

WUSF Public Media

Florida Matters Public Affairs Show

News Stories

April 1 – June 30, 2026

FLORIDA MATTERS – SECOND QUARTER, 2026

Florida Matters Quarterly report April 1- June 30, 2026

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

June 30, 2026

[The Supreme Court's say on birthright citizenship; TPS and morality; DeSantis' budget vetoes](#)

A divided Supreme Court relies on the 14th Amendment in rejecting President Donald Trump's executive order. What's the fallout? Legal and immigration experts join the show. (Immigration, federal government, state government)

June 29, 2026

[Salute to statutes, political reporter's notebook, the TPS effect, chef's best-queso scenario](#)

There are a few new laws going into effect on Wednesday. Well, more than a few. There are 140. Also, Gov. Ron DeSantis was in Tampa to sign the budget for the coming year. (State law, immigration enforcement, food)

Jun 25, 2026

[Wild West of free speech, items flying off shelves, biology vs bias, saving science from ashes](#)

Ye is bringing his tour to Raymond James Stadium this weekend despite a push by Sen. Rick Scott to cancel over the performer's antisemitic statements. We delve into the controversy. (Free speech, antisemitism, biology, science)

Jun 24, 2026

[Ray Jay or Rays? Teens talk 'takeovers.' Prison staffing crisis. Singer jazzes up new album](#)

Shaded seats sound great, but how much public money should be spent on renovating the Bucs' facility? And, how can Tampa and Hillsborough afford that project while helping build a baseball "Forever Home." (Sports, local government, law and order, music)

Jun 23, 2026

[Social Security's loud alarm, another scam to scan, campus off-loading, shelf-help for kids](#)

Social Security reserves could run short by the 2030s if Congress doesn't act, according to a report from the program's trustees. Whom might this shortage affect, and what benefits could be cut? (Federal government, entitlement programs, higher education)

Jun 22, 2026

[Through the eyes of a dog, coming fuel circle, VA under strain, grill rides, tagging rays and sharks](#)

Dogs Inc. has a program for the public to get a better understanding of guide dogs. Then, is the latest drop in gas prices helping your budget? Also, a look at burnout and staffing shortages at the VA. (Pets, veteran's affairs, environment)

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Jun 18, 2026

[The meaning of Juneteenth celebrations across the Tampa Bay area](#)

Friday marks the day enslaved people in Texas learned they were free. Hear from people from across Tampa Bay's Black community about what freedom means to them. (Black history, American history)

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Jun 17, 2026

[What comes with Iran-U.S. peace? Dad's day grief. Knowing sickle cell. Good day, Sunshine City](#)

The U.S. and Iran are set to formally sign a deal to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. But there are questions about details and what comes next. (World affairs, health news)

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Jun 16, 2026

[When AI gets it wrong, a new ID debate, the Latino vote equation, politics of a 'Wimpy Kid'](#)

An artificial intelligence tool used by police agencies identified an innocent man as a suspect. We delve into what can go wrong when police technology gets it wrong. (Artificial intelligence, immigration, politics, law and order)

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Jun 15, 2026

[Speaking up for homeless, Juneteenth arts, buzz words on skeeters, Kiwi's big adventure](#)

The recent death of a woman sleeping in an alley has stirred homeless advocates against the state's ban on public camping. Is the law necessary or simply driving our most vulnerable into dark, dangerous places? (Housing, Black history, environment, underrepresented groups)

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Jun 11, 2026

[The night Orlando cried, surviving summer hunger, easy being green, Tampa's renaissance menus](#)

Can it possibly be a decade since the horrific Pulse shooting in Orlando? We hear reflections from two people who were there. (Law and order, LGBTQ issues, food)

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Jun 10, 2026

[Read 'em and reap, a different kind of 'takeover,' judged past its prime, a preservation reservation](#)

For the second time this year, a “teen takeover” in the Bay area has ended in arrests. The youths appear to be finding trouble on social media. Can social media keep them out of it? A local group has some ideas. (Law and order, social media)

