

Public Hearing on Redistricting Melbourne (July 28, 2011)

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Hearing Report

Date: July 28, 2011

City: Melbourne

Location: Brevard County Government Center at Viera

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

Number of Speakers: 78

Total Attendance: 198

The public hearing in Melbourne took place at the Brevard County Government Center at Viera (2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940). 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 Florida Today July 24 and 27-28. Each chamber's website published the 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 23 representatives present, and Senator Gaetz chaired the hearing. Of the 198 people who filled out attendance cards 78 indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing.

After hearing testimony and gathering input from the public, legislators at the meeting were given an opportunity to comment.

Submission from James Huffman



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 Huffman Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 4600 Annette Ct *City Merritt Island *State FL *Zip 32953

Your County Brevard Your Email JHuffman16@CFI.VV.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.

Please adjust the time line for completion to allow at least six (6) weeks for the public to respond to the official map &

www.floridaredistricting.org

(Over)

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from Alan Bergman

FINAL

REDISTRICTING SPEECH

Good morning. I would like to thank this committee for taking the time to listen to my thoughts on redistricting.

My name is Alan Bergman, and I have resided in Indialantic for the last 10 years.

Our existing districts have been blessed with a large population growth .We now require redistricting at all levels of government. This should be done so as to not only meet our present needs, but also with an eye to the future, to better enable our continued growth and perceived needs.

I came across an amusing situation where a gentleman owned a business which straddled two counties. Consequently he collected different amounts of sales tax, depending on which side of the store the purchase was made on. You can guess on which side of store the floor boards were more worn!

MY KEY

~~The~~ point is, I would urge you NOT to draw district lines inspired simply by geographical boundaries. More important than geography is COMMUNITY.

That is, people matter. FLORIDIANS matter. I would where possible set district boundaries to allow communities with similar vocations, ideologies, and beliefs to address the same legislative representative, so that she or he will best represent their needs.

Florida is a diverse state with industries ranging from agriculture to space travel, from fishing to drilling for oil. We have the oldest to the newest technologies, from the simplest to the most complex. We must consider the unique needs of these industries and the people who work in these industries when drawing boundary lines.

I would not ask you to negate other considerations that are involved in this process, but due to today's time constraints I have chosen to emphasize this priority because I believe commerce is the lifeblood of our nation, state, and community.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Submission from Ben Campione

Message to Redistricting Board on July 28:

My name is Ben Campione and I would like to thank the committee for providing this forum for citizens, such as myself, to address re-districting concerns.

I reside in Florida House District 29, currently represented by Tom Goodson. ~~District 29 is an example of a poorly drawn district that inadequately serves constituents and significantly impacts the ability of the person elected to properly represent it.~~

District 29 runs from north Brevard, where it contains parts of the Titusville, Cocoa, Port St. Johns and Rockledge. It then runs down the west portion of unincorporated and relatively unpopulated Brevard County to south of Palm Bay, where it includes Grant and Micco in south Brevard County. It continues into Indian River County where it includes Fellsmere and parts of west Vero Beach. The north and south areas of District 29 are 50 miles apart and are separated by the relatively large population centers of Melbourne and Palm Bay in between. If one was to look at the map of this district, they would wonder why in the world it was formed this way. While I will focus on District 29, Florida has other districts that are drawn similarly.

I would like to voice several concerns with districts drawn like this, ~~pointing out the negative effects on both the citizens it contains and the legislators that must represent it.~~

