

Public Hearing on Redistricting Gainesville (July 13, 2011)

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Hearing Report

Date: July 13, 2011

City: Gainesville

Location: Santa Fe College Fine Arts Building

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Number of Speakers: 71 of 82

Total Attendance: 227

The public hearing in Gainesville took place in the Fine Arts Building at Santa Fe College's Gainesville Campus (3000 NW 83rd St., Gainesville, FL 32606). 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 meeting was advertised in the Gainesville Sun July 10-13, and an op-ed jointly authored by the Chairman Gaetz and Chairman Weatherford was published in the Gainesville Sun on July 11. 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 90 school board officials, over 180 county commissioners and administrators, more than 60 personnel under local supervisors of elections, and over 490 city elected officials in Northeast 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. It was chaired by Senator Gaetz and attended by 9 senators and 20 representatives. Attendance cards were filled out by 145 people. Another 82 indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing, bringing the total recorded attendance to 227.

At time of adjournment 11 speakers remained. Chairman Gaetz invited those speakers to supplement the record with their written comments or to submit comments via email.

Submission from Rosalie Bandyopadhyay

Ms. Bandyopadhyay provided a copy of the [Plaintiffs' and Plaintiff-Intervenor's Joint Motion for Summary Final Judgment and Incorporated Memorandum of Law](#) as well as the [Florida House of Representatives' Proposed Complaint in Intervention for Declaratory Relief](#) in the case of *Diaz-Balart, et al. v. Browning, et al.*

Submission from Mary McG.



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 Mary *Last Name McG. Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) none

*Your Address private *City Gainesville *State FL *Zip 32608

Your County _____ 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

don't want to get mail or be in database so I abbreviate my name M.McG.

Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.

This redistricting is a serious job that your ^{legislative} body has disrespected just as you have disrespected the citizens of this state. Please stop gerrymandering. Please stop splitting up Gainesville just to force Republican representation on a majority Democratic city. It is an outrage and undemocratic, disrespectful of our Constitution. Ever heard of democracy? Please be a patriot and make the districts fairly drawn. The districts drawn in the photo are a disgrace.

