

Public Hearing on Redistricting Orlando (July 27, 2011)

Table of Contents

Hearing Report.....	2
Submission from Ann Hellmuth	3
Submission from Cathy Williams Kerns	6
Submission from Charles Bibber	8
Submission from Charles Selfridge	9
Submission from Charles Wooley	11
Submission from Curt Levine.....	12
Submission from Dennis Freytes	13
Submission from Diane Rambo	15
Submission from Doug Head.....	16
Submission from Elenita Brodie.....	19
Submission from Jacquelyn Salter Shields	21
Submission from James Penna	22
Submission from John Hoyt	24
Submission from Kathleen Skambis.....	27
Submission from Michele Levy.....	28
Submission from Nancy Rudner	29
Submission from Nancy Smith	30
Submission from Sheri Morton.....	31
Submission from Sue Casterline.....	32
Submission from Walter Tropf.....	33
Submission from Tom Hill	35
Handouts	36
Displays Prepared by Florida Senate	38

Hearing Report

Date: July 27, 2011

City: Orlando

Location: Bob Carr Performing Arts Center

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm

Number of Speakers: 153 out of 185

Total Attendance: 621

The public hearing in Orlando took place at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center (401 W. Livingston St., Orlando, FL 32801-1413). Prior to the meeting, a map with directions to the hearing and parking instructions was posted on the internet. Legislative staff posted signs outside the building and the room to provide directions to the hearing, and was on hand to answer questions and display district building software outside the meeting room.

The hearing was advertised in the Orlando Sentinel July 24 and 26-27. Each chamber's website published public notice, and social media websites invited the public to the hearing as well. Senate staff sent invitations to more than 60 school board officials, over 70 county commissioners and administrators, more than 25 personnel under local supervisors of elections, and over 410 city elected officials in Central Florida. More than 230 public interest group leaders received invitations as well, encouraging the leaders and the groups they represent to attend the hearing.

The hearing was streamed live on The Florida Channel's website, recorded, and subsequently re-aired. There were 7 senators and 31 representatives present, and Representative Precourt chaired the hearing. Of the 621 people who filled out attendance cards 185 indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing. At time of adjournment 32 speakers remained. Representative Precourt invited those speakers to supplement the record with their written comments or to submit comments via email.

AnnHell@aol.com

427 words

My name is Ann Hellmuth and I am president of the League of Women Voters of Orange County.

FIRST a question. WHY WON'T YOU SHOW US THE MAPS?

There is nothing stopping you preparing the maps NOW so they can be debated by the public in the Fall then be ready for the Legislature to vote on them the first week of the 2012 session.

ARE YOU STILL STICKING TO THE EXCUSE that the constitution requires you to draw the districts during the 2012 regular session?

Because that is not true. You MAY NOT VOTE on the maps before 2012 BUT THERE IS NOTHING LEGALLY STOPPING YOU from drawing the maps NOW.

BY DRAWING THE PROPOSALS NOW:

You would give the public time to provide meaningful, informed input and the maps could be brought to the floor as a first order of business. The Legislature would then be able to vote on them by the end of the first week of the session - Jan. 13.

THIS WOULD DOUBLE the amount of time for review by the courts and the Department of Justice, which have 90 days after passage to review

them.

AS THINGS STAND it is highly unlikely that districts will finally be approved before June 8 --- the filing deadline for candidates.

IS IT even conceivable that districts may not be finalized until August.?

YES.

WHAT WOULD BE THE RESULT OF SUCH A LATE FINALIZATION?

In the words of the legislature's OWN lawyer: "MASSIVE VOTER CONFUSION."

IS IT YOUR INTENTION TO DELAY THE MAPS UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT TO MAKE IT HARDER TO CHALLENGE THEM? IT SEEMS AS IF IT IS.....

IS IT YOUR PLAN TO GIVE ELECTIONS SUPERVISORS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR elections thereby affecting absentee and overseas ballots, including those to the military?

It seems as if it is.....

IS IT YOUR PLAN TO GIVE Challengers or new candidates little if any time to mount campaigns THUS forcing voters to vote for candidates they have had little opportunity to get to know?

It seems as if it is.....

YOU promise a THREE-DAY public viewing period before any votes

are taken on a map proposal -- MAY I SAY THAT..... YOUR GENEROSITY LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IS PERFECT NONSENSE. Three days to absorb the details and then give input on a complex subject like drawing maps is ridiculous..

Florida's elections supervisors and other officials have worked hard to erase the memory of the 2000 hanging chads debacle don't set them up to fail in 2012 by resorting to backroom politics.

Redistricting Hearing July 27, 2011 Orlando, Florida

Cathy Williams Kerns for AARP Florida
1020 Terrace Blvd.
Orlando, Florida 32803
(407) 895-5195

Good afternoon Chairmen and Committee Members. My name is Cathy Williams Kerns and I reside in Orange County. Today I am honored to speak as a volunteer for AARP, dedicated to protecting seniors.

Transparency, timeliness and trust. These principal elements of the redistricting process must be adhered to. The voters of Florida have spoken about Fair Districts and we are concerned the project is going to proceed without full disclosure and public presentation. This openness must be achieved before legislators make their decisions. The public needs the opportunity to comment and to have those comments be meaningfully considered, not cast aside.

The timeliness of the process is crucial. The legislature owes Florida's residents and voters professionalism and timely completion of the redistricting process.

Cathy Williams Kerns, page 2

All procedural steps, both legislative and non-legislative, must be achieved in order for there to be timely qualification of 2012 candidates under new districts and for campaigns prior to voters casting their ballots. We need to complete this project sooner rather than later.

We ask you to insulate the process. Please avoid the appearance of conflict of interests. Negative voter perception of such conflicts can only drag on and drag down the progress of this important redistricting project. We ask you to post the proposed map designs so they can be review by all. Sooner than later!

On a personal note, I ask you to not tear apart contiguous neighborhoods and established communities within the district lines. Please respect the unique qualities of communities of interest. Uphold Fair Districts and maintain your integrity in the process. I have reviewed current citizen map proposals on file and urge you to strongly consider logic and reason for clean and contiguous district lines.

Thank you.

Submission from Charles Selfridge



Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov,

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenate.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.

*Field is required.

Prefix MR *First Name Charles *Last Name Selfridge Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) D.C.D.E.C

*Your Address 500 Wisconsin *City St. Cloud *State FL *Zip 34769

Your County OSCEOLA Your Email _____

*What type of map are you commenting on? Congressional State House State Senate

*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting? Yes No

Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.

After Living my life in OSCEOLA COUNTY I have realized that our county is not served by the current congressional dist. and hasn't been for many years. We share nothing in common with the other counties in our district. I would hope that the redistricting for 15 would include orange/osceola as 1 district. We share common boundaries and business interest with orange. Disney, tourism, jobs. It just makes sense, common sense to have a district which encompasses areas with similar needs. Dist. 15 congressional reps. have continuously ignored the need of OSCEOLA in favor of the needs of the space coast

(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Which is where the interests & for that
District should be. we need a
District & Congressional Rep. That
will fight for our needs not one that
only shows up for a photo op.

Submission from Charles Wooley

Subject: KEEP OSCEOLA INTACT IN NEW DISTRICT - NO DIVISIONS

Please leave Osceola County as whole as possible in one Congressional district. Please combine Osceola County with Orange County into one Congressional district. That way, my Congressional Representative will be near my home and represent the metropolitan Orlando area.

Osceola County is currently divided into 3 Congressional districts. I live in unincorporated West Osceola, a suburb of Orlando near Kissimmee, in Congressional District 15. Congressional District 15 includes parts of Indian River and Brevard Counties, counties far away from where I live and with which my community shares little in common. Brevard and Indian River counties, and my Congressman from there, are focused on NASA. In contrast, my focus is on metropolitan Orlando including Osceola and Orange Counties. Tourism, safe roads, and related issues are far more important here than NASA. I feel like I do not have proper representation now.