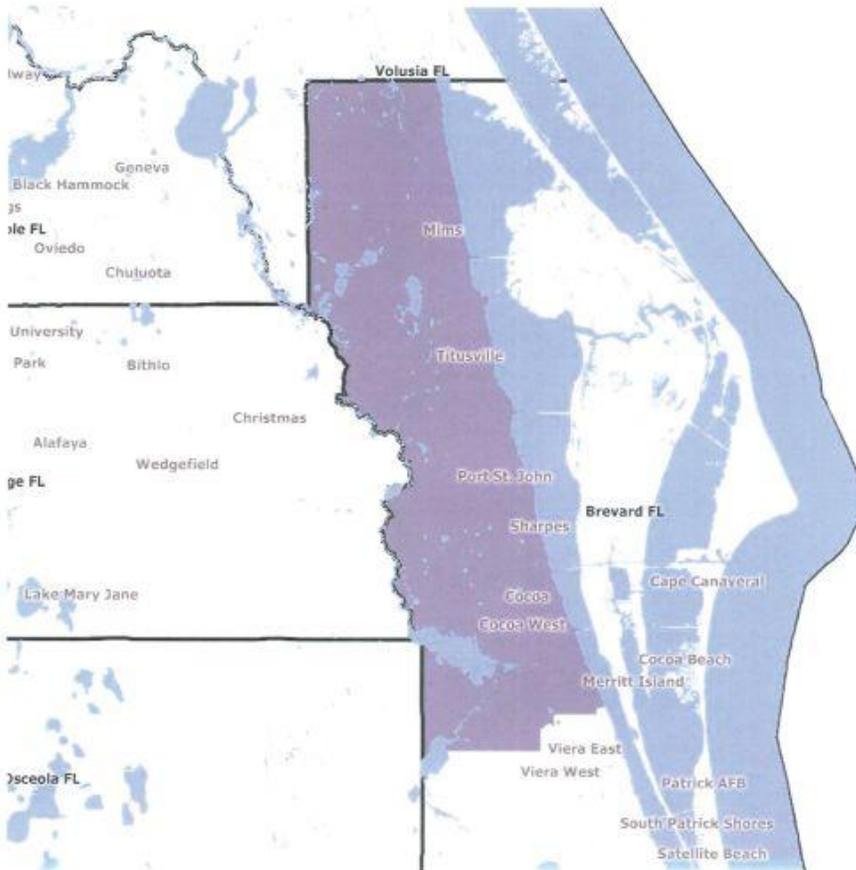
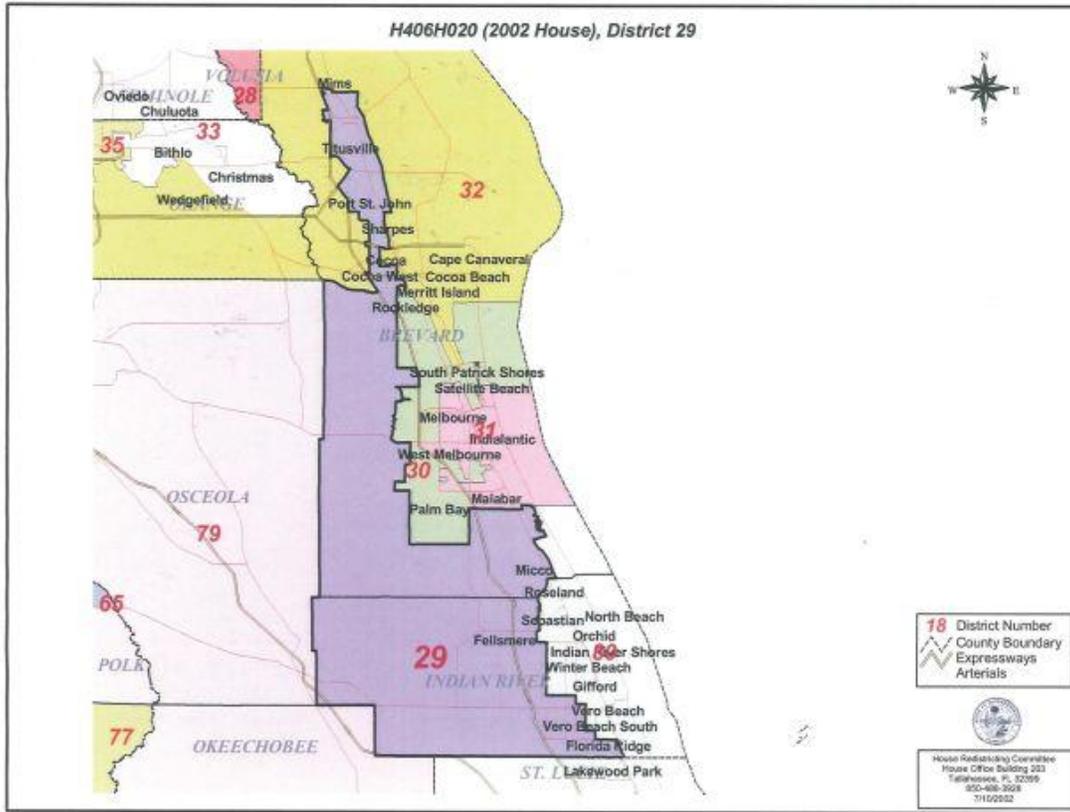
First, it is exceedingly difficult for a representative to properly represent constituents when their district is literally 'all over the map'. Certainly, there are common problems that need to be addressed statewide. But, the large distances and population distributions of a district like 29 place a much greater burden on a representative to properly represent the people that reside there. Additionally, we know that many of the concerns of the residents of, for example, the Titusville/Cocoa area are different from those in Grant or Fellsmere. For the sake of brevity I won't cite all the differences, but they are real, and include the likes of the location of employment, tourism, how land is used, water distribution and consumption, etc. It can become very difficult for a person to be tuned into all that is going on in his or her district. Clearly, it is better for the constituents to have a representative who can focus on areas that have more interests in common, rather than less. One additional problem for the representative (and the taxpayer) is that in District 29 a representative must keep two offices, one in the north and one in the south area, to provide proper constituent access. This is an unnecessary and significant increase in the cost to all state taxpayers.

