



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006

Florida Picks Up 2 Congressional Seats; Representative Will Weatherford Praises Florida's Census Initiatives

Tallahassee, Fla. – State Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chairman of the House Redistricting Committee, today offered his praise and thanks to the many individuals and organizations who partnered in the 2010 Sunshine Census and other complete count efforts for the State of Florida. Due to their collective body of work, Florida was able to secure a second additional Congressional seat in the apportionment that was announced earlier today.

Representative Weatherford credited the margin of success to efforts like those of Complete Count Committee delegates Speaker Dean Cannon, Representative Hazelle Rogers and Representative Perry Thurston, the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, and the House's outreach through MyFloridaCensus (www.myfloridacensus.gov).

“With MyFloridaCensus, Florida was the only state in the country to offer a web-based and interactive mapping application to the public, enabling Floridians to share visually-dynamic information with the state, in-turn allowing Florida to push that feedback to the U.S. Census Bureau and other Complete Count partners,” said Representative Weatherford. “Specifically, the House used MyFloridaCensus to target homes, streets and entire communities that were missed in the 2010 Census mail campaign. Through this initiative, Floridians reported 2,133 households and neighborhoods that were initially missed by the 2010 Census.”

“The House used MyFloridaCensus to hold the Census Bureau accountable for making sure that these individuals and entire communities were counted,” said Representative Weatherford. “Often times, MyFloridaCensus helped highlight entire subdivisions that were initially overlooked in the early phases of the 2010 Census.”

“With a basic goal of ensuring that every Florida resident would be counted, MyFloridaCensus added to the collective efforts of nearly every city and county government, many chambers of commerce, colleges and universities, regional planning boards and commissions, and many others throughout Florida. Today, Florida is being assigned two additional Congressional seats, meaning more adequate representation for the nearly 20 million people residing in Florida,” concluded Weatherford.

Estimates also show that MyFloridaCensus contributed to at least \$35 million in federal funding for the State of Florida and its counties and municipalities over the next decade. Each additional person counted equates to roughly \$1,500 in combined federal funding for all levels of Florida government. Assuming that each of the 2,133 households and neighborhoods missed equates to at least 2,133 Floridians who would have otherwise not been counted, the return on investment is \$3.5 million per year, \$35 million over the course of the decade.

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Resources:

- <http://www.myfloridacensus.gov/>
- http://www.microsoft.com/casestudies/Case_Study_Detail.aspx?CaseStudyID=4000007975
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/05/25/1646313/ensure-your-community-counts.html>
- <http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/may/27/na-census-clock-ticking/news-opinion-commentary/>
- <http://www.theledger.com/article/20100528/COLUMNISTS/5285003/1398?tc=ar>
- http://blogs.msdn.com/b/bright_side_of_government/archive/2010/05/26/florida-employs-crowds-in-the-cloud-for-clear-census-results.aspx
- <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=249&sid=2001545>



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release

January 10, 2011

Contact: Katie Betta

(850) 488-1450

MEDIA EVENT: Florida House to Hold Pre-Session Information Session *Redistricting Briefing and Exclusive Preview of MyDistrictBuilder Software*

Tallahassee—The Florida House of Representatives will host a pre-session information session for members of the media on January 20, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Members of the media will have access to the top substantive experts among the senior members of the House staff during various information sessions and will have the opportunity to ask questions related to complicated issues of public policy likely to come before the Florida House during the upcoming 2011 Legislative Session. Additionally, senior staff from the House Redistricting Committee will present an in-depth timeline of Florida's redistricting process as well as an exclusive preview of the *MyDistrictBuilder* software.

Pre-Session Information Session

Date: Thursday, January 20, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: The Capitol, Room 333

Draft Agenda

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.: Redistricting Presentation and Preview of *MyDistrictBuilder Software*

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.: Constitutional Amendment and Ballot Reform

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.: Florida Retirement System

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.: Break

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: 2011-2012 Budget

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Education

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Medicaid

Members of the media wishing to attend the information session should contact the House Office of Public Information at (850) 921-7747 or via publicinfo@myfloridahouse.gov.

Members of the media wishing to fully participate in the exclusive preview of the *MyDistrictBuilder* software are encouraged to bring their laptops to the event. Additionally, it is recommended that you visit MyDistrictBuilder, at <http://floridaredistricting.cloudapp.net/MyDistrictBuilder.aspx>, prior to the event. When you log onto *MyDistrictBuilder*, you may be prompted to download the most recent version of Microsoft Silverlight. Additionally, you will be asked to dedicate storage space in the isolated storage of your computer.

*****PLEASE NOTE:** The redistricting presentation and preview of *MyDistrictBuilder* as well as other information sessions will be presented by House staff, not members of the Florida House. As such, these sessions are intended as **information sessions only** with the goal of providing background information for members of the media. There will be a brief question and answer session following each topic. House staff will not comment on specific pending or potential legislation, but will be available to answer background questions on various issues. ***

BACKGROUND: Redistricting Process and *MyDistrictBuilder* Software Development

In late 2009, at the direction of then-Speaker-Designate Dean Cannon, House staff began planning to implement a web-based district builder, via cloud server technology.

In April 2010, the House announced the launch of www.MyFloridaCensus.gov, a precursor to *MyDistrictBuilder* designed to promote the 2010 census. Estimates show that *MyFloridaCensus* contributed to at least \$35 million in federal funding for the State of Florida and its counties and municipalities over the next decade.

During the summer and fall of 2011 the Florida House will conduct meetings around the state to take public testimony regarding redistricting. Members of the public will be able to submit partial or complete redistricting plans to the House Redistricting Committee via *MyDistrictBuilder*. Open public testing of the “beta” version of *MyDistrictBuilder* will begin in early March.

If you would like to follow the redistricting process and the development of *MyDistrictBuilder*, you are welcome to follow us at either Facebook (MyDistrictBuilder) or Twitter (@MyDistrictBuilder), or send a request to be included on the *MyDistrictBuilder* e-mail list via mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov.

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For Immediate Release:

Monday, January 31, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-8148

Florida House Continues Comprehensive Effort to Involve Public in Redistricting
Representative Weatherford Announces Launch of 2012 Redistricting Website

Tallahassee, Fla. – State Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chairman of the House Redistricting Committee, announced the re-launch of FloridaRedistricting.org (www.floridaredistricting.org). The re-launch of this site is part of a comprehensive effort to involve the public in the redistricting process that began with the 2010 MyFloridaCensus initiative and will continue through the 2012 redistricting process.

FloridaRedistricting.org will serve as the House’s hub for online information and communications regarding House redistricting activities throughout the process.

“In the coming months, FloridaRedistricting.org will serve to help educate the public on redistricting, provide a portal to MyDistrictBuilder, and ultimately enable Floridians to start the conversation on redistricting,” said Representative Weatherford. “Most importantly, the new FloridaRedistricting.org is another step towards implementing the most open and accessible redistricting process in the country.”

Floridaredistricting.org will provide Floridians with legislative and legal resources on redistricting and serve as a one-stop connection to all of the House’s redistricting websites and social media, and eventually a portal to redistricting plans and testimony provided by other Floridians.

“The Legislature is required by law to put the redistricting puzzle together,” continued Representative Weatherford. “However, through FloridaRedistricting.Org, MyDistrictBuilder, our social media and other outreach efforts, we can make this upcoming redistricting a two-way conversation with Floridians. Redistricting ultimately reflects the portrait of Florida’s many diverse communities, and we’re going to give them a chance to help paint that portrait.”

The new FloridaRedistricting.Org will also contain a broad array of additional information and educational materials on the redistricting process. Visitors to the site will be able to access historical redistricting documents, download informational brochures and presentations, and follow the timeline for public meetings.

Previously, FloridaRedistricting.org served as the House’s website for the 2002 redistricting of Florida’s state legislative and congressional districts. The content from the former

FloridaRedistricting.org will still be available via either the new page or directly at <http://www.floridaredistricting.org/archive/>.

The comprehensive effort to involve the public in redistricting, will take another step forward when the Florida House officially launches MyDistrictBuilder in July 2011. MyDistrictBuilder is an online application that allows Floridians to build and submit district plans to the House's redistricting committee for consideration.

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Resources:

<http://www.floridaredistricting.org>

<http://www.floridaredistricting.org/archive/>

[January 20, 2011 - MyDistrictBuilder Presentation - Florida media](#)

[MyDistrictBuilder – *alpha version*](#)

[Microsoft Azure Customer Solution Study](#)

[Brookings – Injecting Transparency Into Redistricting \(Video\)](#)



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Contacts:

Senate: [David Bishop](#), (850) 487-5229

House: [Lyndsey Cruley](#), (850) 487-8148

House and Senate Redistricting Chairs Announce Census Details for Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee, and Senator Don Gaetz (R-Niceville), Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment, today announced receipt of detailed 2010 Census population counts for Florida. The tables attached to this release show 2010 population and deviation figures for each senatorial, state representative, and congressional district in the state. The attached maps show where overpopulated and underpopulated districts lie in relation to one another.

The detailed 2010 population counts for Florida are also accessible using the U.S. Census Bureau's American FactFinder web application (see, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/main.html>). The complete data set delivered to the Florida Legislature will be available online at http://www2.census.gov/census_2010/01-Redistricting_File--PL_94-171/Florida/.

By early summer, the Senate and House both will have web-based district building applications, with 2010 Census data, for Floridians and their legislators to participate in and follow the redistricting process.

“In Florida, citizens will get full and easy access to the same programs, data, and plans that legislators and professional staff themselves will use,” said Senator Gaetz. “My direction from President Mike Haridopolos is to engage in the most transparent, open, and interactive redistricting process in America.”

“Our goal in redistricting is to let the public start the conversation,” said Representative Weatherford “Paramount to achieving that goal is always sharing information like the 2010 Census results with the public, so that Floridians can benefit from the same tools and information available to the legislature.”

The Florida Legislature convenes January 10, 2012 to enact new senatorial, state representative, and congressional districts based on the 2010 Census. Throughout the process, there will be many opportunities for citizen participation.

More information about preparations for redistricting is available on the House and Senate websites:

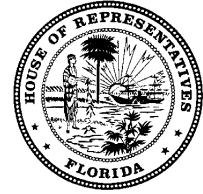
- Senate: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/RE/>
- House: <http://www.floridaredistricting.org/>

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THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



MIKE HARIDOPoulos
President of the Senate



DEAN CANNON
*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

To: Interested Media

From: David Bishop, Communications Director, Office of the Senate President
Katie Betta, Communications Director, Office of the Speaker

Date: March 29, 2011

Re: Preclearance Application for Amendments 5 and 6

Today, the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate jointly submitted the application for preclearance for Amendments 5 and 6 to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ).