Thank you.

Charles Wooley
4761 N Wind Blvd
Kissimmee, FL 34746

7/26/2011

Submission from Curt Levine



Law Offices of Curt Levine

5036 Dr. Phillips Boulevard
Suite 358
Orlando, Florida 32819
Telephone (321) 278-8009
Fax (407) 440-3893
CurtLevine@aol.com

Curt G. Levine
Member
The Florida Bar
Bar of the U.S. District Court (M.D.- FL)
Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court

(Comments before Joint Legislative Committee on Redistricting 7-27-2011)

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members. My name is Curt Levine. I am an attorney (5036 Dr. Phillips Boulevard, Orlando) and a former House member.

It is my understanding that the MyDistrictBuilder redistricting software the state is using is modeled after the national standard program called Azavea Cicero District Builder, first available in 2006 and most recently updated in 2010. Components of the Azavea Cicero District Builder program, include evaluational programs for compactness and for spatial analysis, which generate a numerical weight for compliance with Fair Districts requirements such as not favoring incumbents or a political party, and containment within geographical, county and city lines. In other words, the Azavea Cicero District Builder has the analysis tools to give a numerical rating for districts showing the relative level of compliance with the Fair Districts Amendments.

It is also my understanding that the state redistricting staff has not included the compactness and Spatial Analysis components available in the Azavea Cicero District Builder software into Florida's MyDistrictBuilder software.

On May 24 of this year, I contacted the Redistricting Staff for an answer. I received a return e-mail from Katherine Betta from the Speaker's Office saying the Speaker's Office had its doubts it would implement those statistical evaluation tools into the MyDistrictBuilder software. She told me staff members would not comment on this issue and she invited me to attend this hearing today and ask this committee about this.

Mr. Chairman, I have two questions today. The first is why are the compactness and Spatial Analysis components, which are already existing and available in the original District Builder software, not contained in Florida's MyDistrictBuilder software?

And the second question is Why Not?

Submission from Dennis Freytes



DENNIS O. FREYTES

MEMO

Ph: (407) 298-1151 / Email: dennisfreytes@hotmail.com

**Testimony of Dennis Freytes, US Army Ret.; Community Servant
FL House/ Senate Hearings: Re-District for Fair FL Districts! (Final)**

INTRODUCTION/ OPENING: Hi! THANKS for selflessly working for our beloved Florida.... I'm Colonel Dennis Freytes, US Army Ret. Infantry & Special Forces Airborne; now a Community Servant; (Former Trustee of Valencia Collage; served in Gov. Jeb Bush Transition Team, President's W. Bush Transition Advisory Committee, and in many Community Organizations...) I stand for reasonable government; equal opportunity...and speak on behalf of the FL Civil Rights Association, and many Others:

COMMENTS:

American Hispanics, Blacks, and Other "Minorities"- face un-fair political district lines that minimize election opportunities; result in retrogression or under-representation (at the Congress, State, County, & City levels). This inequality must end! District Lines must be fairly drawn to truly reflect the US Census facts, 1965 Voting Rights Act, and other Laws.

1. Facts are:

- a. In Florida, out of an 18.8+ m Population: "**Minorities**" are **42.1+%** or about **8.2+ m** (that includes American Hispanics, Blacks, Asians, and Others fast growing groups.)
- b. Orange, Osceola, and four Other FL Counties are now "**Minority-Majority**"... This means: **White Non-Hispanic residents are less than 50%** of the County Population (minority). But, they hold a super-majority in elected positions, with little or no "Minority-Majority" representation.

2. Recommendations are: The Florida House and Senate, in accomplishing its sacred duty:

- a. Must **advance** a properly balanced representative democracy (with protected individual civil rights); ensure a political empowerment opportunity for all loyal US Citizens, not just for a privileged group; abide by Laws that are for fair play.
 - b. Should not gerrymander, but, listen, and draw proper compact, community of interest, and "minority access" districts; don't support veiled "retrogression"; but, fairly--let lines fall where they may.
 - c. **Add at least a "Minority Majority" Congressional seat to Metro Orlando** (no less 45% Hispanic because they have no Congressional representation). It should generally run from North Orange or South Orlando to Osceola (Poinciana), ending in NE Polk.
 - d. **For other State Seats**, allow a fair opportunity by drawing 50%+ House/Senate "Minority Access District" Seats; not waste Tax Payer's money in costly law suits that defend a wrong. Besides, recognize that one size doesn't fit all...; be inclusive...
 - e. **Abide** by the "Central Florida Re-Districting Council" (**CFRC**) well crafted Metro-Orlando "Minority-Majority" proposed Congressional District; and other fair proposals.
- 3. American Hispanics/US Puerto Ricans**, since 1513, through lineage or heritage, have vitally contributed to the discovery, settlement, and forming of Florida and the USA--are united in: achieving equal opportunity; institutional empowerment; loyalty to the US Flag!

CLOSING: This is an American Floridian bi-partisan fairness issue... Remember: we are of one Race—the Human Race; judge not on skin color or heritage, but, on **merit!** Let's stamp out institutional inequalities/ discrimination; support the best qualified; have a **reasonable**, effective, efficient, compassionate, and just Government. Work together for the good of All: Family, Community, Florida, USA, and Humanity! May God Bless you and our great State of Florida!

THANKS!

Florida Civil Rights Association

MEDIA

Contact: Dennis Freytes: dennisfreytes@hotmail.com; 407-298-1151

RE-DISTRICT FOR FAIR FLORIDA DISTRICTS

American Hispanics, Blacks, and Other "Minorities" face un-fair political district lines that minimize election opportunities; result in under-representation (Congress, State, County, City), This inequality must end! District Lines must be fairly drawn to reflect the US Census facts, 1965 Voting Rights, and other Laws.

In Florida, out of an 18.8+ m Population: "Minorities" are 42.1+% or about 8+ m Americans & growing.

Orange, Osceola, and four Other FL Counties are now "Minority-Majority"... This means: White Non-Hispanic residents are less than 50% of the County Population (minority), but, they hold a super-majority in elected positions, with little or no "Minority-Majority" representation.

We must advance a properly balanced representative democracy (with protected individual civil rights); ensure a political empowerment opportunity for all loyal US Citizens, not just for a privileged group; abide by Laws that are for fair play.

Government Officials should listen and draw compact Districts, but, also proper "minority access" districts; don't support vailed "retrogression"; but, fairly--let lines fall where they may.

Re-District to: add at least a "Minority Majority" Congressional seat to Metro Orlando (no less 45% Hispanic because they have no Congressional representation...); for other areas, allow a fair opportunity by drawing 50%+ "Minority Access Districts"; not waste Tax Payer's money in costly law suits that defend a wrong. Besides, recognize that one size doesn't fit all; be inclusive...

This is an American Floridian bi-partisan fairness issue; support the Central Florida Re-Districting Council (CFRC) citizens' proposals. Work together for the good of All: Family, Community, Florida, USA, and Humanity!

Submission from Diane Rambo

Good afternoon, my name is Rambo, Diane
Orlando, in
I live in A state representative District

32. My Rep. lives in Merritt Island.

My state senator district is 24.

My rep lives in MELBOURNE.

MELBOURNE is an hour away in

another county. Neither of these
two has ever had a town meeting in

Union Park, East Orange has no rep. now.

Will you draw me a district

for East ORANGE County? Only?

You can Make it stop at the St. John's
River. Give us 6 mos to raise up
new candidates to run, not favor
the incumbents.

Why are we spending taxpayer money to
challenge + defend a legally binding amendments?

Submission from Doug Head

Members of the committee

I am glad that I have this opportunity today to publicly call for you to draw rational districts which make sense to voters.

Examples of the horrors of the last districting process (ten years ago) abound, but I want to point to the ridiculous districts that legislature carved right here in Orange County in 2001. Districts were so distorted that they make easy comic relief for a painful experience. The "dead dawg" drawn for the House as district 35. The "Crab" drawn for the House as District 36. These should be trashed, but the map of District 40, is really a message. The district literally looks like a toilet. Flush it!