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Jun 9, 2026

[Floridians get a fair shake, St. Pete Pride, Vibrio facts, summer camps, story of survival](#)

We’re still reacting to the shock of a Florida earthquake. And we get into youth camps on Day 2 of our summer prep segments. Speaking of summertime, "flesh-eating bacteria" is back in the news. (Environment, LGBTQ issues, health news)

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Jun 8, 2026

[College students confront gun violence and housing fears, staycations, WWI fiction](#)

It's been 10 years since a gunman murdered 49 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. That tragedy and others raise discussions about preventing gun violence. (Law and order, higher education, LGBTQ issues)

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Jun 4, 2026

[Big bet on tax relief, a bigger fish to spy, goal diggin' in Florida, opera-tunity knocks](#)

Florida voters will decide this November whether to dramatically expand exemptions and cap property tax increases. “Florida Matters Live & Local” examines the details. (State and local governments, music)

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Jun 3, 2026

[Casting a wider net, our happy trails, a new coastal playbook, swamp and circumstance](#)

A little outdoorsy talk on "Florida Matters Live & Local." Amid the rise of pickleball, the USTA says there aren't enough public tennis courts in the state. Is there room for both? Also, why do hikers love flat ol' Florida? (Environment, sports)

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Jun 2, 2026

[Fight over concert fees, when war hits home, 'Lost Cause' holiday, rocket fireball raises questions](#)

A federal jury found Ticketmaster and Live Nation were acting as a monopoly. An outspoken local club owner who trekked to Washington, D.C., to share his views with lawmakers talks about the challenges. (Music, business, state government)

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Jun 1, 2026

[The fuss over property taxes, public employees and free speech, taking a dive in Tampa Bay](#)

The budget may be complete, but lawmakers are back at the Capitol to cut property taxes. We take a look at the governor's plan. Also, have you ever worried that something you posted online could affect your job? (State and local governments, free speech, environment)

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May 28, 2026

[Weathering the paperwork, MIA emergency chief, this sport is a big dill, Badge Bowl](#)

Our series of hurricane prep programs covers legal questions and important home documents. How do you pick up the pieces after the storm is gone? (Extreme weather, global warming, sports)

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May 27, 2026

[Preparing for hurricane season, living and learning about lipedema, celebrating Black films](#)

Whether you're a longtime Floridian or a newbie to this hurricane business, preparing for storm season can be quite intimidating. Our expert panel has some answers. (Extreme weather, global warming, underrepresented groups, culture)

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May 26, 2026

[Cyclones, cones and groans, reporter's debriefing, the Castro indictment, en garde in Bradenton](#)

Forecasters expect eight to 14 storms this hurricane season, which starts Monday and runs through November. Why are forecasters calling for fewer storms than average and what should you pay attention to? (Extreme weather, foreign affairs, culture)

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May 21, 2026

[Bugs we love to hate, inside Florida's Everglades fight, private art goes public, baseball therapy](#)

What is a love bug? And why do they give their lives for a little smooch with our car grills? We have an expert on "Florida Matters: Live & Local" with the facts. (Environment, art, sports)

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May 20, 2026

[A Large vision for St. Pete, community for mental wellness, unsolved mysteries](#)

Another candidate vying to be St. Petersburg's mayor is in the studio. Meet Jim Large, a longtime fire chief who says he's a public servant, not a politician. He fills us in on his vision for the city. (Local government, mental health)

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May 19, 2026

[He's not a fan of the stadium plan, pitching till it hurts, utility shutoff surge, winning on cue](#)

There is plenty of support for a plan to build a Rays stadium in Tampa. But there are skeptics, and the most vocal is on "Florida Matters Live & Local." Commissioner Joshua Wostal gives specifics ahead of some big votes. (Local government, sports, utilities)

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May 18, 2026

[Preserving Black cemetery history, more Capitol drama, Brady list investigation, an artist's 'Realm'](#)