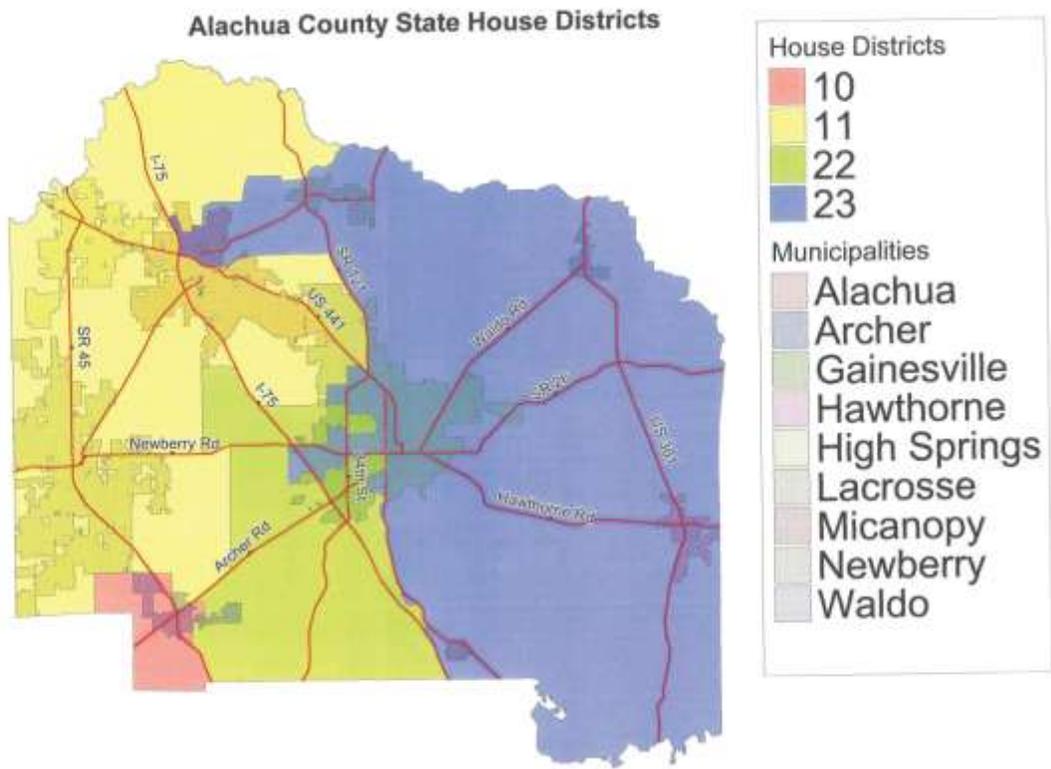
www.floridaredistricting.org

(Over)

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from William. Boyett

Boyette
- Gainesville
7/13/11
(Aggr SE)



Submission from the Ocala Marion County Chamber of Commerce



REDISTRICTING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Marion County and its five municipalities of Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon, McIntosh, and Reddick, is deemed a Community of Interest and under the current district boundaries, legislative representation at both the state and federal levels is fractured and fragmented, and

WHEREAS, Marion County has experienced exponential growth of 30.8% within the past 10 years and is anticipated to grow by an additional 9% in the next decade, and

WHEREAS, Marion County's current population of over 330,000 people with a land mass of over 1660 square miles makes us the fourth largest county in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, given the diversity of Marion County's economic base ranging from agriculture, equine and ecotourism to finance, healthcare, manufacturing, distribution and research/technology coupled with the County's strategic location as the "heart" of North Central Florida and,

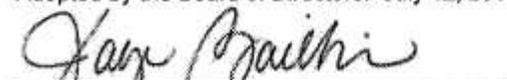
WHEREAS, the Public Affairs Committee of the Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce has endorsed redistricting as its highest level priority issue – to speak with one voice for more equitable and focused legislative representation at both the state and federal levels in this Florida Redistricting Process,

Now, therefore, be it **RESOLVED**:

1. Marion County, as a significant **Community of Interest**, should be maintained in a single district, where possible.
2. To meet the unique and diverse needs of our community, equitable and focused representation is essential to provide a unified legislative voice for the citizens of Marion County.
3. A unified legislative voice is crucial to the future prosperity of Marion County to compliment a healthy business environment and economy as well as contribute to the quality of life for all its citizens.
4. Where possible, easily identifiable, compact and contiguous geographic boundaries should be followed, recognizing that districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the latest 2010 census data and applicable statutory guidelines.
5. In the redrawing of district boundaries, the district should be compact and contiguous.
6. The redrawing of district boundaries should not fragment a geographically compact minority community as defined and in accordance with the Voting Rights Act of 1973.


Dave Fechtman
Chairman of the Board

Adopted by the Board of Directors: July 12, 2011


Jaye Baillie, APR, IOM
President/CEO

Submission from Stan McClain



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

McPherson Governmental Complex

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2323
Fax: 352-438-2324

District 1 – Mike Amsden, Commissioner
District 2 – Kathy Bryant, Commissioner
District 3 – Stan McClain, Chairman
District 4 – Carl Zalak, III, Commissioner
District 5 – Charlie Stone, Vice Chair

July 13, 2011

The Honorable Don Gaetz
Florida Senate

The Honorable Will Weatherford
Florida House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen Gaetz and Weatherford:

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, I want to thank you for the numerous resources and opportunities you have provided to guide us through the redistricting process and to thank you for the opportunity to address this committee and express our thoughts and concerns as you gather this information to aid you in your decision making.

We ask that you consider Marion County's compactness and growth as you go through the redistricting process. Marion County has 331,000 citizens and the fifth largest land mass in Florida, but was split in the last redistricting process into 4 Florida Senate seats and 5 Florida Representative districts. Presently, only 1 of our 9 legislative delegation members resides in our county.

