conserving resources, navigating neighborhood shifts and revisiting ballot battles. (Environment, local government, health issues)

Nov 20, 2025

[Charter chatter, Operation Pedro Pan, FAFSA loans and moans, and go take a hike](#)

From schools to student aid, historic escapes to outdoor adventures, this "Florida Matters Live & Local" runs the gamut of the serious and the surprising. (Education, travel, higher education, environment.)

Nov 19, 2025

[Electric bills got you wired? Plus, tax talk, SNAP decisions, and only in Florida ... man!](#)

From skyrocketing utility bills to debates over property taxes and SNAP benefits — and, of course, the wildest Florida Man stories — Floridians are feeling the squeeze, the stakes and the strange. (Utilities, government, food insecurity, minority issues)

Nov 18, 2025

[Where hurricane wind won't win, Lunch Pal mentors, voting rights, and a course of history](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," we highlight courage and community — strengthening young minds, fighting for felons' rights, a historically Black golf course and houses built to beat a Category 5 hurricane. (Extreme weather, incarceration, sports, minority issues)

Nov 17, 2025

[Loving or leaving Florida? A sky-high solution to traffic jams. Air travel took off in Tampa Bay](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," we explore why some Floridians are thinking of bolting while others stay put, how air taxis could lift commuters and the region's original aviation innovation. (Economy, transportation, government)

Nov 13, 2025

[Latest on deadly Ybor City crash, Florida's family caregivers, and a little sports talk](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," we dive into the aftermath of the weekend's Ybor City tragedy, hear from caregivers from across the state, and catch up on the Bolts, Bucs and Bulls. (Law enforcement, families, sports)

Nov 12, 2025

[Bracing for ACA spikes, Florida Man madness and Siesta Key sand sculptures](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," we break down soaring health care costs, dive into the legend of Florida Man, and celebrate art rising from the sands of Siesta Key. (Health care, art)

Nov 11, 2025

[Veterans voices: Building businesses, honoring history and healing through art](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live and Local," we celebrate Veterans Day with discussions on the contributions of vets and the programs that support them. (Military issues, veterans, mental health, art)

Nov 10, 2025

[Purple politics and parties, lung cancer, AI can't touch these, and update on Jamaica](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live and Local," we dive into a possible change in Florida politics, the fight against lung cancer, jobs AI can't take, and stories of Jamaicans survival a hurricane. (Politics, health care, innovation, extreme weather)

Nov 6, 2025

[USF must hurry up and wait, preserving two neighborhoods, and hip whips on skates](#)

"Live and Local" digs into local change, pride and spirited competition. Included are discussions on the stalled USF presidential approval and neighborhoods preserving their heritage. (Higher education, land preservation, sports)

Nov 5, 2025

[Mental health workforce in crisis, cycling deaths, saving springs, and great walls of St. Pete](#)

From mental health shortages and dangerous streets to murky springs and colorful murals, "Live and Local" discussions span crises, solutions and creativity. (Mental health, transportation, environment, arts)

Nov 4, 2025

[Are charter schools running on empty? Plus, 50 years of Bucs memories and their 'Nasty' fan](#)

An analysis shows some local charter schools have nearly the same percentage of underused space as traditional campuses. Plus, plenty of Bucs talk. (Education, government, history, sports)

Nov 3, 2025

[No cheat thrills at the sheriff's office, too late to SNAP out of it and meeting the Met](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," we talk about the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office cheating scandal, SNAP benefits that haven't come and an author whose books are heavy on history. (Law enforcement, food insecurity, literacy)

Oct 30, 2025

[University H-1B visas, a ferry-tale sequel, Halloween rising from ashes, and life and limbs](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live and Local," we discuss the governor and foreign hires at state universities, a water ride returns, Halloween smoke and mirrors, and a scientific twist on human anatomy. (Politics, immigration, higher education)

Oct 29, 2025

[Lakeland's mayoral race, celebrating Public Media Music Day and the local craft beer scene](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," we're talking about a Tampa Bay boom town, hearing from some rising local artists and learning about a buzzing local suds scene. (Local government, Public Media, business)

Oct 28, 2025

[Navigating car insurance rates, Melissa's impact felt in Tampa and the power of a well-told tale](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," host Matthew Peddie drives us through the costs of auto insurance in Florida, concerns for the Caribbean and the joys of storytelling. (Inflation, extreme weather, storytelling)