In the Senate, it is no better. For ten years, Central Florida has had a district which is laughingly referred to as the "bunny rabbit district.....two ears, for-paws, tiny body and big rump and a big foot.

I don't need to show you the distortions of the Congressional districts but can tell you that if you go to the intersection of Lyman avenue and New York Avenue in the middle of Winter Park, you can cross the streets and enter three different districts and just walk a quarter mile north and you enter a fourth. This gives you a community with four congressmen and no voice.

I believe that there is rational space in Orange County to create two State House Districts ^{with} heavy Hispanic voice. And there is plenty of room for two State House Districts with heavy Black voice. In Central Orlando there is a community of interest. I believe that in central Orange, there are associated communities which deserve to be in One District not three. The people around Apopka deserve a district and a voice, but they can best achieve their voice and representation by joining with Winter Garden and other communities of West Orange. And in East Orange, where there is much growth, the new communities need a voice and will have it if they are drawn together, around Alafaya, there is another district. The communities need a voice. Please stop the games and the defense of incumbents and give us real districts with real candidates.

Orlando needs the 2 ½ Senate Districts to which we are entitled, not more. We need the 8 House Districts to which we are entitled, not pieces of eleven. And we need to have not more than three Congressional Districts penetrating the territory of Orange. Give us rational districts. We will give the right candidates the vote.

156,678

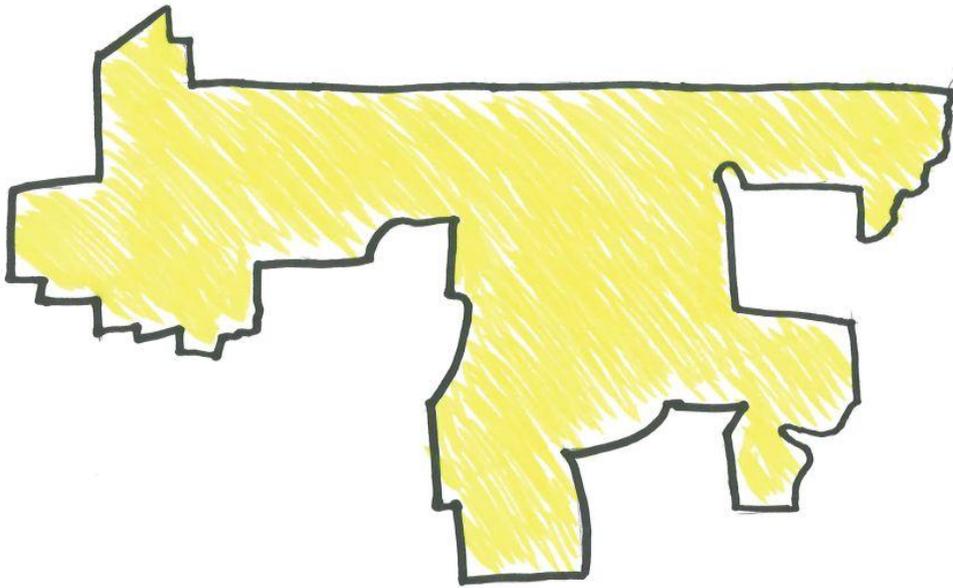
Talking points.