In this application, the Legislature is requesting that DOJ preclear these amendments, under the interpretation that they are beneficial for preserving and enhancing the rights of minority voters – a statement echoed consistently by the organizations that authored, campaigned for and supported these amendments.

The submission and cover letter are attached. The exhibits that accompany the submission are available for download [here](#).

<http://floridaredistricting.cloudapp.net/MyBlobStorageReader.aspx?container=submissionforpreclearance&friendlyTitle=March%2029,%202011%20-%20Submission%20for%20Preclearance%20of%20Amendments%205%20and%206>

Background:

Earlier this month, the Executive Office of Governor Rick Scott requested assistance from the Florida Legislature and Florida's Attorney General, regarding the application for preclearance for Amendments 5 and 6 (Article III, Sections 21 and 20, of the Florida Constitution), as adopted by Florida voters during the 2010 General Election.

The Governor requested assistance in determining who was the proper authority to actually file the preclearance application and what information should be included in that application. The original application did not substantively address the fundamental question of whether or not Amendments 5 and 6 were retrogressive to minority voters in Florida's five "covered jurisdictions," Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe counties.

It was determined that either the Attorney General, as the "chief legal officer" of the State, or the Florida Legislature, as the implementing authority for redistricting, should submit the application. The Legislature, House and Senate, then agreed to submit the application to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
President of the Senate



DEAN CANNON
Speaker of the House of Representatives

March 29, 2011

Chris Herron,
Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
United States Department of Justice
Room 7254-NWB
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Submission under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act

Dear Mr. Herron:

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives submit for preclearance two recently adopted amendments to Florida's Constitution. These amendments appeared on the 2010 general election ballot as Amendment 5, entitled "Standards for Legislature to Follow in Legislative Redistricting," and Amendment 6, entitled "Standards for Legislature to Follow in Congressional Redistricting." These amendments are now found in Article III, Section 20 (Amendment 6) and Article III, Section 21 (Amendment 5) of the Florida Constitution.

The submission accompanying this letter follows the format of 28 C.F.R. § 51.27. Please let us know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Bardos".

Andy Bardos, Special Counsel to the President
The Florida Senate
On behalf of President Mike Haridopolos

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Levesque".

George Levesque, General Counsel
Florida House of Representatives
On behalf of Speaker Dean Cannon

Cc: The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida
The Honorable Pam Bondi, Attorney General of the State of Florida
Kurt Browning, Florida Secretary of State

SUBMISSION UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

The Florida Legislature submits for preclearance two recent amendments to Florida's Constitution (collectively, the "Amendments"). The Amendments appeared on the 2010 general election ballot as Amendment 5, entitled "Standards for Legislature to Follow in Legislative Redistricting," and Amendment 6, entitled "Standards for Legislature to Follow in Congressional Redistricting." The Amendments are now Article III, Section 20 (Amendment 6) and Article III, Section 21 (Amendment 5) of the Florida Constitution.

As required by 28 CFR § 51.27, the following materials relate to this submission:

(a) A copy of the law embodying change affecting voting.

Exhibit A contains Article III, Sections 20 and 21 of the Florida Constitution.

(b) A copy of the law embodying voting practice that is proposed to be repealed, amended, or otherwise changed.

Exhibit B contains Article III, Section 16, which regulates state legislative redistricting, and therefore relates to Article III, Section 21 of the Florida Constitution. Previously, there was no mention of congressional redistricting in the Florida Constitution.

(c) Statement of the change explaining the difference between the submitted change and the prior law or practice.

Prior to the amendments, the Florida Legislature could draw state legislative districts in any manner that complied with federal law and the requirements of Article III, Section 16 of the Florida Constitution. Article III, section 16 requires districts to consist of contiguous, identical, or overlapping territory and specifies the allowable number of state legislative districts and the manner in which they are numbered.

Prior to the amendments, the Florida Constitution did not establish standards applicable to congressional redistricting. The Legislature previously could draw congressional districts in any manner consistent with federal law.

The proposed changes in Article III, Sections 20 and 21 of the Florida Constitution add two levels of new requirements for both state legislative and congressional redistricting:

The first-level requirements are: (i) "no apportionment plan or individual district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent;" (ii) "districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice;" and (iii) "districts shall consist of contiguous territory." Article III, Sections 20 and 21 differ in that Section 21 does not contain the word "individual" in the prohibition against a district being drawn with an intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent.

The second-level requirements, which shall be applied absent conflict with the first-level requirements or federal law, are: (i) “districts shall be as nearly equal in population as practicable;” (ii) “districts shall be compact;” and (iii) “districts shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.”

In addition, Article III, Sections 20 and 21 state that the order in which the standards within the first-level and the second-level “are set forth shall not be read to establish any priority of one standard over the other within that [level].”

(d) The name, title, address, and telephone number of the person making the submission.

George Levesque, General Counsel
Florida House of Representatives
On behalf of Speaker Dean Cannon
422 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 488-7631

and

Andy Bardos, Special Counsel to the President
General Counsel, Committee on Reapportionment
On behalf of Senate President Mike Haridopolos
The Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 487-5229

(e) The name of the submitting authority and the name of the jurisdiction for the change.

The Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, jointly as the Florida Legislature, submit this request on behalf of the five designated preclearance counties in Florida: Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe.

(f) Name of county and state submitting this request.

The Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, jointly as the Florida Legislature, submit this request on behalf of the five designated preclearance counties in Florida: Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe.

(g) Identification of the person or body responsible for the change and mode of decision.

FairDistrictsFlorida.org, a Florida political committee (“Fair Districts”), sponsored the petition initiatives that led to the placement of the Amendments on the 2010 general election ballot. The Amendments were adopted at a statewide election pursuant to Article XI, Sections 3 and 5 of the Florida Constitution. The Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, lists the following individuals as officers of Fair Districts: Manuel A. Diaz (Chairperson), Richard A. Berkowitz (Treasurer), and Ellen Freidin (Registered Agent). *See* Exhibit C.

According to Fair Districts’ website, <http://www.fairdistrictsflorida.org/aboutus.php>, Ellen Freidin also served as the Campaign Chair. *See* Exhibit D.

(h) Statement identifying the statutory or other authority under which the jurisdiction undertakes the change and description of procedures to follow in deciding to undertake change.

Article III, Sections 20 and 21 of the Florida Constitution were adopted pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution, which grants citizens the power to propose amendments to the State Constitution. A number of other constitutional and statutory provisions govern the citizen-initiative process. *See* Fla. Const. Art. IV, § 10; Fla. Const. Art. XI, § 5; § 16.061, Fla. Stat. (duty of Attorney General to petition Florida Supreme Court for advisory opinion on initiative petitions); § 100.371, Fla. Stat. (initiatives; procedures for ballot placement); § 101.161, Fla. Stat. (referenda; ballots); § 104.185, Fla. Stat. (limitations on number of times petitions signed); § 106.011(1)(a), Fla. Stat. (definition of political committee); § 106.03, Fla. Stat. (registration as political committee).

Several administrative rules also apply. *See* Fla. Admin. Code R. 1S-2.0011 (constitutional amendment ballot position); Fla. Admin. Code R. 1S-2.009 (constitutional amendment by initiative petition; constitutional amendment petition form); Fla. Admin. Code R. 1S-2.0091 (constitutional amendment by initiative petition; submission deadline; signature verification).

Sections 20 and 21 of Article III will affect the state legislative and congressional redistricting processes. Under Article III, Section 16, the Florida Legislature is responsible for developing a redistricting plan for state legislative districts. If the Florida Supreme Court invalidates the plans adopted by the Legislature, or if the Legislature does not adopt a plan, the Court must draft the redistricting plan.

Under Article I, Section 4 of the United States Constitution, the Florida Legislature is exclusively responsible for congressional redistricting. Pursuant to its obligation to determine the times, places, and manner of conducting congressional elections, the Legislature draws districts in accordance with the number of seats apportioned to the State. Historically, Florida has adopted its congressional plans by general law, subject to gubernatorial approval. *See* Ch.

2002-12, Laws of Fla. Congressional plans are not subject to automatic review by the Florida Supreme Court.

(i) The date of adoption of the change affecting voting.

Florida voters approved the Amendments on November 2, 2010. Exhibit E contains the official election results.

(j) The date on which the change is to take effect.

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 5(e) of the Florida Constitution, the Amendments became effective on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January, 2011. However, the Legislature will have no occasion to apply the new standards until it develops the State's redistricting plans.

(k) A statement that the change has not yet been enforced or administered, or an explanation of why such a statement cannot be made.

The change has not yet been enforced or administered in Florida.

(l) Where the change will affect less than the entire jurisdiction, explain scope.

Not applicable.

(m) Statement of the reasons for change.

Fair Districts sponsored the petition-initiative drive that led to the placement of the Amendments on the 2010 general election ballot. The voters adopted the Amendments at a statewide election under Article XI, Sections 3 and 5 of the Florida Constitution. For a discussion of the reasons for the change, see answer and exhibits at section (r) below.

(n) A statement of the anticipated effect of the change on members of racial or language minorities.

I. Background.

We recognize that the Amendments significantly change Florida's redistricting criteria in a manner which, depending on their interpretation, could be retrogressive. This section therefore identifies the Amendments' potentially retrogressive aspects and explains why, under the interpretation set forth here, the Amendments do not have a retrogressive effect.

Prior to the Amendments' adoption, the Florida Legislature had virtually unconstrained authority under state law to draw districts that enhance and preserve minority voting strength. Since the Florida Constitution placed only modest limitations on the Legislature's line-drawing discretion, *see* Art. III, § 16, Fla. Const., the most relevant limitations on the Legislature's ability to promote minority representation were the federal anti-gerrymandering constraints of *Shaw v.*

Reno and its progeny, see *Shaw v. Hunt*, 517 U.S. 899 (1996); *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900 (1995); *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630 (1993). In recent times, the Legislature successfully used its broad authority to draw districts that dramatically increased minority representation. See Table 1.