Oct 27, 2025

[Cutting the power cord, homework on 'Hope' targets, Riverwalk dreams, Tampa's skateboard scene](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," hear about local cities that want to take charge of their electricity, a plan to thwart charter "Schools of Hope," and two more ways Tampa shines. (Utilities, local government, education)

Oct 23, 2025

[Saving lives in Gaza, an airport's lost art, Hope Florida paper trail, and top-shelf library stuff](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live and Local," we hear about an ER doctor's heart-wrenching mission to Gaza, a great find at TPA, the latest in a political investigation and modern library makeovers. (Health issues, foreign policy, state government, literacy)

Oct 22, 2025

[Rural hospitals in crisis, Castor and federal workers on the shutdown, Autism Certified Cities](#)

Guests include the Florida Hospital Association's Mary Mayhew and U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor. The topics: saving small-town hospitals, real impacts of government gridlock and Clearwater's inclusive mission. (Health care, government)

Oct 21, 2025

[Can't find a primary care physician? A classic story comes to TV and staying social on the wagon](#)

Explore how to find a primary care doctor amid Florida's shortage, hear from the creators bringing "A Land Remembered" to TV, and gets tips on staying social without alcohol. (Health care, history)

Oct 20, 2025

[Encouraging news on overdoses, hurricane-free so far, 'No Kings' do democracy and hero pups](#)

Host Matthew Peddie and guests dig into the drop in drug deaths, hurricane season, the nationwide "No Kings" protests and heartwarming hero dogs. (Health care, extreme weather, politics)

Oct 16, 2025

[Local Jewish community on the ceasefire, the charter school debate and theater magic](#)

On "Florida Matters Live & Local," we take a look at how the local Jewish community is responding to the Gaza ceasefire, the charter school takeover debate and the magic of a local theater production. (Antisemitism, education, theater)

Oct 15, 2025

[Stuck homes, Capitol buzz, deep thoughts from the sea and a Dozier grad](#)

"Florida Matters Live & Local" host Matthew Peddie dives into the Tampa area's cooling housing market, Tallahassee's topics, an underwater experiment and a diploma worth waiting for. (Housing, economy, environment, history, justice)

Oct 14, 2025

[Vax policy and polio, true-crime author's 'Bone Valley' podcast, and sports talk](#)

"Live & Local" explores Florida's plan to end vaccine mandates, a reform school graduation story, Gilbert King's latest book, and catch up on Tampa sports. (Health care, literacy, sports)

Oct 13, 2025

[School traffic cams, a tight housing market, Brandon's identity and dilly Dali-ing](#)

From navigating school traffic and soaring housing costs to defining Brandon's spirit and exploring the surreal world of Dalí, have a listen on what shapes daily life across Tampa Bay. (Education, transportation, housing, economy, arts)

Oct 9, 2025

[Federal workers feel shutdown pinch, Florida's vaccine gamble and school book removals](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," we're talking about Florida's government shutdown and unpaid workers, uncertainty over vaccine mandates, and the growing debate over books being pulled from schools. (Government, economy, education)

Oct 8, 2025

[Atlanta's Battery sparks Rays' plans and 'levy' breaking for property owners](#)

On "Florida Matters: Live & Local," guests join us to discuss the Rays' stadium plans and property tax pressures. (Sports, government, taxes)

Oct 7, 2025

[Grocery prices increase, Canadian snowbirds decrease, and community bands play on](#)

From rising grocery costs to fewer Canadian snowbirds and vibrant local volunteer bands, "Florida Matters Live & Local" explores how economics, travel and community life shape everyday experiences. (Inflation, economy, tourism, arts)

Oct 6, 2025

[Hillsborough and Florida DOGE, New College's ROI, worship safety and the Tuskegee nursing legacy](#)

On "Live & Local, we explore Hillsborough County's DOGE audit, New College's rising costs, safety in houses of worship and the legacy of the trailblazing nurses for the Tuskegee Airmen. (Local government, higher education, history)

Oct 2, 2025

[Electric bill horror, having a Heatwave, highway havoc, and Oktoberfest Tampa style](#)

What do rising power bills, soccer fans, highway chaos and Tampa's twist on Oktoberfest have in common? They're all part of today's "Florida Matters: Live & Local," with Matthew Peddie. (Inflation, economy, weather, entertainment)

Oct 1, 2025

[USF's new president, the Ybor cigar industry, executions and a Plant City community advocate](#)

On "Florida Matters Live and Local," we'll discuss the new president at USF, Ybor City's cigar legacy, Florida's record-setting executions and Plant City's vibrant community traditions. (Higher education, history, business, law and order)