DougHead|pa

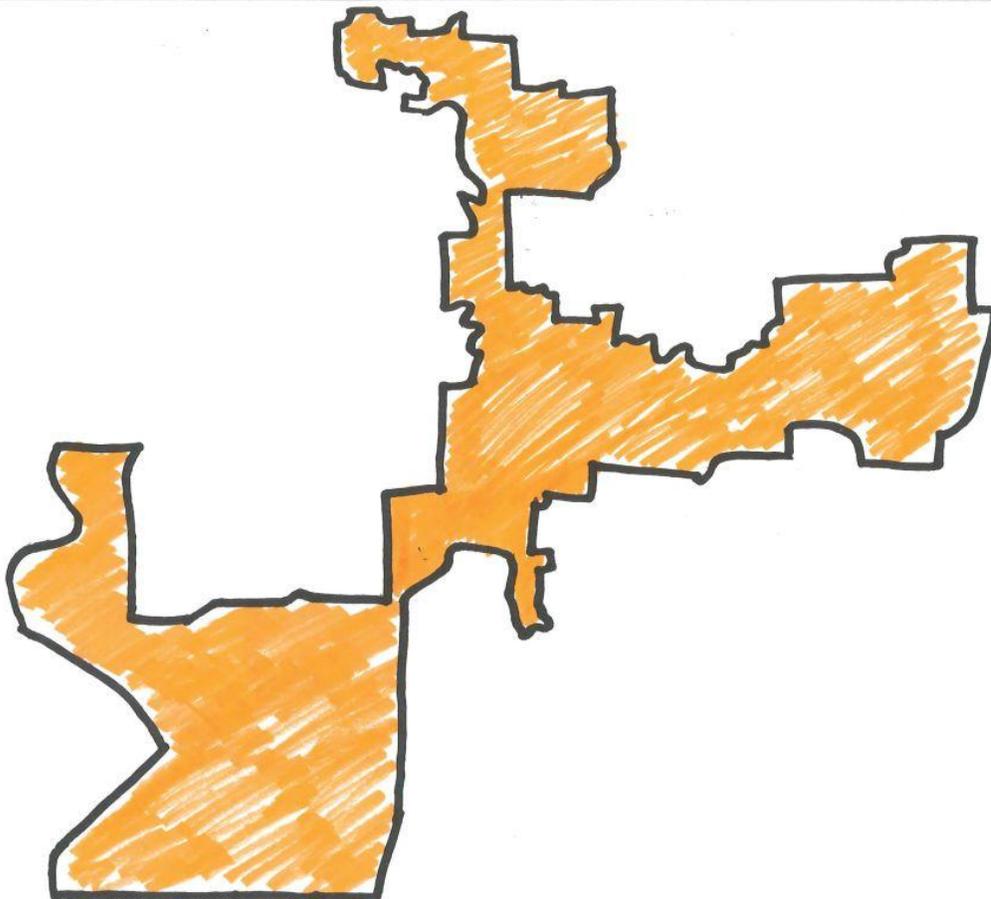
Doug Head
Principal

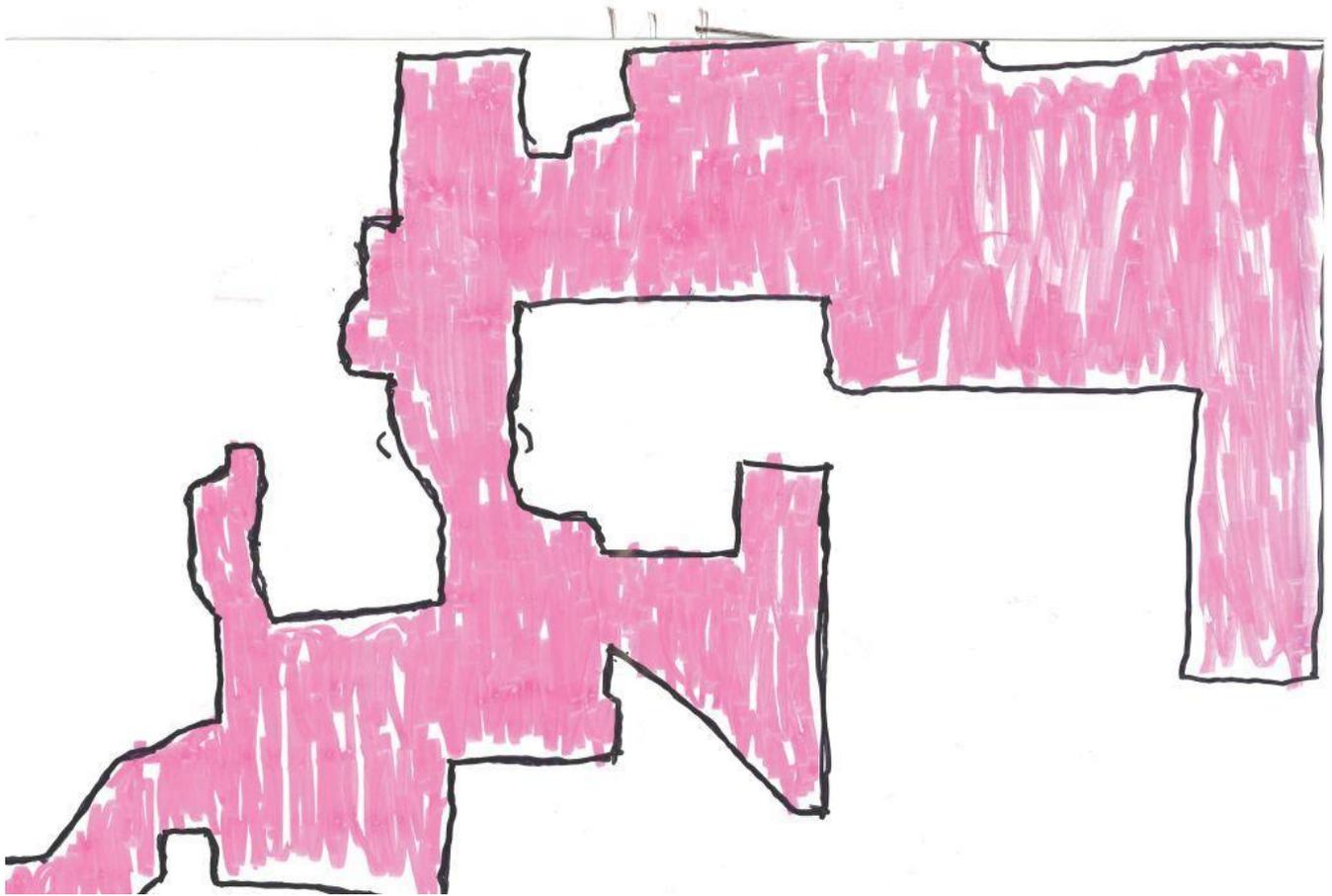
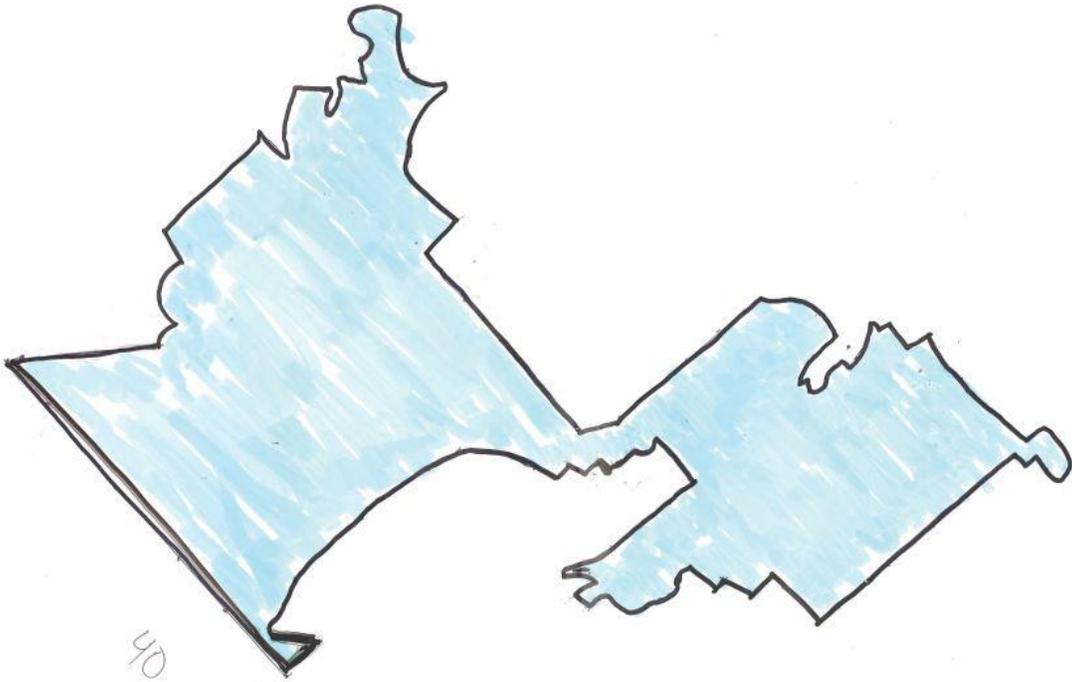
407-443-3656 | CELL
Doug@DougHead.net

407-898-4203 | LAND
407-898-4203 | FAX
800 Mayfair Circle
Orlando, FL 32803



35





GOOD AFTERNOON. My name is Elenita Brodie, and I represent the League of Women Voters of Seminole County.

Why is *Spending*
The Legislature ~~should not spend~~ taxpayer money to oppose the Fair Districts amendment that was passed by 63 percent of the voters last fall.[?]

The House and Senate already fought Supreme Court approval of the 2008 ballot amendments. More than 30 hours of committee meetings were held in 2009 and 2010 trying unsuccessfully to find fault with the amendments.

Why has
The legislature has already spent more than a million dollars of taxpayer money hiring lawyers to fight the Fair Districts standards. *Why it* It has set aside another 30 million for court battles. This money is being spent at a time when funding for schools and social services is being cut. *Why is* The Florida House is spending tax money to join a lawsuit filed by Representatives Brown and Diaz-Balart, asking the court to strike Amendment 6 from the Florida Constitution. Secretary of State Kurt Browning is the defendant in that case, so Florida taxpayers are now paying to sue AND defend the same lawsuit.

Legislators claim that they joined the lawsuit to seek clarification of the reforms, not to invalidate them. The lawsuit, however, asks the court to invalidate Amendment 6 and to hold it unconstitutional. It contains no request for clarification.

The legislature should be working to uphold the constitutional provisions approved by almost 2/3 of the electorate last November ^{Why is it} ~~not~~ trying to thwart the will of the people.

THANK YOU.

It is imperative that we stay vigilant in our efforts to protect our voting rights according to the law. It is important that the provisions put in place to allow for better representation of minority constituents be upheld, ~~and~~ supported and defended. In light of the current political climate we must speak loudly and collectively. We cannot assume someone else will advocate for us.

The majority minority statutes are as relevant today as they ever were!

Thank-you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely,
Jacquelyn Salter Shields
2605 Balforn Tower Way
Winter Garden, FL

Submission from James Penna



Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov,

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenate.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.

*Field is required.

Prefix MR *First Name JAMES *Last Name PENNA Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) CONSTITUTION PARTY

*Your Address 5B PINE TRACE LOOP *City OCALA *State FL *Zip 34472

Your County MARION Your Email WBZLJT@AOL.COM

*What type of map are you commenting on? Congressional State House State Senate

*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting? Yes No

Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THAT MARION COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 300,000 PEOPLE, NOT BE FURTHER CUT UP LIKE THE PROVERBIAL CHICKEN! I AM A MEMBER OF A "THIRD PARTY", NEITHER THE DONKEY NOR THE ELEPHANT OWN MY VOTE. MY NATIONAL HERITAGE IS A HEINZ 57 OF ALL PEOPLES IN THE MEDITERANEAN BASIN FROM ~~HANIBAL~~ CARTHAGE TO AUSTRIA TO SPAIN, PORTUGAL, ITALY, & FRANCE. I WANT TO SEE A FLORIDA WHERE ALL OF HER CITIZENS GETS A FAIR DEAL. AS A MEMBER OF A THIRD PARTY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LEGISLATURE CONSIDER FUSION AS A TOOL TO HELP THE VOTER KNOW WHERE THE CANDIDATES

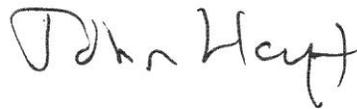
(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

STAND ON ISSUES NOT SPECIFICALLY
ADDRESSED BY THE 2 MAJOR PARTIES.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Submission from John Hoyt



Legislative Redistricting Hearings

Good afternoon Chairman and committee members.