Secondly, I would like to point out that a large portion of District 29 is rural, as is much of Florida. The only real population centers are at one end of the district (the Titusville area), which is at a significant distance from a large portion of the rest of the district. This creates a situation where the interests of those far away population centers can significantly outweigh the interests of the rural areas. While I realize that it may be impossible to create districts that don't include some population centers, those that are included should be relatively contiguous to their adjacent rural surroundings.

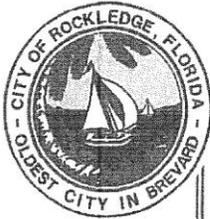
Finally, it is exceedingly difficult for a person to run as a candidate for state office in a poorly designed district. For example, in District 29 a candidate that lives in Titusville must not only do all the necessary functions to effectively compete in his or her local area, but they have to do the same in an area many miles away. This increases the time, costs, and other burdens on a candidate, the most problematic of which is becoming knowledgeable about the concerns of his or her potential constituents, who as I already noted, may not share many common interests. It could also discourage good potential candidates from running in such a district, as they should not have to bear these additional burdens simply because they were unfortunate enough to live in a poorly drawn district.

In summary, I believe my concerns highlight the need for creating districts that are contiguous and where citizens share common interests. This helps to elect representatives who better understand the concerns of their constituents and can take that with them when they go to Tallahassee. It also allows for a better and fair environment under which interested candidates can run for office.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration in hearing my concerns.



Colleen Stuart



CITY OF ROCKLEDGE

Web Site: <http://www.cityofrockledge.org>
E-mail: mayor@cityofrockledge.org

Larry L. Schultz
Mayor

July 20, 2011

Honorable Don Gaetz, Senator, Chair
Florida Senate Committee on Reapportionment
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Gaetz:

On behalf of the Rockledge City Council, please accept our appreciation for the work being done to reapportion House and Senate Districts based on the 2010 Census Data. We, as an elected body, are aware of the task ahead of you and the ramifications for the citizens of the State of Florida.

The Rockledge City Council would like to go on record with the Committee with regard to the concept of "nesting", or establishing a Senate District and carrying 3 House Districts from each "nest" or Senate District. This would appear to be the simplest and most representative manner in which to approach reapportionment.

The City of Rockledge is currently in 3 House Districts and we have no objection to continuing to be in multiple House Districts if that is a feasible and practical scenario. We are also open to being in 2 Senate Districts if that is necessary for proper division of the population.

Thank you for your service and we wish you the best in completion of this critical task for our State. Please call upon us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ROCKLEDGE

Larry L. Schultz
Mayor

LLS:md

CC: Honorable Will Weatherford, Chair, House Redistricting Committee
Rockledge City Council Members
James P. McKnight, City Manager
Honorable Representative Tom Goodson, District 29
Honorable Representative Steve Crisafulli, District 32
Honorable Representative Ritch Workman, District 30
— Honorable Senator Thad Altman, District 24
Honorable Senator Mike Haridopolos, District 26
Jerry Sansom, Legislative Representative

CITY HALL
1600 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955
Telephone: 321-690-3978
Fax: 321-690-3987

BUILDING DIVISION
1600 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955
Telephone: 321-690-3984
Fax: 321-690-6481

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPT.
1800 Rockledge Blvd.
Rockledge, FL 32955
Telephone: 321-690-3968
Fax: 321-634-3592

POLICE DEPT.
123 Barton Boulevard
Rockledge, FL 32955
Telephone: 321-690-3988
Fax: 321-690-3996

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
1400 N. Garden Road
Rockledge, FL 32955
Telephone: 321-690-3961
Fax: 321-690-3965

WASTEWATER TREATMENT & WATER RECLAMATION DEPT.
1700 Jack Oates Blvd.
Rockledge, FL 32955
Telephone: 321-690-3975
Fax: 321-690-3998

You replied on 7/25/2011 11:40 PM.