Thousands of Black cemeteries have been destroyed, built over or fallen into disrepair. Hear about a movement to protect them that started at USF. (Black history, art)

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May 14, 2026

[The Haitian assassination case, Everglades countdown begins, solutions for teen takeovers](#)

Four South Florida men have been convicted in the 2021 assassination plot targeting Haitian President Jovenel Moïse. But there are lingering questions over what really happened in the months leading up to the killing. (Foreign affairs, environment, immigration, law and order)

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May 13, 2026

[Unions emit a collective sigh, Tampa's streetcar desires, Scouts honor](#)

Public sector unions in Florida say they are under threat by a new law requiring at least 50% participation in certification and recertification votes. Two teachers union leaders give us reaction. (Unions, public education, transportation)

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May 12, 2026

[Framing a legacy, mind over muscle, shark and awesome, searchin' for urchins](#)

In her final State of the City last week, Mayor Jane Castor highlighted investments made on her watch. "Florida Matters Live & Local" takes a closer look at what was said (infrastructure) and what was left out (stadiums). (Local government, transportation, sports, environment)

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May 11, 2026

[Worried sick about cruises, spending time in Tally, fielding stadium questions, a fathomable find](#)

A hantavirus has captured the world's attention, especially here in Florida, where the cruise industry has a big footprint. We'll talk about how dangerous the disease really is and how cruise companies deal with outbreaks. (Health news, travel, sports)

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May 7, 2026

[Budget flyers feel turbulence, USF fire aftermath, exploring otter space with kids](#)

Jet fuel prices are sky high, and air travelers are feeling it in their wallets. Now comes the sudden shuttering of Spirit airlines. How can flyers stay on budget? (Transportation, higher education, children's education)

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May 6, 2026

[Batdorf's vision for St. Pete, the Bando's hidden community, blues legacy in town](#)

The 2024 hurricanes may be a distant memory for some. For St. Petersburg resident Kevin Batdorf, the floods that drenched his Shore Acres neighborhood prompted him to run for mayor. (Local government, extreme weather, music)

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May 5, 2026

[Living after prison, dangerous emissions, a Rowdie pioneer, don't close the book on Haslam's](#)

Adjusting to life out of prison can be challenging for people who've just completed their sentence. Could providing them with a basic income help them get back on their feet — and keep them out of jail? (Incarceration, pollution, sports, books)

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May 4, 2026

[The USF slayings and dealing with grief, redistricting aftermath, look who's walking](#)

A vigil was held on Friday for two USF doctoral students whose remains were recovered in recent days. We get an update on the investigation into their deaths and talk with an expert about grief. (Higher education, law and order, mental health)

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Apr 30, 2026

[Tampa's best secrets, decisions affecting schools, Florida caught mapping, soft cups and wine flutes](#)

On "Live & Local," we catch up on a school district making difficult financial decisions, an important legislative vote – and non-vote – along with some unknowns and ... ahem ... unmentionables. (History, K-12 education, local government, food)

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Apr 29, 2026

[Scruggs' ideas for St. Petersburg City Hall, Lightning latest, AI aiding and abetting](#)

Maria Scruggs wants to be St. Petersburg's mayor, and she's going to tell you why. Also, some hockey playoff talk and making a criminal case against artificial intelligence. (Local government, sports, artificial intelligence)

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Apr 28, 2026

[Acres away for development, AI campaign coffers, 'Land Remembered' update, the other Ice Bulls](#)

State Sen. Anna Eskamani joins "Florida Matters Live & Local" to talk about a new Florida law that allows housing development on agricultural land. (State government, development, sports)

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Apr 27, 2026

[Sunshine State sticker shock, mapmakers unite, civics engineering, gotta have J-Hope](#)

Florida is one of the most expensive Southern states in which to live. But why? We're looking into a recent report on affordability in Florida. Plus, the special session, kids and civics, and BTS. (Cost of living, state government, education, music)

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Apr 23, 2026

[Encore: Fight for student journalists, postpartum psychosis, dangers of hot cars](#)