My name is JOHN HOYT. I reside at 7420 Barnacle Court, Winter Park, ZIP 32792.

First of all, Thank You for the opportunity to appear before this committee. I appreciate the fact that you have been meeting all over the State and..... have thirteen (13) more of these hearing to go.

As you know, you have a very important task as the decisions on Redistricting will apply for the next 10 years regardless of shifts in population or even political party affiliation of the constituents in any voting district.

I think on my registration to speak before you today I indicated that my organization was the Florida chapter of AARP. While that is correct and in fact I am a trained VOLUNTEER - AARP Advocate, I appear before you only as a concerned private citizen living in ZIP code 32792

Unfortunately that doesn't tell you much because that ZIP Code is one of those that crosses county lines and has split Legislative Districts. I live in:

Congressional District: 24

Florida Senate District: 22

Florida House District: 34 and so on.....

I live in that Southwestern corner of Seminole county that has a Winter Park mailing address but is represented by an Eastern Florida Congressional District and so on, different from my Winter Park neighbors within walking distance just across the county line in Orange County.

Hopefully redistricting will correct some of that so that populations are geographically contingent.

I have seen some of the proposed Redistricting efforts and people are to be commended for take the very difficult effort involved in these proposals. I have yet to see one that fulfills redistricting that first of all establishes Contingent Geographic districts; especially in complicated areas such as exist here in central Florida.

Seminole County relates to the rest of Central Florida, not Jacksonville, Melbourne or other areas that are NOT contingent with the major population area we live in.

I believe Geographic contingency is as important as population balance and BOTH need to be considered together..... REGARDLESS of population make up by race, creed, national origin, and ESPECIALLY Political Party.

I realize that your task is extremely difficult and regardless of your efforts the Courts will ultimately make the final decision because SOMEBODY with too much time and money on their hands is just NOT going to like whatever it is that you do.

But if YOUR efforts

1. Ensure "Transparency"
2. Ensure Timeliness of decision making, and
3. Insulate the redistricting process from the appearance of "conflict of interest"

YOU KNOW WHAT ALL THAT MEANS.....

And, as you exercise your constitutional dictated duty to draw voting districts that will be applicable for the next ten years, you will have gone a long way to simplifying the ultimate Judicial task of finalizing redistricting in accordance with the wishes of the people of the State of Florida who have spoken by approving the Constitutional Amendment regarding Redistricting.

FINALLY, I implore you to DO WHAT THE POPE OF FLORIDA HAVE ASKED YOU TO DO
IN THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Put your personal feeling, political feelings and everything that is contrary to the WISHES
OF THE PEOPLE aside and only apply these WISHES OF THE PEOPLE as is now outlined in the
State Constitution.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

Respectfully submitted,

John T. Hoyt

Submission from Kathleen Skambis



Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov,

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenate.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.

*Field is required.

Prefix _____ *First Name Kathleen *Last Name Skambis Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 4000 Anchor Way *City Orlando *State FL *Zip 32804

Your County Orange Your Email kskambis@skambislaw.com

*What type of map are you commenting on? Congressional State House State Senate

*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting? Yes No

Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.

Amendments 5+6 were passed by the people of Florida overwhelmingly. It is absolutely possible to implement those amendments AND their abundantly clear mandate while still complying with the Voting Rights Act. It is obscene that the public's money is being spent to challenge the implementation. Gerry mandered districts, like those we currently have, are largely responsible for the ridiculous polarization of state & federal legislatures and of the political atmosphere. It has gotten worse, because the gerry mandering has gotten worse. STOP IT. Draw maps without regard to your re-election. Draw maps in compliance with the amendments. Then present the maps to us and ask us to comment. It is not our job to present you with maps. We presented you with a mandate. Follow our mandate. Draw maps in good faith and then ask us how you did — let us comment. Please do this timely — move up your timeline.

(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from Michele Levy

Hello ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Michele Levy and I am the Vice President of the Orange County League of Women Voters.

I am very concerned that the Legislature is holding these 26 hearings around the state in an attempt to get useful feedback and comments from the citizens, but no maps are being provided for citizens to comment on. This exercise is a total waste of time and money. Other states have had public hearings to allow citizens the opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the proposed maps. Have legislators drawn these maps yet? If so, where are they, and if not, what are they waiting for? When do they plan to draw them? Or have they already drawn them in some back room in Tallahassee with the intent of springing them on the public during the last weeks of the session, leaving only 3 days for public comment. *by the legislature there are 6 new map outside 3 drawn by 1 person #1 is the responsibility of the legislature to draw these maps*

This timeline is designed to create chaos.

As it stands now, these hearings have no purpose other than to make legislators appear to be listening, but they are not giving the public an opportunity for meaningful comment on real maps. Many states, including Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma have already completed or almost completed redistricting, in an open and accessible process. What are we waiting for in Florida? *and who benefits from this delay*

Submission from Nancy Rudner

Comments

Nancy Rudner
2300 Huron Trail
Maitland, FL 32751

My Central Florida community is chopped up into several voting districts because 10 years ago, politicians, probably in some dark, smoky room far from voters, drew the lines to create voting districts that gave them--the politicians-- electoral advantage and blocked the power of the vote.

Now, 10 years later, you, the politicians, are trying to do it again.

But this time, we, the voters, voted Amendments 5 and 6. We want fair elections-*elecciones justos*, fair districts-*distritos justos*, districts that are not gerrymandered. We want a real vote-*un voto real*, a real say in what goes on in Florida. Keep our communities intact so the voters can vote on what matters to the community.

You, the politicians, obviously like gerrymandering. You so hate the idea of playing fair that you're fighting the will of the people by funding the legal fight to overturn Fair Districts

Stop fighting the will of the voters. Stop using our money to fight our will, our vote for Fair Districts.

Stop playing games. Show us the maps and give us, the voters, time and a meaningful chance to review and give input into the maps that will either thwart or respect our vote and our voting democracy-*Democracia*.

In your gerrymandered districts, you don't represent anyone because you got elected gerrymandering, not with the vote.

If you are worried you can't win a fair race, you shouldn't be running at all.

Submission from Nancy Smith

Embassy Suites - Orlando - 535
in Osceola Co.

Redistricting: Nancy Smith, native Floridian, Osc. Co. resident

Fair Districts are now part of the Florida Constitution, and we the people resent the attempt by some legislators, using our tax dollars, to force it's ~~repeal~~ nullification.

Fair Districts must be compact, ^{intiguous,} share commonality, and recognize existing geographic lines where possible. ~~Live in Osceola County.~~ We have nothing in common with Okeechobee County except a river that runs through, we have nothing in common with Brevard County except the need for fresh water, and we have little in common with Polk County except rural lands that are ripe for development, ~~but in Polk are also used for mining.~~

Osceola and Orange counties together meet the fair districts criteria perfectly. We share the same major employers, we share the same environment, we share the same diverse populations, we share the same judicial circuit, we share transportation money, we share tourism as our major industry, we share I-4 and its problems, we share ^{Lake Nona, we share} so much that the county line is blurred. We should be in the same district if you follow the rules. If we need additional population to even out the numbers, the ^{south} west side of Seminole county has similar demographics, while the ^{north} east side of Seminole better fits the demographic of Brevard Country.

If you cut off Poinciana, or BVL from this new district, you will be intentionally diluting the hispanic and African-American populations that are now, together, near a majority in Orange/Osceola. That result is forbidden by fair districts, and if you do it anyway through gerrymandering, it should be seen as such and struck down.

Submission from Sheri Morton

Subject: leave Osceola County intact in one Congressional District with Orange County

I'm Sheri Morton and I live in unincorporated West Osceola County, a suburb of Orlando near Kissimmee.