Kelly, Alex

From: Walt Johnson [johnsonwaltj@yahoo.com] **Sent:** Mon 7/25/2011 3:46 PM
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Cc: Kathy Daniels
Subject: HD 29
Attachments:

Dear Representatives,

Firstly I would like to make it clear that, although I have the honor to serve as V. Mayor of the City of Titusville, I am speaking solely for myself as this issue as it has not, as of yet, come before the Titusville City Council for review or a vote.

I understand that you will be having a meeting in this area on the subject of redistricting. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend that meeting. Consequently, I am submitting this email with my opinions. I believe they reflect the feelings of most citizens of District 29. Ten years ago the district was redesigned for the worst possible of reasons, to accommodate the gerrymandering of certain individuals who were in office at that time.

In point of fact I was called by one of those people at that time who tried to explain to me why this district was "not as bad as it looks"

Well it was and has proved to be as bad as it looked.

District 29 stretches from Titusville in the north some 80 to 90 miles to Vero on the south. Needless to say the Citizens of Titusville have little in common, legislatively, with the citizens of Vero. This district is simply not what anyone could consider a proper legislative district. Although Former Representative Ralph Poppel (not one of the aforementioned elected officials that formed the district) represented the district admirably, he spent countless hours traveling from Vero to Titusville and places in between to serve his district.

His talents and time would have been much better spent representing his constituents had his district had been more compact and so, more efficient of its Representative's time.

I'm asking you to use common sense for the Citizens of North and Central Brevard and redesign the district to encompass the approximately 156,000 people with common needs that would be contained by starting the District at the Volusia County line and going south to the City of Rockledge to about Barnes Blvd.

I respectfully ask that you redesign district 29 in a manner that properly serves the citizens of House District 29.

Sincerely,

Walt Johnson
Vice-Mayor
Titusville, Fl. 32796

Important Notice:

ANY E-MAIL RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER SHOULD NOT BE FORWARDED TO OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF A VIOLATION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN SUNSHINE LAW.

<https://legacy.myfloridahouse.gov/exchange/Alex.Kelly/Inbox/HD%2029.EML?Cmd=open> 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



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>.