While we have an excellent working relationship and support from our delegation, the division of our county makes it difficult for our county's voice to be heard and met at the state level. And because the physical location of the offices is often outside Marion County, it's difficult for us to conduct our business without first considering the needs of other county governments. We believe it would be in the best interest of our region if Marion County were more tightly districted, enabling us to have a champion for issues close to home.

We have not had a senator from Marion County in more than 20 years, and we respectfully request that you keep our community, our county, together as much as possible throughout the redistricting process. We appreciate your consideration as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan McClain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stan McClain
Chairman

"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"

www.marioncountyfl.org

Submission from Ulla Benny

Ulla Benny - Gainesville - 7/12/11

Kelly, Alex

From: Ulla Benny [hotinen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2011 10:25 AM
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Cc: ulla
Subject: Gainesville meeting

To the committee:

This is to urge you to follow recommendations of supervisory of elections.

Also one speaker commented on the US Congress districts here in Gainesville: we want representation here in Gainesville, not one that is in Ocala or in Jacksonville. Have a Gainesville district!

Sincerely,

Ulla Benny
4511 NW 19th Ave
Gainesville FL 32605-3472
hotinen@yahoo.com

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 change 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.

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 156,078, while the average population of a Florida Senate district will be 470,633. Each congressional district will contain approximately 696,345 people.



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 voters act 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 enacted.

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 that legislative districts to overlap, either partially or entirely.

In November 2010, the voters added Amendments 5 and 6 to the Florida Constitution. These Amendments prohibit line drawing that intentionally favors or disfavors a political party or an incumbent. The Amendments also afford protection to racial and language minorities. Districts may not be drawn (1) with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process, or (2) to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice. Finally, unless it would conflict with federal law or the standards described above, the Amendments require that district populations be as nearly equal as practicable, and that districts be compact and, where feasible, follow existing political and geographical boundaries.

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. In 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 population, 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.

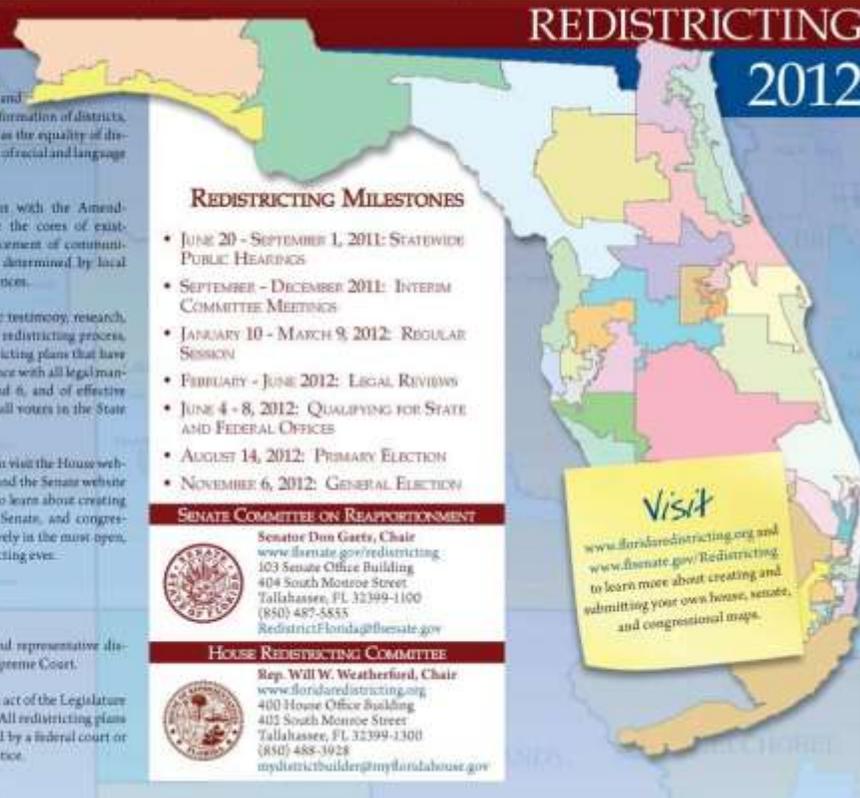
This approach, together with public testimony, research, and facts developed throughout the redistricting process, will result in the adoption of redistricting plans that have the intent and result of full compliance with all legal mandates, including Amendments 5 and 6, and of effective and meaningful 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.floridasenate.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 Gault, Chair
www.floridasenate.gov/redistricting
 103 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 (850) 487-5555
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.floridasenate.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>.