**Table 1: Minority Members of Florida’s
 Congressional Delegation and the Florida Legislature**

	Congress		State Senate		State House	
	African-American	Hispanic	African-American	Hispanic	African-American	Hispanic
Pre-1982	0	0	0	0	5	0
1982 Plan	0	0-1	2	0-3	10-12	3-7
1992 Plan	3	2	5	3	14-16	9-11
2002 Plan	3	3	6-7	3	17-20	11-15

The new Amendments limit the Legislature’s broad line-drawing discretion in a way that could create potential obstacles to the preservation or enhancement of minority voting strength. Nevertheless, if the Amendments are properly interpreted as set forth below, we believe they do not reduce the relevant discretion of the Legislature and are therefore not retrogressive.

II. Potentially Retrogressive Aspects of the Amendments.

The most obvious retrogression issue is that Subsection (2) of the new Amendments requires that districts “shall be compact” and “where feasible, utilize existing political and geographical boundaries,” unless “compliance with [those] standards” conflicts with the standards in Subsection (1) or with federal law. Among other things, Subsection (1) states that “districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice” (the “Voting Rights Provisions”).

Previously, the Legislature could disregard compactness and break through political and geographical boundaries in order to create districts in which minorities were able to elect their preferred candidates, even where the federal Voting Rights Act (the “VRA”) did not require such districts. Thus, the Legislature could—and did—downplay geometric compactness and breach political and geographical boundaries to create districts in which minority-preferred candidates had an opportunity to be elected, even where the minority voting-age population comprised less than a numerical majority, and where the district was not, therefore, required by Section 2 of the VRA. See *Bartlett v. Strickland*, 129 S. Ct. 1231, 1246 (2009) (Kennedy, J., plurality opinion). For example, State Senate District 1, which includes parts of five counties within its irregular boundaries, has consistently elected an African-American Senator, though African-Americans

form less than a majority of the district's voting-age population. *See* Exhibit S. The minority population of Senate District 29, though a majority, is not geometrically compact under some definitions, falling within a narrow line that runs perpendicularly through a county boundary. *Id.* And the minority population of Congressional District 3, which has elected a minority representative for ten consecutive two-year terms, is neither a numerical majority nor, under some definitions, geometrically compact. The district combines parts of nine counties, capturing parts of Orlando, Gainesville, and Jacksonville within its boundaries. *Id.*

Depending on the Amendments' interpretation, however, the Legislature could hereafter create or preserve such districts only where *required* by the federal VRA or the Voting Rights Provisions. (Obviously, if the Voting Rights Provisions are construed merely to incorporate federal voting-rights standards, then there is no difference between the requirements of federal law and those of the proposed changes.) Thus, under one interpretation of the Amendments, the compactness and local-boundary requirements of Subsection (2) are retrogressive because they diminish the Legislature's ability to create or preserve districts in which minorities have an ability to elect their preferred candidates. It could, for example, be argued that a district line may not cross a political boundary to create a district with less than a numerical majority of minority voting-age population, since this is not mandated by Section 2 of the VRA (or perhaps the Voting Rights Provisions) and thus there is no "conflict with the standards in subsection (1) or federal law" that would justify splitting the boundary to create a performing minority district.

The provision of the Amendments that prohibits districts "drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent" also creates potential retrogression. To protect and enhance minority voting strength, the Legislature traditionally has taken into account the incumbency status of minority office-holders and the partisan composition of minority districts. *See, e.g., Martinez v. Bush*, 234 F. Supp. 2d 1275, 1302-10 (S.D. Fla. 2002) (finding support for congressional districts in their political composition and the electability of incumbents). Indeed, in some cases, the VRA requires affirmative consideration of incumbency and partisan affiliation when relevant to maintaining the ability of minorities to elect their preferred candidates. *See* Exhibit H: *Amici Curiae* Brief of Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches and Democracia Ahora in Support of Petitioners at 5, *Roberts v. Brown*, 43 So. 3d 673 (Fla. 2010) (No. SC10-1362) ("To be sure, courts have recognized that legislatures may, under appropriate circumstances, consider certain types of incumbency data for the purpose of complying with [the VRA].").

Thus, Section 5 of the VRA requires consideration of the effect of a new redistricting plan on minority incumbents, even if the effect is unintended. *See, e.g.,* Objection Letter from Bill Lann Lee, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, to David Mendez, Bicerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever & McDaniel (June 5, 2000) (objecting in part because of effect on "incumbent African-American Trustee"), *in* 2 Voting Rights Act: Section 5 of the Act – History, Scope, and Purpose, Hearing Before the Subcomm. on the Constitution of the H. Comm. on the Judiciary, 109th Cong. (2005), at 2508-12 ("VRA Hearing"); Objection Letter from Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, to the Honorable Geoffrey Connor, Acting Secretary of State, State of Texas, (Nov. 16, 2001) (objecting in part because plan "pairs a nonminority and a

Hispanic incumbent”), *in* VRA Hearing at 2518-23; Objection Letter from William Bradford Reynolds, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, to the Honorable Charles Stavelly, Terrell County Judge (Jan. 13, 1986) (objecting in part because of effect on “lone Mexican-American incumbent in Precinct 2”), *in* VRA Hearing at 2227-29.

Similarly, because Section 5 prohibits a diminishment in the ability of minorities to elect their preferred candidates, the Legislature is obliged, with respect to minority districts within covered jurisdictions, to consider election returns and partisan affiliations to avoid the prohibited result. *See* Guidance Concerning Redistricting Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act; Notice, 76 Fed. Reg. 7470, 7471 (Feb. 9, 2011) (“[E]lection history and voting patterns within the jurisdiction, voter registration and turnout information, and other similar information are very important to an assessment of the actual effect of a redistricting plan.”). As noted, a similar analysis is required under Section 2 to assess the opportunity of minorities to elect their preferred candidates. *See* *Martinez*, 234 F. Supp. 2d at 1302-10. Under one interpretation of the Amendments, however, the Legislature would no longer have the same freedom to consider a plan’s effects on minority incumbents and minority-supported political parties in its efforts to preserve and enhance minority voting strength.

III. Non-Retrogressive Construction of the Amendments.

Properly interpreted, we do not believe that the Amendments create roadblocks to the preservation or enhancement of minority voting strength. To avoid retrogression in the position of racial minorities, the Amendments must be understood to preserve without change the Legislature’s prior ability to construct effective minority districts. Moreover, the Voting Rights Provisions ensure that the Amendments in no way constrain the Legislature’s discretion to preserve or enhance minority voting strength, and permit any practices or considerations that might be instrumental to that important purpose. In promoting minority voting strength, the Legislature may continue to employ whatever means were previously at its disposal.

This interpretation comports with the language of the Amendments and the clearly expressed intent of the sponsors and proponents of the Amendments. It is also compelled by Section 5. Were the Amendments interpreted to restrict the methods by which the Legislature can promote minority voting strength, the Amendments would be retrogressive.

Under the proper, non-retrogressive interpretation of the Amendments, therefore, the Legislature may continue to preserve and enhance minority voting strength without respect to the compactness and local-boundary requirements of Subsection (2), even if those districts are not strictly necessary to avoid a diminishment in the ability of minorities to elect the representatives of their choice. *Cf.* Exhibit Q: Memorandum from the Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches 2 (Apr. 13, 2010) (“NAACP Memorandum”) (“Often . . . it is necessary to draw black majority districts that are not compact in order for the district to provide an effective opportunity for black[] . . . voters to elect candidates of their choice.”) Further, under a non-retrogressive interpretation of the Amendments, the Legislature would retain the authority to promote minority voting strength through its consideration of the incumbency status of minority office-holders, *see* Exhibit P: Letter from Paul M. Smith & Michael B. DeSanctis to State Senator Christopher

Smith & State Representative Perry Thurston 2 (Dec. 7, 2009) (the “Smith Letter”) (“Notably, the amendments do not prohibit redistricting plans that produce favorable *results* for incumbents—only plans that *intend* to favor incumbents.”), and of the partisan composition of minority and adjacent districts, *see id.* (“It is perfectly acceptable, under the amendments, for the Legislature to use ‘information regarding the political makeup [of a district] in order to comply with the Voting Rights Act and the amendments’ requirement that minorities be able to elect representatives of their choice.”); *id.* at 1 (“[T]he use of [political vote histories, registration data, and historical election results] to enable minorities to elect representatives of their choice is perfectly *consistent* with the amendments . . .”). And, of course, the Legislature may, as it has traditionally done, continue to consider districting principles, such as respect for communities of interest and the cores of existing districts, to preserve and enhance minority voting strength. *See Lawyer v. Dep’t of Justice*, 521 U.S. 567, 581 (1997); *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 916 (1995). Nothing in the Amendments prohibits consideration of such race-neutral criteria.

An interpretation that holds minorities harmless from the new restrictions imposed by the Amendments finds support in the broad and muscular protections of Subsection (1), which guarantees an “equal opportunity to participate in the political process” and prohibits any diminishment in the “ability [of minorities] to elect representatives of their choice.” These protections show that the Amendments were not intended to make minorities worse off, as would be the case if the Amendments imposed new constraints on the Legislature’s ability to preserve and enhance minority voting strength.”¹

This conclusion is confirmed by the representations of the Amendments’ sponsors and proponents, who consistently maintained that there would be “no harm done” to the rights of minorities. *See* Exhibit M: Joint Meeting of the Fla. Senate Comm. on Reapportionment and H.R. Select Policy Council on Strategic & Econ. Planning, Tr. at 71 (Feb. 11, 2010); *id.* at 18 (“These amendments will not in any way reduce the rights of minority voters . . .” (statement of Ellen Freidin)); *id.* at 67 (“So first you have to have the minority districts drawn. Once you have those districts drawn you go ahead and you make the other districts[,] to the extent that you can, compact and utilizing existing boundaries.” (statement of Ellen Freidin)); *id.* at 70-71 (“[T]here are two things that these amendments were intended to do, and they both involve fairness. . . . The other part of the fairness . . . is to ensure that these amendments do not create any situation that would be unfair in any way or disadvantage in any way minority voters.” (statement of Ellen Freidin)); *id.* at 130 (“[T]here is not a reason to think that this is going to impact negatively minority representation.” (statement of Ellen Freidin)); *id.* at 131 (“And there is no reason to

¹ At a minimum, the Voting Rights Provisions include a non-retrogression requirement, independent of the territorial limitations of Section 5. *Compare* Art. III, §§ 20 & 21, Fla. Const. (providing that “districts shall not be drawn . . . to diminish [the] ability [of minorities] to elect representatives of their choice”), *with* 42 U.S.C. § 1973c (prohibiting standards, practices, or procedures that “diminish[] the ability of any citizens . . . on account of race or color . . . to elect their preferred candidates of choice”); *see also* Guidance Concerning Redistricting Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act; Notice, 76 Fed. Reg. 7470 (Feb. 9, 2011).

think and I have not heard a sustainable legal argument that . . . would indicate in any way that this does reduce minority voting rights.” (statement of Ellen Freidin)).