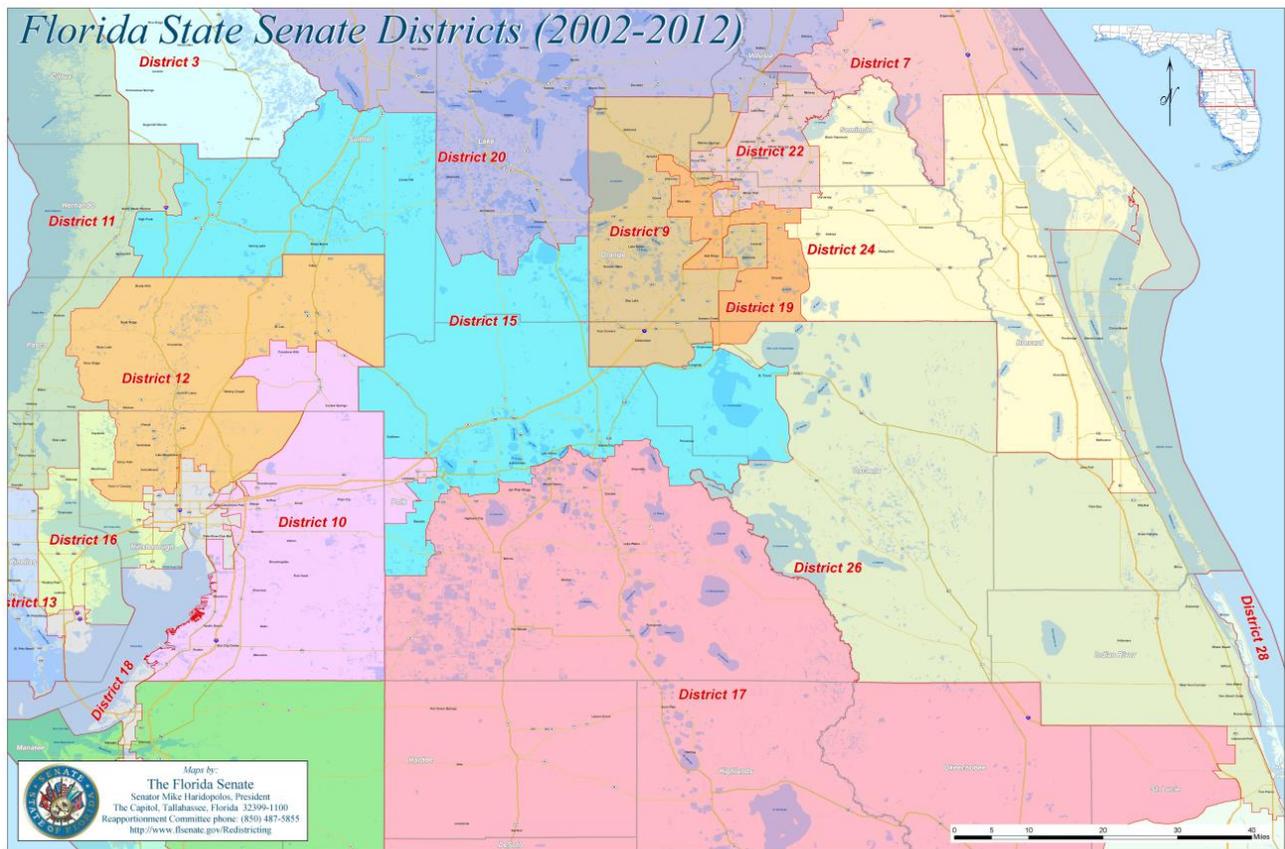
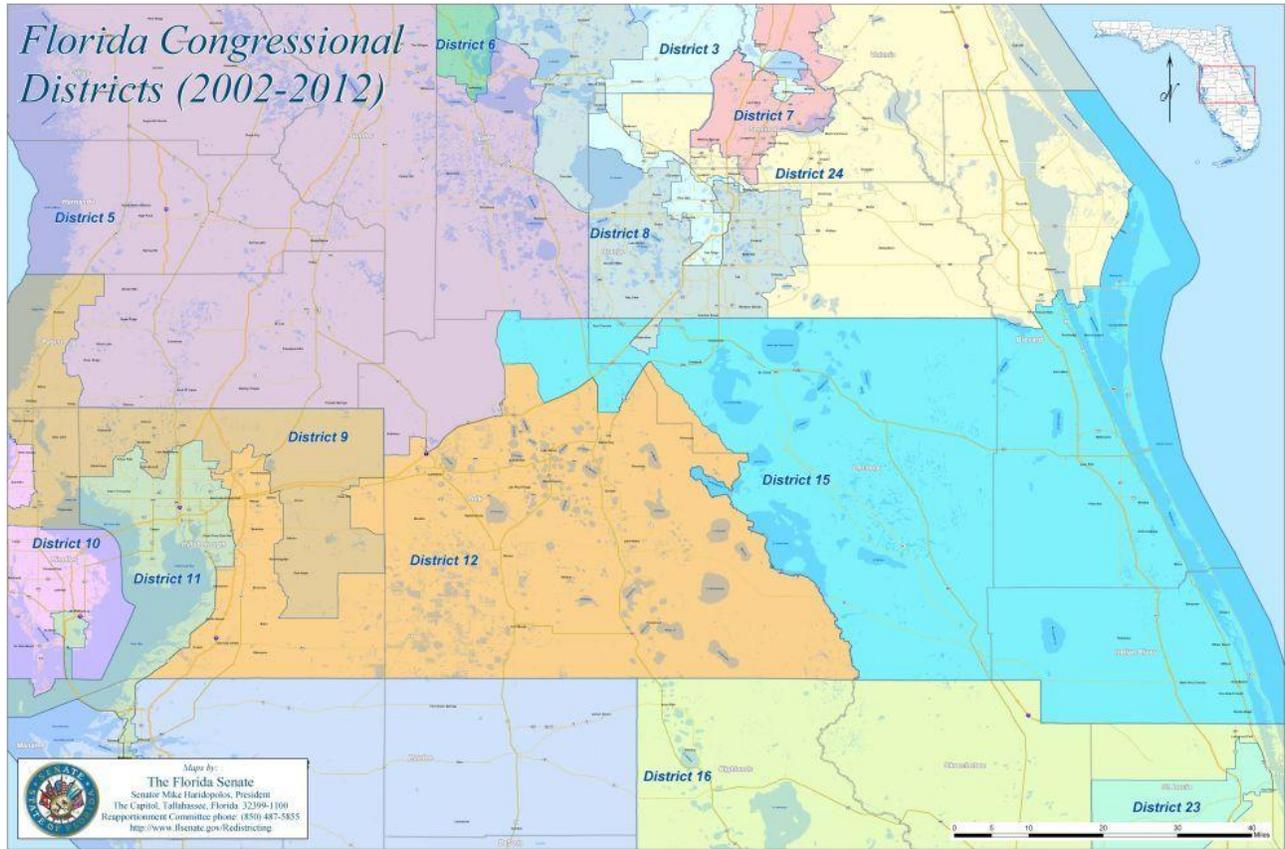
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection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