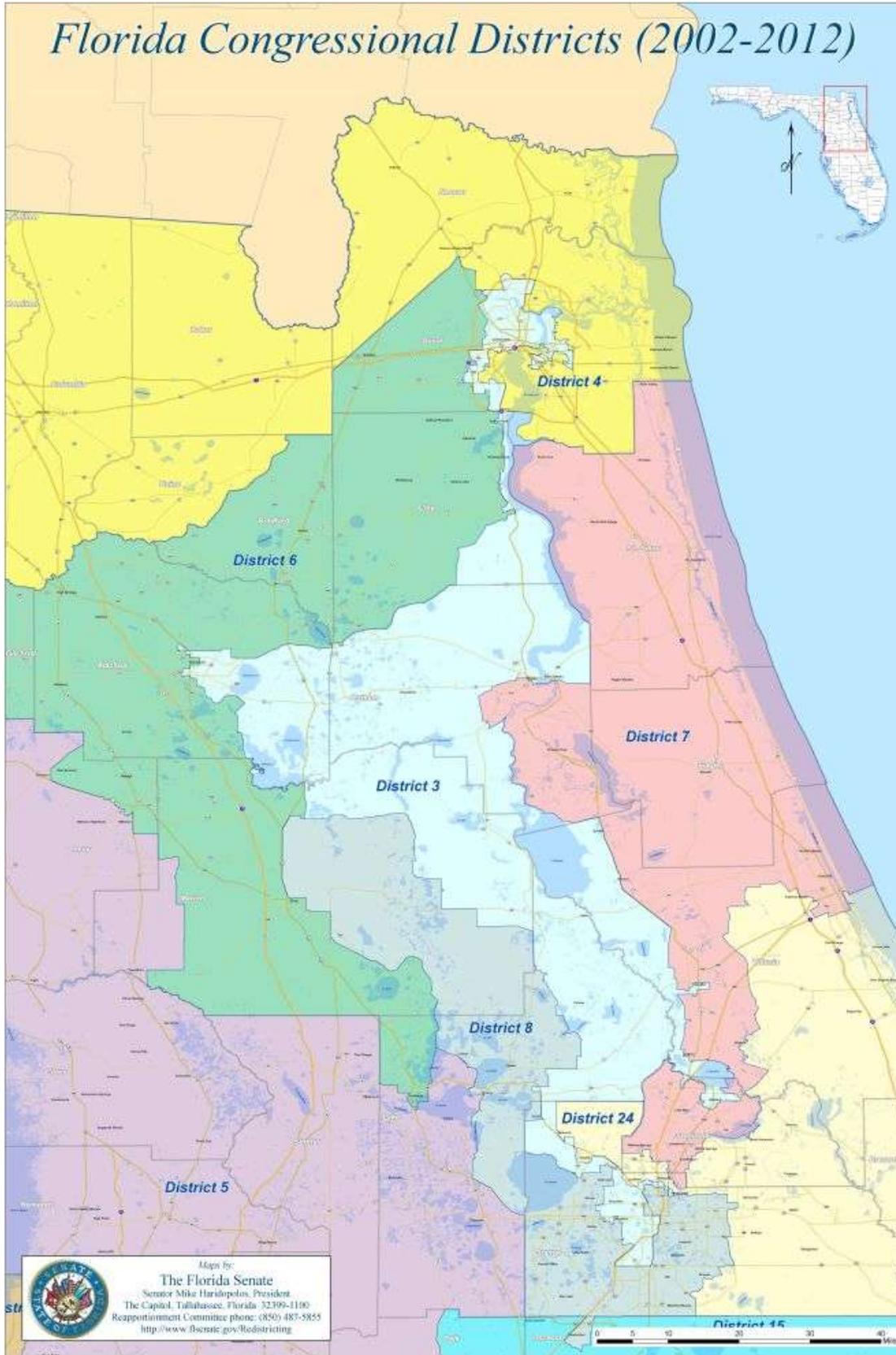
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection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