Osceola County is currently divided into 3 Congressional districts, with much of Osceola, including where I live, in District 15. Most of the population of Congressional District 15 is from Brevard and Indian River, counties far away from where I live and with which Osceola shares little in common.

Brevard and Indian River counties are focused on NASA. In contrast, the focus in Osceola is on metropolitan Orlando, including both Osceola and Orange Counties.

Osceola is a majority minority county with over a quarter of a million people, high unemployment, and urban problems including transportation and gridlock on Interstate 4. People in Osceola generally work in the tourism industry, including theme parks and hotels. Having a Congressman from far away on the East Coast, focused on NASA, doesn't give my community the representation we need.

With Osceola County broken into 3 Congressional districts, the needs of Osceola's largely Hispanic population are easily ignored by Central Florida's Congressmen.

Please follow the Fair Districts Amendments of FL's Constitution and keep Osceola County intact in one Congressional District. Please combine Osceola with Orange County into one Congressional district with similar community interests and populations.

Thank you.

Sheri Morton
4761 N Wind Blvd
Kissimmee, FL 34746

7/26/2011

Submission from Sue Casterline

Comments by Sue Casterline

16. Sue Casterline, Orange County
Orlando FL 32819
~~Orlando Co~~

At a time when the legislature just made huge cuts to social services, schools, etc



I would like to express my outrage that the legislature has been paying \$300/hr to lawyers in House Speaker Dean Cannon's ~~former lawyer firm~~ ^{former} firm to try to find fault with amendments 5 & 6, passed ~~last~~ in the last election, it has been ^{estimated} reported that 1 million dollars of taxpayer money has already spent to "subvert the will of the people."

If you ~~truly~~ want to look for ways to redistrict to keep ~~of~~ incumbents in power, I'd like to see you at least spend your own money rather than tax payers'.

At a time when our troops are in other countries to "spread democracy," it is extremely disturbing to see ~~it being~~ democracy been subverted at home by your ~~efforts~~ resistance to Fair Districts & the voter obstruction legislation passed in the last session of the state legislature.

Submission from Walter Tropf



Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov.

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenate.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.

*Field is required.

Prefix PA *First Name WALTER *Last Name TROPF Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 300 E CHURCH *City ORL *State _____ *Zip 32804

Your County ORANGE Your Email WALTER.TROPF@FLSENATE.GOV

*What type of map are you commenting on? Congressional State House State Senate

*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting? Yes No

Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.

SEE ATTACHED

(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Walter Trope
Orlando

REDISTRICTING

The Legislature's behavior on this issue has been shameful and degrading, causing many voters to doubt your commitment to the democratic process.

When voters, collecting thousands of signatures and volunteering thousand of hours, succeeded in getting their amendments on the ballot, you proposed a counter amendment, requiring none of these efforts on your part. Since this didn't come close to passing the smell test, you are now wasting our tax dollars on trying to negate the will of the people. Our dollars being spent to say, "We don't care what you voted for. We want to have our own way."

Now you have arranged for these dog and pony shows under the pretense of seeking the advice of the public. Do you think we are so stupid that we don't see this as a delaying tactic?

The public has spoken and the message is clear. Districts are to be compact, adhering as much as possible to political and geographic boundaries. What is there about this you don't understand?

Go back to Tallahassee and do the job you are paid to do and leave us out of it. We did our part at the ballot box.

Submission from Tom Hill

Page 1 of 1

 You replied on 7/28/2011 10:27 AM.

Kelly, Alex

From: Hill, Tom [Tom.Hill@ffbf.org]

Sent: Wed 7/27/2011 4:15 PM

To: MyDistrictBuilder

Cc:

Subject: Redistrictimng

Attachments:

I am Tom Hill from Sebastian in Indian River County and I urge you to consider the smallest minority in the United States, rural agricultural landowners. As 2 percent of the population, our needs and opinions are often vastly different from those who live in large cities or coastal regions. As such, we ask that House districts not slice and dice rural lands along with highly urbanized areas. I attended the the Orlando Public Hearing and did not get to speak. Thanks, Tom Hill
Tom Hill
Florida Farm Bureau Federation

<https://legacy.myfloridahouse.gov/exchange/Alex.Kelly/Inbox/Redistrictimng.EML?Cmd=...> 7/28/2011

REDISTRICTING · 2012

ABOUT REDISTRICTING

After each decennial Census, the Legislature redraws the districts from which voters elect their public officials. In general, districts are redrawn to accommodate population changes and ensure that district populations are as nearly equal in number as practicable.

There will be opportunities for citizen participation during public hearings, interim committee meetings, and the 2012 Session.

REDISTRICTING LAW

The United States Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Florida Constitution each regulate redistricting. Under the United States Constitution, district populations must be as nearly equal as practicable. In addition, race may not be the predominant factor in drawing lines, unless the use of race is narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling interest.

The Voting Rights Act requires the creation of a district that performs for racial minorities where (1) a minority population is geographically compact and sufficiently numerous to be a majority in a single district; (2) the minority population is politically cohesive; (3) the majority votes sufficiently as a bloc to enable it usually to defeat the minority-preferred candidate; and (4) under all of the circumstances, the minority population has less opportunity than others to participate in the political process and elect representatives of its choice.

The Voting Rights Act applies additional requirements to districts that include any part of Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, or Monroe County. In these districts, the Voting Rights Act prohibits purposeful discrimination and protects against retrogression—or backsliding—in the ability of racial minorities to elect representatives of their choice. To ensure compliance with these requirements, the redistricting plan must be submitted to and precleared by a federal court or the United States Department of Justice before it may be enforced.

The Florida Constitution requires that districts be contiguous. A district is contiguous if all of its territory is in actual contact, uninterrupted by the territory of another district. Contact at a corner or right angle is insufficient, but territory may cross bodies of water. The Constitution allows state legislative districts to overlap, either partially or entirely.

THE NUMBERS

In 2012, the Legislature will redraw the state's congressional districts as well as districts for Florida House and Florida Senate seats. The number of congressional districts in Florida will increase from 25 to 27. The number of Florida House seats must be between 80 and 120, while the number of Florida Senate seats must be between 30 and 40. Currently, the Florida House and Florida Senate contain 120 members and 40 members, respectively. If these numbers are maintained, the average population of a Florida House district will be 156,678, while the average population of a Florida Senate district will be 470,033. Each congressional district will contain approximately 696,345 people.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Legislature will draw lines in accordance with the standards in federal and state law and traditional redistricting principles not inconsistent with those standards. To this end, the Legislature encourages public testimony directed to the following points:

- The full implementation of the protections afforded by the Amendments to racial and language minorities, including continuance of the Legislature's long-established policy to preserve or enhance the number of performing minority districts.
- The various measures of compactness, from geometric calculations to a broad consideration of how communities relate to one another, for example through commerce, transportation, and communication—in order to promote the creation of effective representational units.



REDISTRICTING 2012

- The feasibility of using political and geographical boundaries in the formation of districts, in light of other standards such as the equality of district populations, the protection of racial and language minorities, and compactness.
- To the extent not inconsistent with the Amendments, the desire to preserve the cores of existing districts or the proper placement of communities of interest in districts, as determined by local circumstances and voter preferences.

This approach, together with public testimony, research, and facts developed throughout the redistricting process, will result in the adoption of redistricting plans that have the intent and result of full compliance with all legal mandates, including Amendments 5 and 6, and of effective and meaningful representation for all voters in the State of Florida.

Citizens from all parts of the state can visit the House website (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Senate website (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting), to learn about creating and submitting their own House, Senate, and congressional maps, and to participate actively in the most open, transparent, and interactive redistricting ever.

LEGAL REVIEWS

After enactment, state senatorial and representative districts are reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court.

Congressional districts are set by an act of the Legislature subject to the Governor's approval. All redistricting plans must be submitted to and precleared by a federal court or the United States Department of Justice.