Indeed, the sponsors and proponents represented that the intent of the Amendments is to enhance the position of racial minorities. *See* Smith Letter at 1 (“[The Amendments] would also protect, and indeed enhance, the ability of minorities to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice.”); NAACP Memorandum at 1 (“[A]ttorneys for the NAACP and other voting rights experts believe it is likely that the new standards will give Florida’s minority voters even *more* protection than they presently have under the federal Voting Rights Act.”); Catherine Whittenburg, *Plan to Redraw State Districts Called Unfair*, Tampa Tribune, Jan. 12, 2010 (“These amendments have been drafted very carefully to ensure that minority voters do not lose representation in Florida. In fact, they provide greater protection than exists today in federal law.” (quoting Ellen Freidin)); Brandon Larrabee, *Race Enters Debate Over Redrawing Florida Political Districts*, Florida Times-Union, Dec. 13, 2009 (“These amendments have been so carefully drafted, not only to protect the voting rights of minorities but to enhance the rights of minorities in the state of Florida.” (quoting Ellen Freidin)).

It would contravene the stated intent of the Amendments—and produce retrogression—if the Amendments were construed to impinge on the freedom formerly exercised by the Legislature to draw districts that preserve or enhance minority voting strength. This further confirms that the Voting Rights Provisions permit the Legislature to preserve and enhance minority voting strength, unconstrained by the other criteria in the Amendments, in the same manner that the Legislature was previously free to create minority districts. While the courts have not yet construed the Amendments, this analysis should alleviate concerns about the numerous retrogressive tendencies of the Amendments. If applied according to this construction, the proposed changes will not have a retrogressive effect.

- (o) **A statement identifying any past or pending litigation concerning the change or related voting practices.**

Pending Litigation

Diaz-Balart v. Scott, Case No. 1:10-CV-23968-UU (S.D. Fla.). Plaintiffs, members of the Congress, challenge Article III, Section 20 of the Florida Constitution. They contend that Article III, Section 20 violates the Supremacy and Due Process Clauses of the United States Constitution. They also contend that federal law preempts Article III, Section 20. The Florida House of Representatives has intervened as a plaintiff. The case files are included as Exhibit F.

The League of Women Voters v. Scott, Case No. 4:11-CV-10006-KMM (S.D. Fla.). In this case, the plaintiffs ask the federal district court to compel the Governor or his executive agency to submit the Amendments for preclearance. The case files are included as Exhibit G.

Past Litigation

Roberts v. Brown, 43 So. 2d 673 (Fla. 2010). In this case, the plaintiffs argued to the trial court that the ballot summaries of the proposed Amendments were misleading and should be removed from the ballot. The Florida Secretary of State petitioned the Florida Supreme Court to prohibit trial court jurisdiction. The Court ruled in the Secretary's favor and held that it had exclusive jurisdiction to consider pre-election challenges to petition initiatives. The trial court then dismissed the case. The case files are included as Exhibit H.

Florida Department of State v. Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches, 43 So. 2d 662 (Fla. 2010). This was a challenge to legislatively proposed Amendment 7 to the Florida Constitution (relating to state legislative and congressional redistricting). Plaintiffs argued that Amendment 7's ballot title and summary were misleading. The trial court agreed and ordered Amendment 7 removed from the ballot. The Florida Supreme Court affirmed. The case files are included as Exhibit I.

Advisory Opinion to Attorney General re Standards for Establishing Legislative District Boundaries, 2 So. 3d 175 (Fla. 2009). In this case, the Florida Attorney General requested an advisory opinion from the Florida Supreme Court regarding the validity of the ballot titles and summaries for the Amendments. The Supreme Court advised that the Amendments were appropriate for the ballot. The case files are included as Exhibit J.

(p) A statement that the prior practice has been precleared.

Not applicable.

(q) For redistricting and annexations: the items listed under 28 C.F.R. § 51.28(a)(1) and (b)(1); for annexations only, the items listed under 28 C.F.R. § 51.28(c)(3).

Not applicable.

(r) Other information required for evaluation.

Florida's 2010 Census Redistricting Data [P.L. 94-171] Summary Files

The United States Census Bureau made Florida's 2010 Census Redistricting Data available on March 17, 2011. To download the Census data, visit <http://www.census.gov/rdo>. A comparison of current congressional and state legislative districts' populations, based on the 2010 Census, with the new ideal populations is included as Exhibit K.

Fair Districts

Relevant information from Fair Districts is included as Exhibit L.

Legislative Records

A transcript of the February 11, 2010, joint meeting of the Florida House Select Policy Council on Strategic & Economic Planning and Florida Senate Committee on Reapportionment, as well as a PowerPoint presentation from that meeting, are included as Exhibit M.

House Joint Resolution 7231, adopted by the Legislature at its regular session in 2010, resulted in proposed constitutional Amendment 7, which was subsequently ordered removed from the ballot. The bill analyses provide background on issues surrounding Florida standards for redistricting. They are included as Exhibit N.

Records from the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research

This office prepares financial impact statements for proposed constitutional amendments. The financial impact statements and supporting and opposing letters are included as Exhibit O.

Jenner & Block

Jenner & Block LLP prepared a legal opinion on the Amendments for State Senator Christopher Smith and State Representative Perry Thurston. This letter is included as Exhibit P.

NAACP

A letter and memorandum from the Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches to Senator Mike Haridopolos and Representative Dean Cannon regarding the Amendments are included as Exhibit Q.

Political Advertisement

A paid political advertisement produced by Fair Districts and former Speaker of the Florida House Jon Mills that discusses the Amendments is included as Exhibit R.

District Maps

Maps of Congressional District 3 and Senate Districts 1 and 29 are included as Exhibit S.



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Contact:

Katie Betta, (850) 339-7087

Statement by Speaker Cannon Regarding the Preclearance of Amendments 5 & 6

Tallahassee, Fla. – Florida House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) today released the following statement regarding the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) approving the ‘Preclearance Application’ for the newly adopted Sections 20 and 21 of Article III of the Florida Constitution (Amendments 5 and 6).

“The preclearance of Amendments 5 and 6 was a necessary step before the legislature could implement them as part of the upcoming redistricting process. More importantly, the preclearance of Amendments 5 and 6 is validation that Florida’s new constitutional standards for redistricting promote and protect the ability of racial and language minority communities to equally participate in the electoral process and elect candidates of their choice.”

The Preclearance Application, which asked that DOJ affirmatively preclear Amendments 5 and 6, was submitted jointly by the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate on March 29, 2011.

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The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

For Immediate Release:
Monday, June 13, 2011

Contact:
Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006
David Bishop, (850) 487-5229

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Florida Legislature to Hold First Round of Public Redistricting Meetings in Florida's Panhandle

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees will hold their first round of joint public meetings in Florida's Panhandle. Meetings will take place in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach and Panama City from **Monday, June 20, to Wednesday, June 22.**

These meetings will give the public an opportunity to start the conversation about redistricting and share their ideas directly with Florida legislators. For more information on the Florida House of Representatives' redistricting efforts, please visit FloridaRedistricting.org.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Tallahassee
Date: Monday, June 20, 2011
Time: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT & 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
Location: 412 Knott Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Note: *Media Availability to Follow at 4:15 p.m. in Room 333, Capitol*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Pensacola
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT
Location: WSRE-TV – Amos Studio
1000 College Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32504
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Fort Walton Beach
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. CDT
Location: Fort Walton Beach High School
400 Hollywood Boulevard
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Panama City
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2011
Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT
Location: Gulf Coast Community College
Sarzin Lecture Hall
5230 West Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

Media seeking additional details, please contact Lyndsey Cruley at Lyndsey.Cruley@myfloridahouse.gov or (850) 524-5006.

###



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

For Immediate Release:

Monday, June 20, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006
David Bishop, (850) 487-5229

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

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Sarzin Lecture Hall
5230 West Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

Media seeking additional details, please contact Lyndsey Cruley at Lyndsey.Cruley@myfloridahouse.gov or (850) 524-5006.

###



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

For Immediate Release:
Monday, June 20, 2011

Contact:
Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006
David Bishop, (850) 487-5229

Redistricting 2012: Florida Legislature Kicks Off Statewide Public Input Tour

House & Senate Redistricting Committees to Hold 26 Public Meetings Across Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate officially kicked off a statewide public input tour today in Tallahassee. Legislators serving on the House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees will travel to 26 cities across the state to gather public input on redistricting prior to beginning the work of drawing new state House, state Senate and congressional district boundaries. Redistricting must be finalized during the 2012 Legislative Session.

“Redistricting is a historic event that occurs only once every ten years, and it is our goal to engage every Floridian in this fundamental exercise of political rights,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Fort Walton Beach), Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “With that objective in mind, we are proud to host a series of 26 community meetings across the state, which will be dedicated to listening to Floridians and getting their input about what they believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of their communities.”

Floridians who are unable to attend one of the 26 public redistricting meetings can watch the meetings live via the Florida Channel by visiting, www.MyFloridaHouse.gov and submit their comments electronically via Facebook and Twitter which are available at www.floridaredistricting.org.

“These public meetings are an opportunity for all Floridians to share their story with lawmakers and help shape the districts that are the basis of representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “It is our hope that Floridians who care about how their communities

are represented will join us at one or more public redistricting meetings so that their voices can be heard.”

“And for those who are unable to attend a meeting, we encourage you to get involved in the redistricting process through the tools and information available on the websites launched by the Florida House (floridaredistricting.org) and Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting),” added Representative Weatherford.

For a complete listing of the public meetings taking place across the State of Florida or to find more information on the Redistricting process and how you can get involved, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

###



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006

David Bishop, (850) 487-5229

Redistricting 2012: Florida Legislature Thanks Northwest Florida Residents for Telling the Stories of Their Communities

Panama City, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate wrapped up their first round of public redistricting meetings today in Panama City with lawmakers thanking the residents of Northwest Florida for telling the stories of their communities and providing input that is critical to the redistricting process. The first round of more than two dozen public redistricting meetings took place in Florida’s Panhandle from Monday, June 20, to Wednesday, June 22, and included stops in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach and Panama City.