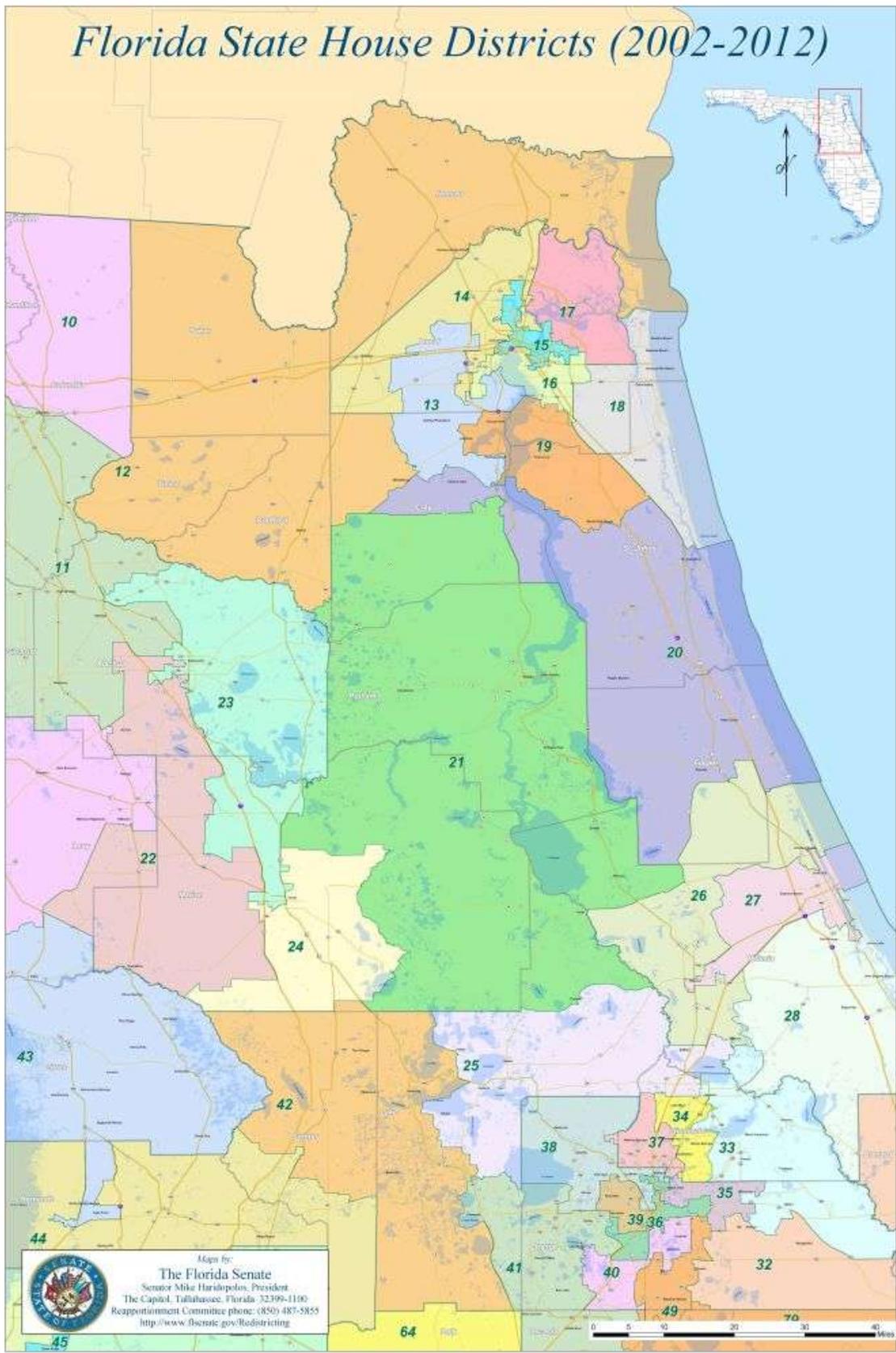
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see www.floridaredistricting.org. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose which better meets their needs.