REDISTRICTING MILESTONES

- JUNE 20 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2011: STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEARINGS
- SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2011: INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- JANUARY 10 - MARCH 9, 2012: REGULAR SESSION
- FEBRUARY - JUNE 2012: LEGAL REVIEWS
- JUNE 4 - 8, 2012: QUALIFYING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICES
- AUGUST 14, 2012: PRIMARY ELECTION
- NOVEMBER 6, 2012: GENERAL ELECTION



SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

Senator Don Gaetz, Chair
www.flsenate.gov/redistricting
 103 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 (850) 487-5855
RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov



HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Rep. Will W. Weatherford, Chair
www.floridaredistricting.org
 400 House Office Building
 402 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
 (850) 488-3928
mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov

Visit

www.floridaredistricting.org and
www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting
 to learn more about creating and
 submitting your own house, senate,
 and congressional maps.

Draw and Submit Your Own Districts

District Builder is a full-featured web application with 2010 Census data for drawing Florida Senate, Florida House, and Congressional districts and submitting them to the Legislature. Submitting your plan is one of the best ways to show what works for your community. Citizens have full and easy access to the same web application and information that Senators and professional staff use.

To start using District Builder you need:

- A personal account. Choose “**District Builder**” at www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting to register.
- Display resolution of 1024 x 768 or higher.
- A broadband Internet computer and mouse. Firefox (3.6 and 4.0) and Internet Explorer (7 and 8) are supported (Internet Explorer 9 and Opera are not). Your browser must be set to allow JavaScript and pop-ups from “flsenate.gov.”

For full details, see <https://db10.flsenate.gov/db1/help>.

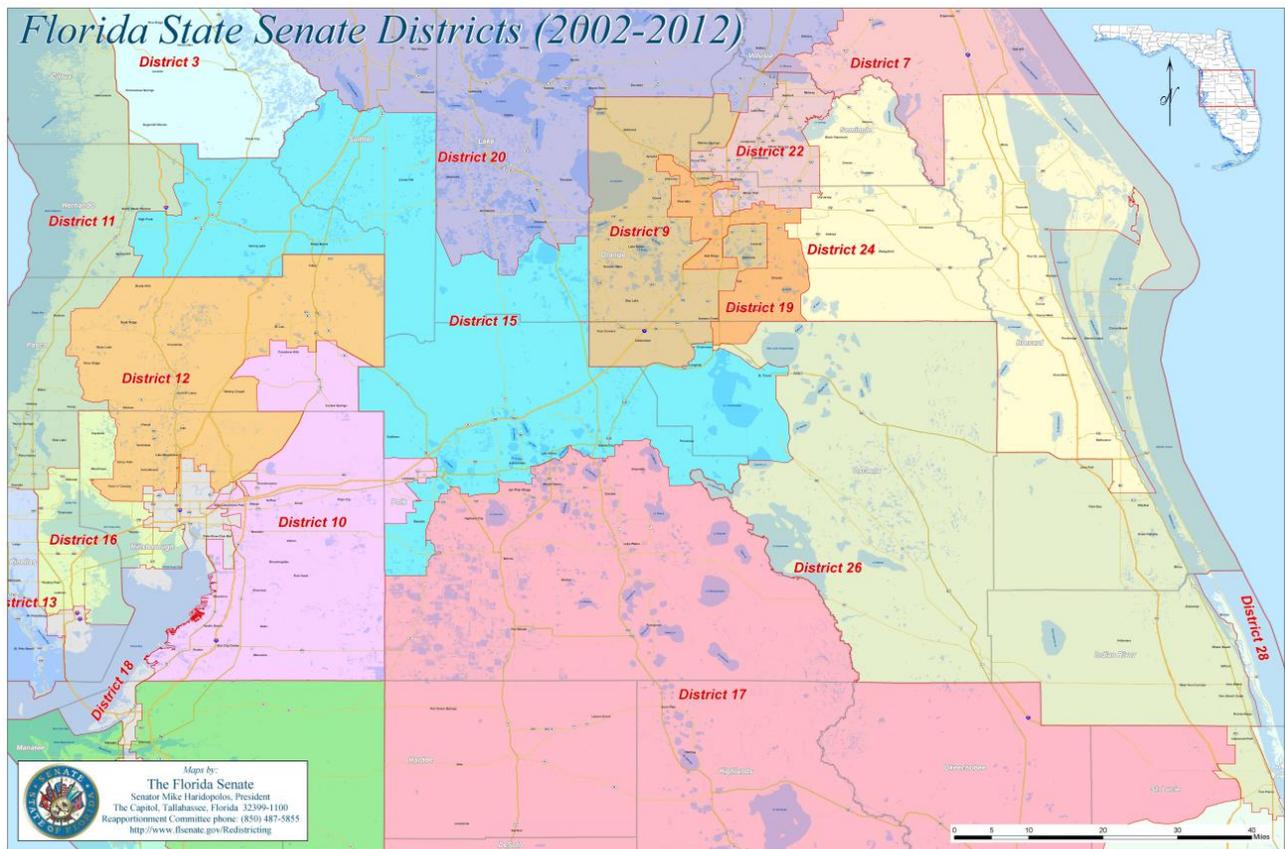
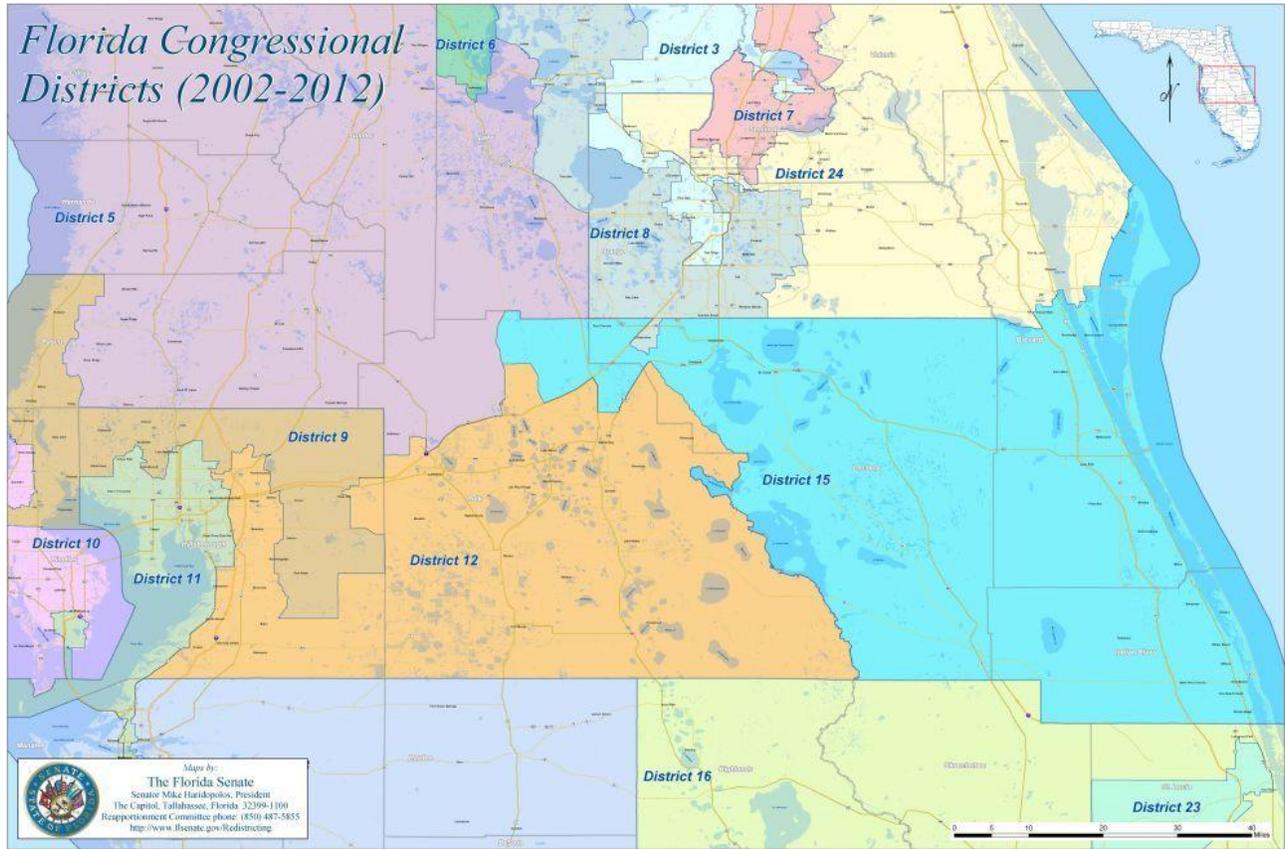
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection and copying. See § 11.0431(2)(e), Fla. Stat.