“Public participation from the onset of the redistricting process ensures that Floridians play a key role in shaping the House, Senate and Congressional districts that will represent their communities in Tallahassee and in Washington for the next decade,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “We are dedicated to engaging the public in this process, and we hope to foster an unprecedented level of public participation as we travel throughout the state.”

Legislators serving on the House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees are scheduled to travel to 26 cities across the state to gather public input on redistricting prior to beginning the work of drawing new state House, state Senate and congressional district boundaries. Redistricting must be finalized during the 2012 Legislative Session.

“The residents of Florida’s Panhandle are extremely engaged in this once-in-a-decade redistricting process,” said Senator Don Gaetz, Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “The input that they shared with us over the past three days will play a critical role when we begin the process of drawing new legislative and congressional boundary lines.”

The next round of public redistricting meetings will be Monday, July 11, to Wednesday, July 13, and will include stops in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, The Villages and Gainesville.

For a complete listing of the public meetings taking place across the State of Florida or to find more information on the Redistricting process and how you can get involved, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org or www.flsenate.gov/redistricting. Meeting video, podcast and transcript archives from this past week's meetings will be available at the same websites.

###



The Florida House of Representatives

For Planning Purposes:

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Florida Legislature to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings in Northeast & North Central Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees will hold their second round of joint public meetings in Northeast and North Central Florida. Meetings will take place in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, The Villages and Gainesville from **Monday, July 11, to Wednesday, July 13.**

These meetings will give the public an opportunity to start the conversation about redistricting and share their ideas directly with Florida legislators. For more information on the Florida House of Representatives' redistricting efforts, please visit floridaredistricting.org.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Jacksonville
Date: Monday, July 11, 2011
Time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT &
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
Location: Florida State College (Jacksonville Downtown Campus)
401 W. State St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – St. Augustine
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Location: Flagler College (Auditorium)
14 Granada St.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Daytona Beach
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: News Journal Center at Daytona State College
221 N. Beach St., #100
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – The Villages
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Time: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. EDT
Location: Colony Cottage Recreation Center
510 Colony Blvd.
The Villages, FL 32162
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Gainesville
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: Santa Fe College (Fine Arts Hall)
3000 NW 83rd St.
Gainesville, FL 32606
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

Media seeking additional details, please contact Lyndsey Cruley at Lyndsey.Cruley@myfloridahouse.gov or (850) 524-5006.

###



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

For Immediate Release:
[Thursday, July 14, 2011](#)

Contact:
Lyndsey Cruley, [\(850\) 524-5006](tel:8505245006)

Redistricting 2012: Florida Legislature Thanks Northeast & North Central Florida Residents for Sharing Stories About Their Communities

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate wrapped up their second round of public redistricting meetings last night in Gainesville with lawmakers thanking the residents of Northeast and North Central Florida for sharing the stories of their communities and providing lawmakers with critical input in advance of the 2012 redistricting process.

The second leg of the statewide tour, which kicked-off in Florida's Panhandle last month, traveled to Northeast and North Central Florida this week and included stops in Jacksonville on Monday, July 11, St Augustine and Daytona Beach on Tuesday, July 12, and The Villages and Gainesville on Wednesday, July 13.

“Public participation is the cornerstone of the 2012 redistricting process. We need the input of the public in order to ensure that Florida's districts truly represent the portrait of Florida's many diverse communities,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “I want to sincerely thank the residents of Northeast and North Central Florida who attended the public redistricting meetings and provided us with valuable insight into their communities.”

Legislators serving on the House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees are scheduled to travel to 26 cities across the state to gather public input on redistricting prior to beginning the work of drawing new state House, state Senate and congressional district boundaries. The Florida constitution mandates that the Legislature vote on new maps during the 2012 Legislative Session, which has been moved to the months of January and February to better accommodate the redistricting timeline.

“This redistricting process will determine the basis for representation in Washington, D.C. and Tallahassee for the next decade. Therefore, it is vital that we hear how residents want their districts look, so that we can incorporate specific details of their unique communities when we begin to draw the maps this fall,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Destin), Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “We are going to continue to engage the public throughout the redistricting process, and I am looking forward to hearing more public input and testimony at the remaining meetings and through the many communication tools available from the Florida Senate and House.”

The next round of public redistricting meetings will take place [Monday, July 25](#), to [Thursday, July 28](#), and will include stops in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne.

For a complete listing of the public meetings taking place across the State of Florida or to find more information on the Redistricting process and how you can get involved, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org or www.flsenate.gov/redistricting. Meeting video, podcast and transcript archives from this past week’s meetings will be available at the same websites.

###



The Florida House of Representatives

For Planning Purposes:

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Florida Legislature to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings in Central Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees will hold their next round of joint public meetings in Central Florida. Meetings will take place in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne from **Monday, July 25, to Thursday, July 28.**

These meetings will give the public an opportunity to start the conversation about redistricting and share their ideas directly with Florida legislators. For more information on the Florida House of Representatives' redistricting efforts, please visit floridaredistricting.org.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Lakeland
Date: Monday, July 25, 2011
Time: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. EDT
Location: Polk State College (Main Auditorium)
3425 Winter Lake Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33803
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Wauchula
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2011
Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Location: Hardee County Civic Center
515 Civic Center Dr.
Wauchula, FL 33873
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Wesley Chapel
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: Wiregrass Ranch High School (Gym)
2909 Mansfield Blvd.
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Orlando
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2011
Time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT, and
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
Location: Bob Carr Performing Arts Center
401 W. Livingston St.
Orlando, FL 32801
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Melbourne
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2011
Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. EDT
Location: Brevard County Commission Chamber
2725 Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

Media seeking additional details, please contact Lyndsey Cruley at Lyndsey.Cruley@myfloridahouse.gov or (850) 524-5006.

###



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006

Redistricting 2012: Florida Legislature Thanks Central Florida Residents for Sharing their Stories

Public participation continues to be the cornerstone of the redistricting tour

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate wrapped up the Central Florida leg of the public redistricting meetings today in Melbourne with lawmakers thanking the residents of Central Florida for sharing the stories of their communities and providing lawmakers with critical input in advance of the 2012 redistricting process. With 14 public meetings now complete, the Florida House and Senate continue to be dedicated to making this redistricting process the most open and transparent in Florida’s history with public participation being the cornerstone of the tour.

The Central Florida leg of the statewide tour, which kicked-off in June, traveled to Central Florida this week and included stops in Lakeland on Monday, July 25, Wauchula and Wesley Chapel on Tuesday, July 26, Orlando on Wednesday, July 27, and Melbourne on Thursday, July 28.

“The public participation in the redistricting process has been tremendous to this point,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “Not only have we collected critical input from Floridians at the public redistricting meetings being held across the state, but countless people have submitted their comments to us via social media, like Facebook, Twitter and legislative blogs, as well as email. And now, we also have 18 of maps that have been submitted by the public posted to our website and available for others to comment on and offer their feedback about the submitted maps.”

Legislators serving on the House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees are scheduled to travel to 26 cities across the state to gather public input on redistricting prior to beginning the work of drawing new state House, state Senate and congressional district boundaries. The Florida constitution mandates that the Legislature vote on new maps during the 2012 Legislative Session, which has been moved to the months of January and February to better accommodate the redistricting timeline.

“The public input that we are taking away from these meetings now will be the foundation for any redistricting plans drafted by the Florida House and Senate,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Destin), Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “I encourage residents who have not gotten involved in the process but who are concerned about their representation in Tallahassee and Washington D.C. get engaged by coming to one of the dozen public redistricting meetings that are left or by sending your comments and input directly to our redistricting committees. This is a historic process that only occurs once every ten years and it’s essential that we hear from Floridians how they want their communities represented.”

The next round of public redistricting meetings will take place Monday, August 15, to [Thursday](#), August 18, and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West.

For a complete listing of the public meetings taking place across the State of Florida or to find more information on the Redistricting process and how you can get involved, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org or www.flsenate.gov/redistricting. Meeting video, podcast and transcript archives from this past week’s meetings will be available at the same websites.

#



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

For Planning Purposes:
Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Contact:
Lyndsey Cruley, Senate (850) 524-5006
Katie Betta, House (850) 488-1450

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Florida Legislature to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings in Southeast Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees will hold their next round of joint public meetings in Southeast Florida. Meetings will take place in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami and South Miami, as well as Key West from **Monday, August 15, to Thursday, August 18.**

These meetings will give the public an opportunity to start the conversation about redistricting and share their ideas directly with Florida legislators. For more information on the Florida House and Senate's redistricting efforts, please visit the web pages launched by both the House (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting).

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Stuart
Date: Monday, August 15, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: Blake Library
2351 SE Monterey Rd.
Stuart, FL 34996
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Boca Raton
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2011
Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. EDT
Location: Florida Atlantic University
777 Glades Rd.
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Davie
Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: Broward College (Gym)
3501 Southwest Davie Road
Davie, FL 33312
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Miami
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2011
Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. EDT
Location: Miami Dade College
300 NE 2nd Ave.
Miami, FL 33132
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – South Miami
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: Florida International University College of Law
11200 SW 8th St.
Miami, FL 33199
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Key West
Date: Thursday, August 18, 2011
Time: 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. EDT
Location: Florida Key Community College
5901 College Road
Key West, FL 33040
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

###

For Immediate Release

August 10, 2011

Contact: Katie Betta

(850) 339-7087

Statement by Speaker Cannon Regarding the Timeline for Florida's Redistricting Process

Tallahassee—Florida House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) today released the following statement regarding the request from the League of Women Voters of Florida, the NAACP, Democracia U.S.A and Florida Common Cause to set a time certain for the legislative approval of Florida's new maps.

“The legislative process is governed by the constitution of the State of Florida and that is the only timetable we will follow.

“Given the League's complete refusal to meaningfully participate in the redistricting process by submitting any proposed maps themselves, this is clearly another politically motivated ruse that attempts to mislead the public and increase the chance the districts will end up being drawn by the courts.”

###



The Florida House of Representatives

For Immediate Release:

Friday, August 19, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, Senate (850) 487-5632

Katie Betta, House (850) 488-1450

Redistricting 2012: The Florida Legislature Thanks Southeast Florida Residents for Sharing Their Stories and Submitting New Maps

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate wrapped up the Southeast Florida leg of the public redistricting meetings last evening in Key West with lawmakers thanking the residents of Southeast Florida for sharing the stories of their communities and providing lawmakers with critical input in advance of the 2012 redistricting process. Members of the Legislature also noted their appreciation of a very civil and open dialogue regarding how redistricting should affect Florida's diverse communities.