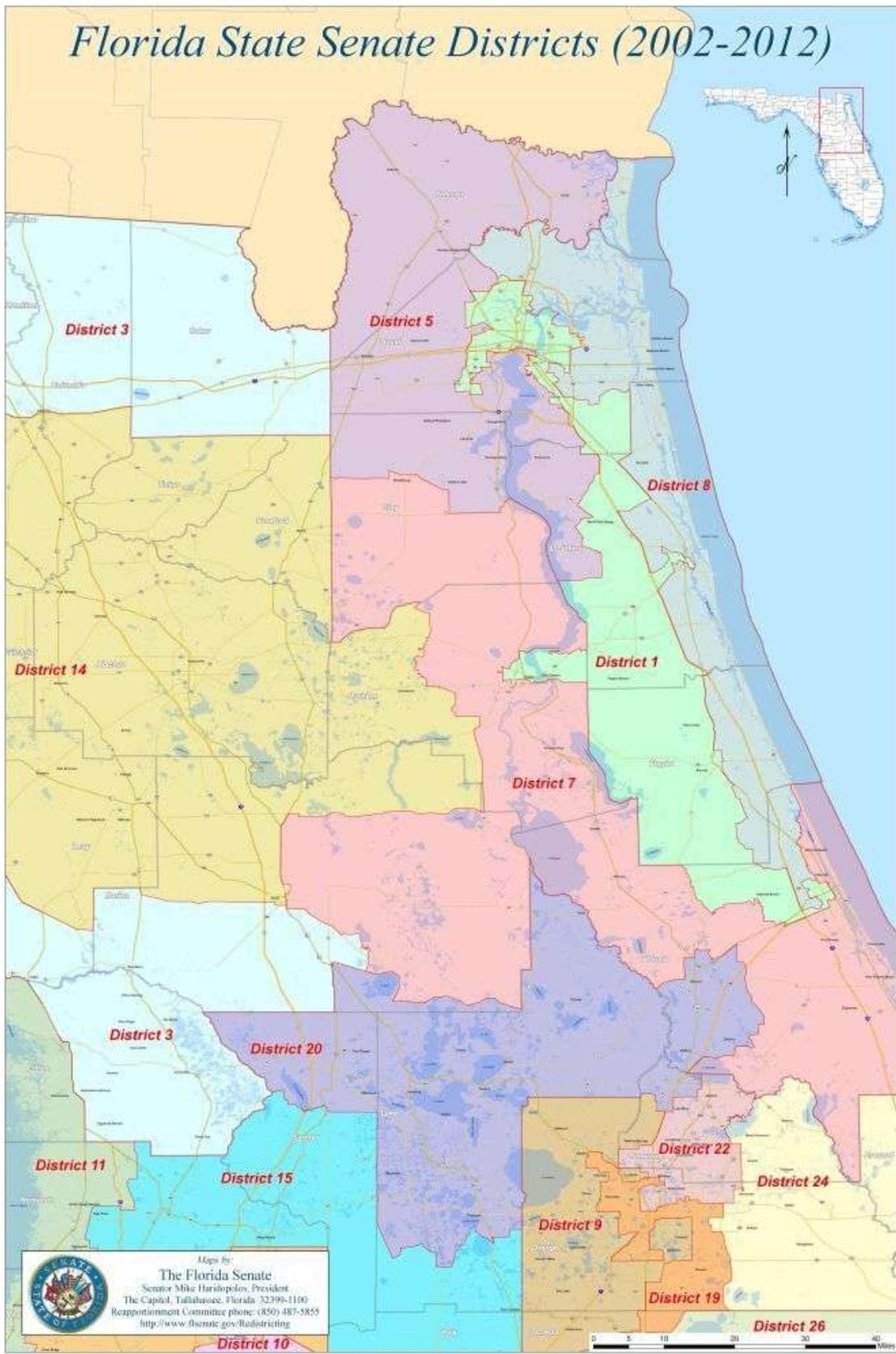
Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