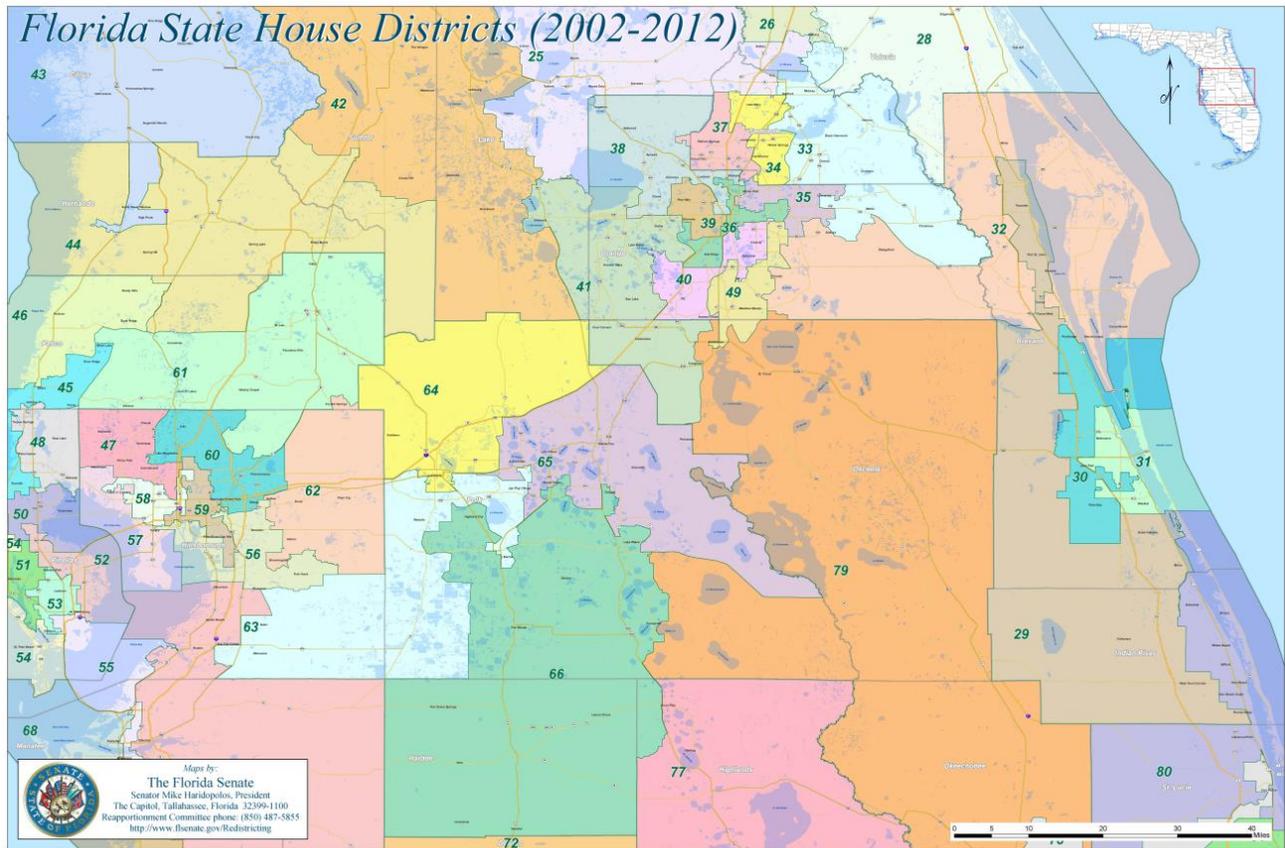
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see www.floridaredistricting.org. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose which better meets their needs.

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%