The Key West meeting was the 20th in a statewide tour. Other hearing locations included Stuart on Monday, August 15, Boca Raton and Davie on Tuesday, August 16, Miami and South Miami on Wednesday, August 17, and concluded with the meeting in Key West on Thursday, August 18. Multiple speakers presented proposed news maps, while others utilized House and Senate redistricting software to draw maps at the display tables outside of the meeting rooms. In total, the Legislature has received more than 30 partial and complete maps.

“We want to thank the residents of Southeast Florida who came to one of the public redistricting meetings and helped lawmakers better understand their unique and diverse communities,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Destin), Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “Public input is paramount to this historic, once-in-a-decade process and we could not redraw district boundary lines without first traveling to each region of our state and hearing from Floridians about their communities.”

Legislators are traveling the state this summer to gather public input on redistricting prior to beginning the work of drawing new state House, state Senate and congressional district boundaries. The Florida constitution mandates that the Legislature vote on new maps during the 2012 Legislative Session, which the Legislature moved to the months of January and February to better accommodate the redistricting timeline.

“With 20 public meetings now complete, the Florida Legislature has collected a tremendous amount of valuable input from Floridians in nearly all regions of our state, and we look forward to visiting Southwest Florida next on the last leg of our 26-city statewide tour,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “We encourage residents to stay engaged throughout the 2012 redistricting process. We want to continue to hear from you and collect your feedback and comments on maps that are submitted by our fellow Floridians, as well as maps that are proposed by the Legislature.”

The next round of public redistricting meetings will take place Monday, August 29, to Thursday, September 1, and will include stops in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston.

For a complete listing of the public meetings taking place across the State of Florida or to find more information on the Redistricting process and how you can get involved, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org or www.flsenate.gov/redistricting. Meeting video, podcast and transcript archives from this past week’s meetings will be available at the same websites.

###

Managed care for Medicaid raises concerns in Florida

WTSP-TV CBS Tampa

July 18, 2011

By: Dave Heller

Tallahassee, Florida - Florida is moving ahead with plans to place the state's 3 million Medicaid recipients into managed care programs and that's raising concerns among pharmacies in Florida.

A group called Pharmacy Choice and Access Now, or PCAN, is concerned the new managed-care system will prevent Medicaid patients from having their prescriptions filled at the pharmacy of their choice.

Pharmacy owners are calling on the state not to require mandatory mail ordering for prescriptions. Plus, they want Medicaid patients to have the option to fill 90-day prescriptions with their own neighborhood pharmacy.

Bill Mincy, a member of Pharmacy Choice and Access Now, says mandatory prescription mail ordering would hurt patients, as well as local pharmacy businesses.

"We in the local pharmacies across Florida will lose business to out-of-state mail order pharmacies, creating layoffs and possibly even pharmacy closures."

Michael Jackson of the Florida Pharmacy Association wants the state to make timely payments to providers and make sure patients can keep their business with the pharmacists they trust.

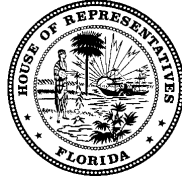
"We think it makes very good sense for Medicaid patients and state employees to maintain the choice of having their prescriptions filled by their personal pharmacist. Policies or a lack of policies or guidelines that create mandatory mail order programs make no sense for patients or for the many Florida pharmacies that they rely on for their care."

But one of the main lawmakers to shape the managed-care Medicaid plan says patients do not have to worry about any mail-order mandates.

Rep. Robert Schenck says the new law reforming Medicaid prohibits the exclusive use of mail-order pharmacies for patients.

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Read More: <http://www.wtsp.com/news/health/article/201535/12/Managed-care-for-Medicaid-raises-concerns-in-Florida>



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

For Planning Purposes:

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, Senate (850) 524-5006
Katie Betta, House (850) 488-1450

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Florida Legislature to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings in Southwest Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees will hold their final round of joint public meetings in Southwest Florida. Meetings will take place in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston from **Monday, August 29, to Thursday, September 1.**

These meetings will give the public an opportunity to start the conversation about redistricting and share their ideas directly with Florida legislators. For more information on the Florida House and Senate's redistricting efforts, please visit the web pages launched by both the House (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting).

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Tampa
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011
Time: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
Location: Jefferson High School (Auditorium)
4401 Cypress St.
Tampa, FL 33607
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Largo
Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Location: The EpiCenter at St. Petersburg College
13805 58th St. N.
Largo, FL 33760
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Sarasota
Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: New College (Harry Sudakoff Conference Center)
5845 General Dougher Pl.
Sarasota, FL 34243
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Naples
Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Location: Naples Daily News Community Room
1100 Immokalee Rd.
Naples, FL 34108
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Lehigh Acres
Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: Veterans Park Recreation Center
55 Homestead Rd. S.
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Clewiston
Date: Thursday, September 1, 2011
Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Location: Hendry County Health Department
100 South Olympia Ave.
Clewiston, FL 33440
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

###

For Planning Purposes:
Monday, August 29, 2011

Contact:
Lyndsey Cruley, Senate (850) 487-5632
Katie Betta, House (850) 488-1450

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Florida Legislature to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings in Southwest Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees will hold their final round of joint public meetings in Southwest Florida. Meetings will take place in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston from **Monday, August 29, to Thursday, September 1.**

These meetings will give the public an opportunity to start the conversation about redistricting and share their ideas directly with Florida legislators. For more information on the Florida House and Senate's redistricting efforts, please visit the web pages launched by both the House (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting).

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Tampa
Date: Monday, August 29, 2011
Time: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
Location: Jefferson High School (Auditorium)
4401 Cypress St.
Tampa, FL 33607
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Largo
Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Location: The EpiCenter at St. Petersburg College
13805 58th St. N.
Largo, FL 33760
Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Sarasota
Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Location: New College (Harry Sudakoff Conference Center)
5845 General Dougher Pl.

Sarasota, FL 34243

Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Naples

Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT

Location: Naples Daily News Community Room

1100 Immokalee Rd.

Naples, FL 34108

Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Lehigh Acres

Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT

Location: Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Rd. S.

Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

What: Public Redistricting Meeting – Clewiston

Date: Thursday, September 1, 2011

Time: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT

Location: Hendry County Health Department

1100 South Olympia Avenue

Clewiston, FL 33440

Note: *Media Availability to Immediately Follow*

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The Florida House of Representatives

For Planning Purposes:

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Contact:

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

House Redistricting Committee and Subcommittees to Review Public Comments

Tallahassee, Fla. – The House Redistricting Committee and Subcommittees will meet on Monday, September 19. Members will begin reviewing the public input received at recent redistricting meetings held in 26 communities across Florida.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: House Redistricting Committee Meeting
Date: Monday, September 19, 2011
Time: 12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: House Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, September 19, 2011
Time: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Senate Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, September 19, 2011
Time: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. EDT
Location: Morris Hall (17 House Office Building)
Tallahassee, FL

What: Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, September 19, 2011

Page 2

Time: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

###

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Contact:

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

**House Redistricting Committees Review Public Input
From Statewide Redistricting Meetings**

More than 5,000 Floridians attended 26 meetings throughout Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – Following a series of 26 meetings to gather public input about the Florida Legislature’s redistricting efforts, members of the House redistricting committees convened Monday to begin reviewing the information and ideas provided by the more than 2,000 Floridians who presented their thoughts as part of the statewide tour. Meetings were held by the House Redistricting Committee, House Redistricting Subcommittee, Senate Redistricting Subcommittee and the Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee.

“Using the ideas we received from the public as our guide, we are honoring our commitment to start the redistricting process with the valuable information provided to us from Floridians of every corner of the state,” said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). “The volume of information we have received has been historic and we will continue to seek input from Floridians throughout the process.”

On Monday, committee members heard summaries of the spoken and written testimony provided by individuals who attended the statewide series of meetings this summer. In addition, the summaries also covered public input received via letters, social media and actual maps that were submitted for the Legislature’s consideration.

Floridians are encouraged to continue submitting their own ideas for maps to the House via email, social media, or any other method, including through the Florida House’s [MyDistrictBuilder](#)TM application. Although, at today’s Redistricting Committee meeting, Chairman Will Weatherford did recommend that the public come forward with any new ideas prior to November 1. Otherwise, input received after that date will be used in response to the maps being developed by the committees and members of the House.

To date, the Florida House has received 64 complete or partial maps, including 21 complete and 14 partial Congressional maps, four complete and 15 partial House maps, and five complete and five partial Senate maps. Individuals from nearly every age group, including students and seniors, are utilizing the [MyDistrictBuilder](#)TM program.

Future committee meetings will be available through the ‘Broadcasts’ section of the Florida House of Representatives website. Additionally, archived footage of all committee and subcommittee meetings is available on the Florida House’s individual Redistricting committee and subcommittee pages. After today’s meetings, committee members will now begin using the public input collected for their own maps in preparation for the 2012 Legislative Session, which begins January 10, 2012. Floridians may follow the Redistricting committees on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or email committee staff directly at MyDistrictBuilder@myfloridahouse.gov.

###

For Planning Purposes:
Friday, September 30, 2011

Contact:
Ryan Duffy, (850) 524-5006

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

House Redistricting Committee and Subcommittees to Review Public Comments

Tallahassee, Fla. – The House Redistricting Committee and Subcommittees will meet on Monday, October 3. Members will continue reviewing the public input received at recent redistricting meetings held in 26 communities across Florida.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Congressional Redistricting Committee Meeting
Date: Monday, October 3, 2011
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: House Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, October 3, 2011
Time: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Senate Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, October 3, 2011
Time: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. EDT
Location: Morris Hall (17 House Office Building)
Tallahassee, FL

###

For Planning Purposes:
Friday, October 14, 2011

Contact:
Ryan Duffy, (850) 524-5006

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

House Redistricting Subcommittees to Hold Meetings

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House of Representatives' Redistricting subcommittees will meet on Monday, October 17. Members of each subcommittee will review and discuss redistricting map options for the key decision points identified by subcommittee members in their prior meetings.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: House Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, October 17, 2011
Time: 1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Senate Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, October 17, 2011
Time: 1:15 p.m. – 3:15p.m. EDT
Location: Morris Hall (17 House Office Building)
Tallahassee, FL

What: Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, October 17, 2011
Time: 3:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

###

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Contact:

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

House Redistricting Subcommittees Begin Reviewing Early Plans for New Maps

Florida Legislature has received nearly 100 maps from Floridians

Tallahassee, Fla. – Using the public input received from Floridians at 26 meetings around the state and online through FloridaRedistricting.org, House redistricting subcommittees discussed a host of options on Monday as they move one step closer to formally introducing maps as part of the Florida Legislature’s redistricting efforts.