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)—Northeast Florida

Congressional District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
3	Corrine Brown	659,055	696,345	-37,290	-5.4%
4	Ander Crenshaw	744,418	696,345	48,073	6.9%
5	Richard Nugent	929,533	696,345	233,188	33.5%
6	Cliff Stearns	812,727	696,345	116,382	16.7%
7	John Mica	812,442	696,345	116,097	16.7%
8	Daniel Webster	805,608	696,345	109,263	15.7%
24	Sandy Adams	799,233	696,345	102,888	14.8%

State House District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
10	Leonard L. Bembry	151,214	156,678	-5,464	-3.5%
11	Elizabeth W. Porter	163,223	156,678	6,545	4.2%
12	Janet H. Adkins	159,354	156,678	2,676	1.7%
13	Daniel Davis	195,431	156,678	38,753	24.7%
14	Mia L. Jones	134,417	156,678	-22,261	-14.2%
15	Reggie Fullwood	124,511	156,678	-32,167	-20.5%
16	Charles McBurney	140,428	156,678	-16,250	-10.4%
17	Lake Ray	161,943	156,678	5,265	3.4%
18	Ronald "Doc" Renuart	161,190	156,678	4,512	2.9%
19	Michael B. "Mike" Weinstein	175,628	156,678	18,950	12.1%
20	William L. "Bill" Proctor	201,953	156,678	45,275	28.9%
21	Charles E. Van Zant	145,063	156,678	-11,615	-7.4%
22	W. Keith Perry	176,739	156,678	20,061	12.8%
23	Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut IV	142,648	156,678	-14,030	-9.0%
24	Dennis K. Baxley	166,317	156,678	9,639	6.2%
25	Larry Metz	179,031	156,678	22,353	14.3%
26	Fredrick W. "Fred" Costello	165,010	156,678	8,332	5.3%
27	Dwayne L. Taylor	131,755	156,678	-24,923	-15.9%
28	Dorothy L. Hukill	154,175	156,678	-2,503	-1.6%
33	Jason T. Brodeur	196,662	156,678	39,984	25.5%
34	Chris Dorworth	144,119	156,678	-12,559	-8.0%
38	Bryan Nelson	162,248	156,678	5,570	3.6%
42	H. Marlene O'Toole	214,866	156,678	58,188	37.1%
43	Jimmie T. Smith	162,052	156,678	5,374	3.4%
44	Robert C. "Rob" Schenck	171,652	156,678	14,974	9.6%

State Senate District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
1	Anthony C. "Tony" Hill, Sr.	424,456	424,456	-271,889	-39.0%
3	Charles S. "Charlie" Dean, Sr.	495,081	696,345	-201,264	-28.9%
5	Stephen R. Wise	515,369	696,345	-180,976	-26.0%
7	Evelyn J. Lynn	432,554	696,345	-263,791	-37.9%
8	John Thrasher	525,674	696,345	-170,671	-24.5%
11	Mike Fasano	433,661	696,345	-262,684	-37.7%
14	Steve Delrich	457,489	696,345	-238,856	-34.3%
15	Paula Dockery	560,770	696,345	-135,575	-19.5%
20	Alan Hays	576,207	696,345	-120,138	-17.3%