The "Florida Matters Live & Local" staff is focusing on WUSF's Spring Fund Drive, so it's a great time to give another listen to some of our favorite interviews. (Journalism, higher education, public safety)

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Apr 22, 2026

[Encore: Moez than meets the eye, a dream house makeover, Felons Ain't Failures](#)

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[Encore: Florida Poly sports, New College documentary, quirky Florida](#)

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Apr 20, 2026

[Encore: Swiftie class, SAVE Act, e-bike bill](#)

The staff is focusing on WUSF's Spring Fund Drive, so it's a great time to give another listen to some of our favorite "Florida Matters Live & Local" interviews. (Music, voting rights, transportation)

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Apr 16, 2026

[Earth Day is near, the price of no paid leave, Tampa Bay's tattoo culture](#)

Next Wednesday is Earth Day. On "Live & Local," we explore how the focus has shifted from education to action, and what meaningful change looks like. Plus, segments on paid family leave and the world of tattoo artists. (Environment, families, culture)

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Apr 15, 2026

[Gabbard's vision for St. Petersburg, DeSantis' map quest, making school buses safer](#)

City Council member Brandi Gabbard makes her case to be mayor. Then, questions around Florida's push to redraw political maps and a close call on the tracks raises school bus safety concerns. (Local governments, transportation, state government, education)

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Apr 14, 2026

[SNAP goes sugar-free, cop's firing questioned, Black Maternal Health week, your comments](#)

New limits on SNAP purchases are meant to encourage better nutrition. But not all high-sugar items are excluded, raising questions about consistency. Plus, childbirth dangers for Black women and insight on a controversial police firing. (Underserved communities, poverty, minorities, law and order)

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Apr 13, 2026

[Coastal port loophole? Plus, how are you fueling? Drawing a strait line, and heading for third](#)

Environmental advocates celebrated a win in Manatee last month with a new law blocking a plan for a new cruise port. But is the Terra Ciega Aquatic Preserve safe from development? Not everyone thinks so. (Environment, development)

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Apr 9, 2026

[Raising awareness of local news, the Beatles' real nowhere man](#)

On Local News Day, we sit down with Bay area newsroom leaders about the challenges facing community journalism. (Journalism, history)

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Apr 8, 2026

[An \(endangered\) species argument, CAIR-FL pushes back, moon beaming, sold on ChatGTP](#)

Floridians love their coastlines, but a federal move to weaken endangered species protections in the Gulf is sparking legal action and heated debate over energy security. "Florida Matters: Live & Local explores the concerns. (Environment, free speech, artificial intelligence)

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Apr 7, 2026

[Bondi's sudden exit, bookworms crawling, TPS and caretaking, a Frosted Flakes bass, chef's kiss](#)

Pam Bondi was praised publicly, then fired weeks later. We unpack what led to her departure as attorney general, her record in Florida and how the Epstein case shadowed her time leading the DOJ. (Federal government, law and order, immigration, food)

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Apr 6, 2026

[Taxis over Tampa, Florida voting changes, dangers of hot cars, playing ball indoors again](#)

It's the 100th episode of "Florida Matters: Live & Local." Here's what's on tap: Bay bridge gridlock could soon have a high-tech alternative. Plus, what listeners think about Florida's SAVE law, and the tragedy of kids left in cars. (Public transportation, voting rights, public safety, sports)

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Apr 2, 2026

[Inside the MacDill scare, nesting their case, spare the timeshares, Gasparilla gets a drums up](#)

An improvised explosive device found near Tampa's MacDill Air Force Base has triggered a complex investigation. We hear what's new. (Military affairs, public safety, environment)

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Apr 1, 2026

[Legal experts review Supreme Court arguments on birthright citizenship](#)

Our discussion comes as justices prepare to decide the constitutionality of President Donald Trump's order on children born in the U.S. to someone in the country without legal status. (Law, immigration)

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(See Attached Excel Files)