“Florida is a dynamic and diverse state and will face many challenges over the course of the next decade; creating districts that accurately reflect the unique makeup of our communities is critical,” said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). “We must ensure the voices of all Floridians are heard and their concerns are addressed before we begin drawing maps. We must listen before we act.”

As part of Monday’s meetings, subcommittee members reviewed early plans developed using ideas and suggestions presented throughout the public outreach phase of the redistricting process. The subcommittees began considering how certain maps will be drawn around several Florida cities and communities. Each House subcommittee has developed its own course for beginning the process of drawing maps. Among the options considered by the subcommittees:

Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee:

- Options for urban communities and the subsequent impacts on rural communities;
- Options for high growth communities;
- Options for minority communities; and
- Options for starting the maps in Central Florida.

House Redistricting Subcommittee:

- Options for major population centers;
- Tradeoffs between whole counties versus cross-jurisdictional communities; and
- Options for racial and language minority communities.

Senate Redistricting Subcommittee:

- Comparisons of the potential big picture themes for each region; and
- Options for minority communities.

Floridians are still encouraged to submit additional maps via the Florida House's MyDistrictBuilder™ application in preparation for the 2012 Legislative Session, which begins January 10, 2012. To date, nearly 100 maps have been received. Floridians may follow the Redistricting committees on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or email committee staff directly at MyDistrictBuilder@myfloridahouse.gov.

###

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, October 20, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-5632

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

Florida Legislature Reaches Milestone of 100 Maps from Floridians to Aid in Redistricting
Efforts Twenty-five times the number of maps submitted by Floridians compared to a decade ago

Tallahassee, Fla. – Following a statewide tour consisting of 27 meetings designed to gather public input into the redistricting process, House Redistricting Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) and Senate Reapportionment Committee Chairman Don Gaetz (R-Niceville) today announced the Florida Legislature has received the 100th publicly submitted map.

“Today, the Florida Legislature has reached a tremendous milestone in the redistricting process. This demonstrates that Floridians want to actively participate in the redistricting process and we are grateful for their valuable insight,” said Chairman Gaetz. “Never before have so many citizens taken the time to submit maps before the Legislature to use as a guide while redrawing Florida’s political boundary lines. While we repeatedly heard from special interest groups throughout the summer that they would have rather seen politicians draw redistricting plans in a Tallahassee echo chamber, we were committed to collecting public input and I sincerely believe it has paid off.”

“Thanks to the Floridians that have submitted maps, shared ideas and voiced concerns, we have received more public input on redistricting than ever before,” said Chairman Weatherford. “I commend those who have taken the time to draw a map and encourage others to continue sending us your ideas.”

Click below to view a special video message from Chairman Weatherford and Chairman Gaetz regarding this important milestone in the redistricting process.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZV9cjAypnqg&feature=player_embedded

The number of maps submitted by Floridians during this redistricting cycle far exceeds the four maps submitted by public interest groups a decade ago. The maps submitted included:

- Submissions from 25 different counties.
- More than 2,600 potential districts.
- 81 created with Legislative redistricting applications; 18 created with third-party applications.
- At least 17 submissions from students, including a middle-school student, high school student, and attendees of USF, FGCU, Brevard Community College and Columbia University.
- 30 complete maps for Congress; 20 partial maps for Congress; 8 complete maps for the state House; 15 partial maps for the state House; 17 complete maps for the state Senate; 10 partial maps for the state Senate.

During the recent committee weeks, House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees have been discussing a host of options as they move closer to formally introducing maps in preparation of the 2012 Legislative Session, which begins January 10. Floridians who have not submitted their ideas for maps may still do so via the Florida House's MyDistrictBuilder™ application or the Florida Senate's District Builder application available at www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting. Floridians may also submit their comments and suggestions directly to mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov or RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov.

###

For Planning Purposes:

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Contact:

Katie Betta, (850) 488-1450

MEDIA EVENT: Florida House to Hold 3rd Annual Pre-Session Press Information Session
Medicaid Financial Accountability Workshop, 2012-2013 Budget Briefing, MyDistrictBuilder Tutorial

Tallahassee—The Florida House of Representatives will host its third annual pre-session press information session on Thursday, November 3, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All media are invited to attend to learn about issues expected to be addressed during the upcoming legislative session. Members of the media will have access to the top substantive experts among the House's senior staff and will have the opportunity to ask questions, for informational purposes, related to complex issues of public policy.

Members of the media wishing to attend the information session should contact Ryan Duffy at (850) 487-8148 or via Ryan.Duffy@MyFloridaHouse.gov. Please see the agenda below for a schedule of topics.

Pre-Session Press Information Session

Date: Thursday, November 3, 2011

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: The Capitol, Room 333

Agenda

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.: Budget briefing presented by JoAnne Leznoff, staff director for the House Appropriations Committee. Additionally, House Economist Dr. Don Langston, staff director for the House Finance and Tax Committee, will be available during the question and answer portion of this section.

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.: Higher Education overview presented by Dr. Theresa Klebacha, staff director for the House Education Committee. The overview will include background information on higher education delivery systems and recent K-20 education governance changes.

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.: Medicaid financial accountability workshop presented by Carol Gormley, staff director for the House Health and Human Services Committee. The workshop will include an interactive analysis of the Medicaid financial accountability measures included in legislation passed by the Florida Legislature during the 2011 Legislative Session.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.: Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.: Economic affairs update presented by Teresa Tinker, staff director for the House Economic Affairs Committee and Teddi Creamer, policy chief for the House Business and Consumer Affairs Subcommittee. The economic affairs update will include a summary of business issues discussed during the 2011 Legislative Session including, deregulation of businesses and professions, unemployment compensation reform and economic development reorganization measures.

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Redistricting overview presented by Alex Kelly, staff director for the House Redistricting Committee. The update will include a summary of the process by which

committees and subcommittees are reviewing public input and as well as an overview of the data tools Members will utilize as they examine proposed maps.

My District Builder Tutorial

Following the Press Information Session, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., professional staff from the House Redistricting Committee will be available for individual MyDistrictBuilder tutorials. Members of the media interested in participating in an individual tutorial should contact Ryan Duffy at (850) 487-8148 or via Ryan.Duffy@MyFloridaHouse.gov.

Please note that Wi-Fi will be available during the information session. For those who are unable to attend in person, briefing materials will be available for download on the House of Representatives Website, www.MyFloridaHouse.gov and via DVD.

#

For Planning Purposes:
Monday, October 31, 2011

Contact:
Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

House Redistricting Subcommittees to Hold Meetings

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House of Representatives' Redistricting subcommittees will meet the week of Monday, October 31. Members of each subcommittee will conclude their review of options and best practices put forward by the public and receive an overview of the data tools Members will utilize as they examine legislatively produced maps.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Senate Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2011
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: House Redistricting Committee Meeting
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2011
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2011
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT
Location: Morris Hall (17 House Office Building)
Tallahassee, FL

###

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-5632

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

Deadline to Submit Redistricting Maps is Approaching

Florida House & Senate Will Accept Maps Until 5 p.m. Today for Consideration By the Committee

Tallahassee, Fla. – Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at 5 p.m. EDT, marks the deadline for the public to submit maps for consideration to the Florida Senate and House Redistricting Committees. As Lawmakers previously have announced, the House and Senate Redistricting Committees will take maps submitted by this deadline into consideration as they prepare committee bills in order to meet an expedited timeline.

“To date we have received more than 130 publically submitted redistricting plans, and today marks the deadline for Floridians to submit their proposed redistricting maps to the Florida House and Senate Redistricting Committees,” said Senate Reapportionment Committee Chairman Don Gaetz (R-Niceville). “From the hours of public testimony collected during our statewide redistricting tour this summer, as well as the maps submitted by so many Floridians, we will continue the task of drawing new political boundary lines. I encourage the public to stay engaged in this important process and continue to send us comments and ideas throughout the process.”

“The response from Floridians to be part of the Legislature’s redistricting process has been overwhelming. I look forward to hearing more ideas as we begin considering proposals from members,” said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). “I urge Floridians to send in their questions and comments on maps when they are released and our redistricting process moves forward.”

During the recent committee weeks, House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees have been discussing a host of options as they move closer to formally introducing maps in preparation of the 2012 Legislative Session, which begins January 10. Floridians who have not submitted their ideas for maps are encouraged to do so before Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at 5 p.m. EDT, via the Florida House's MyDistrictBuilder™ application or the Florida Senate’s District Builder application available at www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting. Floridians may also submit their comments and suggestions directly to mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov or RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov.

###

For Planning Purposes:
Friday, December 2, 2011

Contact:
Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**House Redistricting Committee and Subcommittees to Meet and
Workshop Options for House, Senate and Congressional Maps**
Maps Options Available Tuesday in Advance of Thursday's Workshop

Tallahassee, Fla. – The House Redistricting Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 6. Members will receive several options of House, Senate and Congressional maps and an overview of each option provided by Chairman Will Weatherford.

On Thursday, December 8, the House, Senate, and Congressional Subcommittees will meet to workshop the various map options made available on Tuesday.

The House and Congressional Subcommittees will review maps prepared by staff of the House Redistricting Committee. The Senate Subcommittee will begin the workshopping process by reviewing the State Senate map proposed by the Florida Senate as well as a State Senate map that was submitted by the Florida State Conference of the NAACP.

All maps generated by legislative staff are done so at the direction of Members of the relevant House and Senate Committees and are based on federal and state redistricting legal standards, public map submissions, and the collective public input received during 26 public meetings, via phone, mail, e-mail, blogs, and social media, as well as Member suggestions during previous committee and subcommittee meetings.

Copies of the maps will be [posted online](#) and made available to the public and members of the media during the meetings on both Tuesday and Thursday.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: House Redistricting Committee Meeting
Date: **Tuesday, December 6, 2011**
Time: 2 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee
Date: **Thursday, December 8, 2011**
Time: 12 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Senate Redistricting Subcommittee
Date: **Thursday, December 8, 2011**
Time: 12 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT
Location: Morris Hall
17 House Office Building

Tallahassee, FL

What: House Redistricting Subcommittee
Date: **Thursday, December 8, 2011**
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

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For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Contact:

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

**Florida House Redistricting Committee Introduces
Workshop Options for House and Congressional Maps**

Tallahassee, Fla. – As a starting point for possible House and Congressional maps, the House Redistricting Committee today introduced workshop options that will form the basis of the discussion about Florida’s future House and Congressional districts.