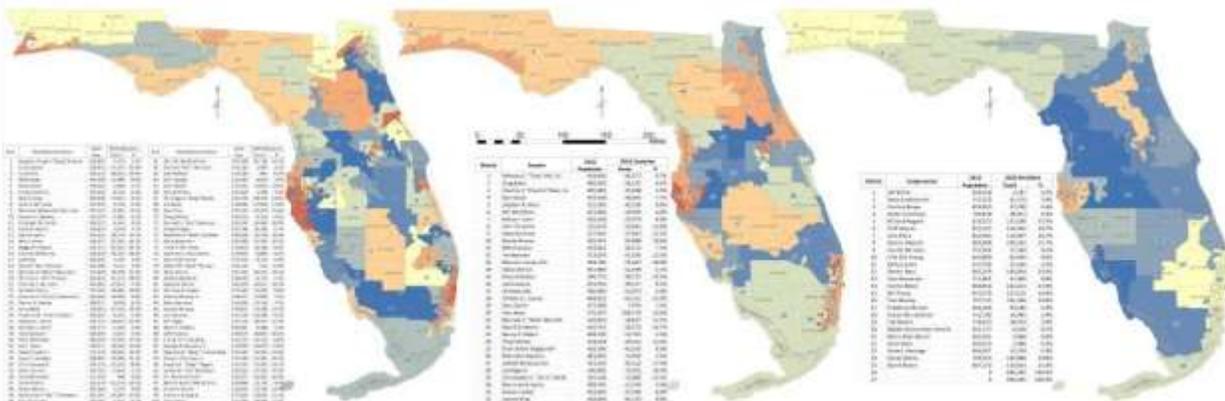


Presented by
The Florida Senate
 Senator Mike Harshbarger, President
 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
 Representative's Committee phone: (904) 487-1811
<http://www.fl-senate.gov/Redistricting>

Population Deviations of Current Florida House Districts Relative to 2010 Census
 Ideal district population (156,678)

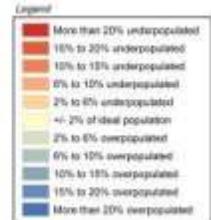
Population Deviations of Current Florida Senate Districts Relative to 2010 Census
 Ideal district population (470,033)

Population Deviations of Current Congressional Districts Relative to 2010 Census
 Ideal district population (696,345)



District	2010 Population	% of Ideal
1	424,456	100%
2	495,081	114%
3	515,369	117%
4	432,554	101%
5	525,674	121%
6	433,661	101%
7	457,489	106%
8	560,770	126%
9	576,207	129%
10	151,214	96%
11	163,223	104%
12	159,354	102%
13	195,431	125%
14	134,417	86%
15	124,511	79%
16	140,428	89%
17	161,943	103%
18	161,190	103%
19	175,628	112%
20	201,953	129%
21	145,063	92%
22	176,739	113%
23	142,648	91%
24	166,317	106%
25	179,031	114%
26	165,010	105%
27	131,755	84%
28	154,175	98%
29	196,662	126%
30	144,119	92%
31	162,248	103%
32	214,866	137%
33	162,052	103%
34	171,652	109%

	2000	2010
Total Resident Population, Decennial Census	15,982,378	18,801,310
Number of Congressional Districts	25	27
Ideal District Population (Congressional Districts)	639,295	696,345
Maximum Number of State Senate Districts	40	40
Ideal District Population (State Senate Districts)	399,559	470,033
Maximum Number of State Representative Districts	120	120
Ideal Population (State Representative Districts)	133,186	156,678



Presented by
The Florida Senate
 Senator Mike Harshbarger, President
 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
 Representative's Committee phone: (904) 487-1811
<http://www.fl-senate.gov/Redistricting>