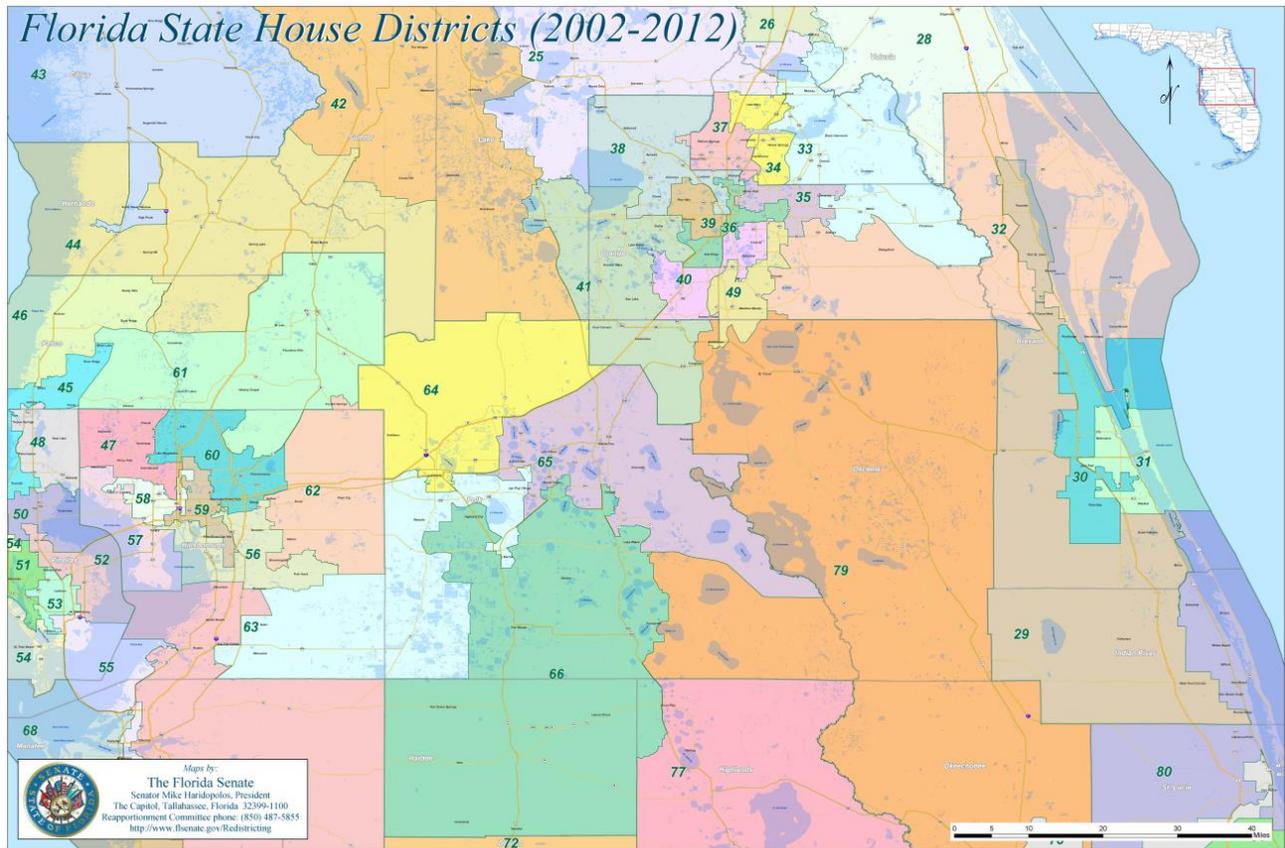
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see www.floridaredistricting.org. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose which better meets their needs.

Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

With innovative technologies and joint [public hearings](#), the Florida Legislature is promoting the most open, accessible, and interactive redistricting ever.

Displays Prepared by Florida Senate





Population deviations of current districts (2010 Census)—Central Florida

Congressional District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
3	Corrine Brown	659,055	696,345	-37,290	-5.4%
5	Richard Nugent	929,533	696,345	233,188	33.5%
7	John Mica	812,442	696,345	116,097	16.7%
8	Daniel Webster	805,608	696,345	109,263	15.7%
9	Gus M. Bilirakis	753,549	696,345	57,204	8.2%
12	Dennis Ross	842,199	696,345	145,854	20.9%
15	Bill Posey	813,570	696,345	117,225	16.8%
24	Sandy Adams	799,233	696,345	102,888	14.8%

State Senate District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
9	Andy Gardiner	527,435	470,033	57,402	12.2%
10	Ronda Storms	565,921	470,033	95,888	20.4%
11	Mike Fasano	433,661	470,033	-36,372	-7.7%
12	Jim Norman	531,959	470,033	61,926	13.2%
15	Paula Dockery	560,770	470,033	90,737	19.3%
17	JD Alexander	456,960	470,033	-13,073	-2.8%
19	Gary Siplin	477,068	470,033	7,035	1.5%
22	David Simmons	419,763	470,033	-50,270	-10.7%
24	Thad Altman	524,254	470,033	54,221	11.5%
26	Mike Haridopolos	481,892	470,033	11,859	2.5%
28	Joe Negron	545,085	470,033	75,052	16.0%

State House District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
25	Larry Metz	179,031	156,678	22,353	14.3%
29	Tom Goodson	160,290	156,678	3,612	2.3%
30	Ritch Workman	180,594	156,678	23,916	15.3%
31	John Tobia	138,215	156,678	-18,463	-11.8%
32	Steve Crisafulli	177,523	156,678	20,845	13.3%
33	Jason T. Brodeur	196,662	156,678	39,984	25.5%
34	Chris Dorworth	144,119	156,678	-12,559	-8.0%
35	Dean Cannon	154,735	156,678	-1,943	-1.2%
36	Scott Randolph	157,126	156,678	448	0.3%
37	Scott Plakon	135,554	156,678	-21,124	-13.5%
38	Bryan Nelson	162,248	156,678	5,570	3.6%
39	Geraldine F. "Geri" Thompson	132,191	156,678	-24,487	-15.6%
40	Eric Eisnaugle	149,664	156,678	-7,014	-4.5%
41	Stephen L. Precourt	252,332	156,678	95,654	61.1%
42	H. Marlene O'Toole	214,866	156,678	58,188	37.1%
44	Robert C. "Rob" Schenck	171,652	156,678	14,974	9.6%
45	Richard Corcoran	146,618	156,678	-10,060	-6.4%
46	John Legg	142,772	156,678	-13,906	-8.9%
61	Will W. Weatherford	242,396	156,678	85,718	54.7%
62	Richard "Rich" Glorioso	162,165	156,678	5,487	3.5%
63	Seth McKeel	156,183	156,678	-495	-0.3%
64	Kelli Stargel	165,492	156,678	8,814	5.6%
65	John Wood	179,502	156,678	22,824	14.6%
66	Ben Albritton	162,026	156,678	5,348	3.4%
77	Denise Grimsley	147,455	156,678	-9,223	-5.9%
79	Mike Horner	187,203	156,678	30,525	19.5%
80	Debbie Mayfield	148,503	156,678	-8,175	-5.2%