“For the past year, we have traveled the state, received hundreds of letters, emails, Facebook comments and tweets and held committee meetings to seek and analyze input on how to redraw Florida’s political boundary lines for the next 10 years,” said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). “These maps represent the collective input we have received from Floridians across the state and also reflect federal and state redistricting legal standards. I look forward to receiving further input from the public and any members of the Legislature to ensure these maps best represent the interests of all Floridians.”

The House Redistricting Committee staff provided members of the Committee with seven options for the Congressional map and five options for the State House map. The maps were drawn by the professional staff of the House Redistricting Committee, based on state and federal legal standards, public input and guidance received in committee meetings.

Additionally, the maps account for best practices that were put forth consistently throughout the 26 public input meetings held around Florida. For example, Floridians frequently requested that their cities and counties be kept whole in their districts. Therefore, the options released today proposed significant increases for the number of counties and cities kept whole in the redistricting maps.

Copies of the maps are available [online](#) and were made available to the public during today’s meetings. A PDF file of the maps is available by [clicking here](#).

This past summer, the House and Senate Redistricting Committees hosted 26 public meetings in communities around Florida to gather input, which has been used as a guide throughout the redistricting process. Additionally, the House has received submissions via phone, mail, e-mail, blogs and social media, as well as Member suggestions during previous committee and subcommittee meetings. As the maps make their way through the committee process, Floridians can continue visiting FloridaRedistricting.org for updates and to submit input and share ideas.

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For Planning Purposes:
Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Contact:
Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Media Availability: House Redistricting Staff Available for Q & A on Map Options

Tallahassee, Fla. – This Friday, December 9, 2011, the professional staff of the House Redistricting Committee will be available to answer media questions, for background purposes, regarding the map options scheduled to be workshopped in House Redistricting Subcommittee meetings this week. Committee staff will demonstrate how to load the various map options into the MyDistrictBuilder software and can provide an overview of the data sets available within the software.

Members of the media are encouraged to submit questions about specific maps options in advance of Friday's availability so that our professional staff can be prepared to provide specific answers. The walkthrough will be webcast by the [Florida Channel online](#). Members of the media who are not located in Tallahassee can participate by submitting questions in advance to Ryan Duffy via Ryan.Duffy@MyFloridaHouse.gov or (850) 487-8148.

Copies of the map options are available [online](#). A PDF file of the maps is available by [clicking here](#).

Please note: The availability is meant to **supplement** the information provided to House Members during subcommittee workshops scheduled for Thursday. Professional staff will be available to answer any remaining questions you may have and to provide technical assistance for members of the media who are unfamiliar with the MyDistrictBuilder software. A formal presentation is not planned. The content of the availability will be determined by your questions.

Times and locations for Thursday's workshops are listed below as well as the information for Friday's media availability. Again, RSVPs and questions are not required, but are encouraged so that we can plan accordingly and make the best use of your time.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee
Date: **Thursday, December 8, 2011**
Time: 12 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Senate Redistricting Subcommittee

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011
Time: 12 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT
Location: Morris Hall
17 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: House Redistricting Subcommittee
Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Media Availability with House Redistricting Staff
Date: Friday, December 9, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EST
Location: 333 The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL

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For Planning Purposes:

Friday, January 6, 2012

Contact:

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

House Redistricting Subcommittees to Narrow the Options for Redistricting Maps

Tallahassee, Fla. – The House Redistricting Subcommittees will meet on Monday, January 9. Members will consider the amendments to and then formally vote on options for Florida’s state legislative and congressional redistricting maps. The subcommittees’ proposed options and amendments thereto can be found online at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Redistricting/Redistricting2012.aspx>.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, January 9, 2012
Time: 12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

What: Senate Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, January 9, 2012
Time: 12 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EDT
Location: Morris Hall (17 House Office Building)
Tallahassee, FL

What: House Redistricting Subcommittee Meeting
Date: Monday, January 9, 2012
Time: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. EDT
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

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For Planning Purposes:
Thursday, January 19, 2012

Contact:
Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

House Redistricting Committee to Workshop Options for Redistricting Maps

Tallahassee, Fla. – The House Redistricting Committee will meet on Friday, January 20. Members will workshop the several options approved by House Redistricting subcommittees for Florida’s state legislative and congressional redistricting maps. The subcommittees’ proposed options and amendments can be [found online](#). As part of the workshop, the Committee will consider additional public input received that pertains to the options for redistricting that were released by the House on December 6, 2011.

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: House Redistricting Committee Meeting
Date: Friday, January 20, 2012
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

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For Immediate Release:

Friday, January 20, 2012

Contact:

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

**Statement by Representative Will Weatherford
Regarding Today's House Redistricting Committee Meeting**

Tallahassee, Fla. – House Redistricting Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) today released the following statement regarding today's discussions on the House and Congressional maps workshopped by the committee.

“Today, the Members of the House Redistricting Committee agreed to focus on a single state House map and a single Congressional map. As chairman of the committee, I appreciate the many suggestions from the public, which are helping to ensure our options for maps further reflect the wishes of cities and communities across the state.”

“I also appreciate the input from the members of the House Redistricting Committee, who continue to receive input from Floridians around the state. I encourage the public to continue submitting suggestions as we move forward with finalizing the maps.”

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For Planning Purposes:
Thursday, January 26, 2012

Contact:
Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**House Redistricting Committee to Vote on
House, Senate and Congressional Maps**

Tallahassee, Fla. – The House Redistricting Committee will meet Friday, January 27. The committee will consider amendments to and vote on state legislative and congressional redistricting maps recently approved by the House Redistricting subcommittees. During their January 20 meeting, committee members opted to narrow their focus for the January 27 meeting to HJR 6001 (state senate), HB 6005 (congressional) and HJR 6011 (state house). Data, maps and additional resources regarding these and other options considered by the Committee can be [found online](#).

As the committee finalizes the House, Senate and Congressional maps, they will consider amendments including recently submitted map options from the League of Women Voters, the National Council of La Raza and Common Cause of Florida filed by Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel).

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

What: House Redistricting Committee
Date: Friday, January 27, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. EST
Location: 404 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

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For Immediate Release:

Friday, January 27, 2012

Contact:

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

**House Redistricting Committee Approves Redistricting Maps with
Unprecedented Level of Input from Floridians**

Maps headed to the House Floor

Tallahassee, Fla. – After receiving several thousand suggestions from Floridians at public town hall meetings in 26 Florida cities and through social media, phone, email and U.S. mail, the House Redistricting Committee today approved House, Senate and Congressional maps to serve as Florida’s political boundaries for the next decade.

“With the help of Floridians from every corner of the state, the House Redistricting Committee has produced maps that meet state and federal standards,” said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). “I firmly believe that our open and transparent process has resulted in a better product for Florida. I look forward to discussing these maps with my colleagues on the House Floor next week.”

Throughout the legislative process, the committee and subcommittees considered several options and amended them multiple times to include additional public feedback, in order to ensure the overall legal compliance of the final maps that passed today.

The maps that passed today are available online:

- House Map HJR 6011 (plan 9049)
- Senate Map HJR 6001 (plan 9008)
- Congressional Map HB 6005 (plan 9047)

This past summer, the House and Senate Redistricting Committees hosted 26 public meetings in communities around Florida to gather input, which formed the basis of the maps produced by the House Redistricting Committee. The House Office of Public Information recently released [a video](#) highlighting the numerous ways Floridians have offered their thoughts and opinions throughout the redistricting process.

As the maps make their way through the legislative process, Floridians can continue visiting FloridaRedistricting.org for updates.

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For Immediate Release:

Friday, February 3, 2012

Contact:

Katie Betta, (850) 488-1450

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-814

Florida House of Representatives Approves State Legislative and Congressional Maps

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House of Representatives today approved House, Senate and Congressional maps after receiving thousands of suggestions from Floridians from across the state. Floridians joined House members throughout the eight-month process in helping to produce maps that meet state and federal redistricting standards.

“The House, Senate and Congressional maps passed by the House of Representatives are the product of many months spent talking to Floridians about what they want to see in the maps that form Florida’s districts for the next decade,” said House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park). “I commend Chairman Weatherford and the Members of the Redistricting committee and subcommittees for making this the most open and transparent redistricting process in Florida’s history.

“I am proud of the members of the House of Representatives who voted to uphold the constitution and respect the will of Floridians by approving the redistricting maps today. There are incumbents that may not return as a result of the newly adopted maps,” said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). “The new districts, which will be in effect for the next decade, are the culmination of a transparent process which produced a better product.”

The redistricting maps approved by the House of Representatives include:

- State House Map [SJR 1176](#) (plan H000H9049: [Google Maps](#), [PDF map](#), [Data and More Info](#))
- Congressional Map [SB 1174](#) (plan H000C9047: [Google Maps](#), [PDF map](#), [Data and More Info](#))
- State Senate Map: [SJR 1176](#) (plan S0009008: [Google Maps](#), [PDF map](#), [Data and More Info](#))

Since the process began, more than 4,700 citizens attended 26 statewide public meetings and more than 1,600 appeared before the committee and subcommittees. Thousands of others participated online via Facebook, Twitter, email, and by watching via the Florida Channel online. The committee received hundreds of additional written suggestions for redistricting maps and 177 public submissions of redistricting plans – up from only four in 2002. There were also more than 34,000 visitors to FloridaRedistricting.org, 520 page likes on Facebook and 800 Twitter followers.

Copies of the maps are available [online](#). As the maps make their way through the clearance process, Floridians can continue visiting FloridaRedistricting.org for updates.

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For Immediate Release:
Thursday, February 9, 2012

Contact:
Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

**Statement by Representative Will Weatherford
Regarding the Passage of Redistricting Maps in the Florida Senate**

Tallahassee, Fla. – House Redistricting Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) today released the following statement regarding the passage of State House Map SJR1176, Congressional Map SB 1174 and State Senate Map SJR 1176.

“Today marks the completion of the Legislature’s work on the redistricting maps after receiving thousands of suggestions from the public over many months. I appreciate the Senate for their hard work and for passing the maps in a timely manner. By approving these maps during the fifth week of the regular legislative session, the Florida Legislature is providing ample time for the maps to be approved and given a thorough and careful review.

“There has been no better partner throughout this process than Senate Redistricting Chairman and Senate President-Designate Don Gaetz. I appreciate his commitment to working with the House and ensure this process was the most transparent and open in Florida’s history.”

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