

For Immediate Release:

Monday, June 20, 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.

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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.

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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.

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For Immediate Release:

Thursday, July 14, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006

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.

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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

Location: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
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.

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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.

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For Planning Purposes:

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006

Katie Betta, (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*

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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.

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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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To: All Interested Media

From: Lyndsey Cruley, Communications Director

Re: Schedule and Procedures for Reapportionment Committee Meetings, Proposed Committee Bills, and Amendments

Attached and below, please find a memo from Senator Don Gaetz, Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment, outlining a schedule for committee meetings, the scope of business to be conducted at those meetings, as well as procedures which will govern the committee's work.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you.

Lyndsey Cruley

Communications Director

Office of the Senate President

(850) 487-5632



THE FLORIDA SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

Location

103 Senate Office Building

Mailing Address

404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
(850) 487-5855

Senator Don Gaetz, *Chair*
Senator Gwen Margolis, *Vice Chair*

Professional Staff: John Guthrie, *Staff Director*

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Reapportionment Committee Members and Staff
From: Don Gaetz, Chairman
Subject: Schedule and Procedures for Committee Meetings, Proposed Committee Bills, and Amendments
Date: September 27, 2011

Based upon the consensus reached at our meeting this past Thursday, what follows is a schedule for committee meetings, the scope of business to be conducted at those meetings, as well as procedures which will govern the committee's work.

- November 1 will be the deadline for the public, interest groups, and senators to submit maps for consideration by the Committee. Any map or proposal which any advocate wishes considered by the Senate should be in the hands of Committee Professional Staff by the close of business, November 1. Chairman Weatherford and I have once again appealed to interest groups, particularly those representing minorities, to be specific and timely with their proposals for district boundaries.
- Senate Reapportionment Committee meeting notices will be published seven calendar days prior to the meeting and will indicate particular plans on the agenda for the meeting. Senators and the public may access maps, statistics, and downloads for plans by going to the [Submitted Plans](#) page on the Senate Redistricting website. Time will be provided at each Committee meeting for public comment and testimony regarding scenarios described by professional staff or plans proposed by the public, interest groups, or senators.

- During Committee meetings, senators will consider plans proposed by the public, interest groups, or senators and the merits of drawing district lines one way or another. Based on our collective guidance, professional staff will develop proposed committee bills. Our plan is for professional staff to complete drafting of proposed committee bills (to include complete statewide maps for congressional and state legislative districts) before November 30. The Committee then would be in a posture to vote to introduce the proposed committee bills at our meeting the week of December 5. This schedule could be affected if the Committee takes more time than indicated in the schedule below to discuss and review scenarios submitted by the public, interest groups, or senators.
 - October 5 the Committee will discuss scenarios for drawing congressional and state legislative districts in northwest Florida based on suggestions and maps submitted by the public, interest groups, and senators.
 - The week of October 17 the Committee will discuss scenarios for drawing congressional and state legislative districts in northeast and central Florida based on suggestions and maps submitted by the public, interest groups, and senators.
 - The weeks of October 31 and November 14 the Committee will discuss scenarios for drawing congressional and state legislative districts in southeast and southwest Florida, respectively, based on suggestions and maps submitted by the public, interest groups, and senators.
- Before the Committee votes to introduce a proposed committee bill or report a redistricting plan, senators may propose amendments. However, amendments must be filed at least 48 hours prior to noticed meeting times. Amendments filed after that time will not be accepted by the Chairman, regardless of sponsorship. The Committee will not compromise openness, transparency, or the opportunity to question, consider, and debate the impacts of amendments.
- At the time the proposed committee bills are voted on by the Committee on Reapportionment, the Chairman will ask the Committee to approve a request to the Rules Chair that last-minute material changes not be considered on the Senate floor either.

- All redistricting bills and amendments will be prepared by Senate Bill Drafting using legal descriptions for statewide plans already listed on the [Submitted Plans](#) page. Bills and amendments will refer to particular redistricting plans by name so the public and senators can link to its “Plan Details” page and have full access to maps, statistics, and downloads.
- Each amendment must include a complete statewide plan in order that the consequences for any and all district lines are fully and openly presented.
- Committee professional staff is available to assist senators so that their amendments are technically correct. Preparing an amendment is a multi-step process, and processing time must be considered to meet amendment deadlines.
 - After a senator completes work on a redistricting plan and checks it for completeness and contiguity, the senator can use District Builder’s “Submit Plan” feature to deliver it to the Senate Reapportionment Committee. It is highly advisable to inform professional staff in order that staff can give priority attention to getting the plan on the web. Creating and posting the maps, statistics, and downloads can take 30 minutes (or longer if many plans are delivered to the Reapportionment Committee at the same time).
 - Once any plan is on the web, a senator can instruct Senate Bill Drafting to prepare an amendment using that plan’s complete legal description. That takes time as well.
 - After the amendment is barcoded, it may be filed with the committee (for committee amendments) or with the Secretary of the Senate (for floor amendments) in the same fashion as any other Senate amendment.
- Although the Committee has already conducted 71 hours of public hearings at 26 locations during which 1,700 citizens have testified, the Committee intends to continue its open, interactive process of engaging the public. At each committee meeting, time will be set aside for public testimony on scenarios presented at that meeting. Citizens and interest groups are encouraged to access frequently updated materials on the Senate Redistricting home page, attend interim meetings, testify, draw and submit maps, send critiques or suggestions to the Committee via

RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov, or communicate with their own Senators directly. The committee professional staff is also investigating the feasibility of teleconferences or tele-town hall meetings to get additional public involvement before reporting committee bills to the Senate. Such a teleconference or tele-town hall meeting would be noticed as a committee workshop and scheduled sometime after the week of December 5.

Senators, our ambitious schedule and consensus procedures assume a generous portion of good faith and hard work, beginning with a thorough review of the record collected during our public hearings. Written submissions and audio and video recordings are posted on the [Public Hearings](#) page found at www.flsenate.gov/redistricting, and transcripts are posted as soon as they are received. Redistricting plans submitted to the House or Senate committee are available on the [Submitted Plans](#) page. In preparation for our October 5 and subsequent meetings I encourage you to explore these valuable resources, representing the input shared with us by citizens throughout Florida.

Our Vice Chair, President Margolis, and I request that each member of the Committee schedule time with the professional staff to convey concerns and suggestions from their constituents, develop a working knowledge of scenarios scheduled to be discussed at forthcoming committee meetings, and be conversant with the requirements which must be applied to all submitted plans and potential amendments in order to be compliant with federal and state law.

Thank you for the extraordinary investment of time and effort which each member of our Committee has already made in the redistricting process. If you have questions, criticisms or suggestions regarding the Committee's functions, please feel free to contact our Professional Staff Director, John Guthrie, our Vice Chair, President Margolis, or me at any time.

cc: Senate President Mike Haridopolos
Speaker-designate Will Weatherford
All members of the Senate

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 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.

###

FERRIN.JAY

From: CRULEY.LYNDSEY
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 5:15 PM
To: CRULEY.LYNDSEY
Cc: CRULEY.LYNDSEY
Subject: FW: Senate Reapportionment Committee Schedule and Procedures
Attachments: 20111118_RE_Schedule and Procedures.pdf

Importance: High

To: All Interested Media
From: Senator Don Gaetz, Chair, Senate Committee on Reapportionment
Re: Senate Reapportionment Committee Schedule and Procedures

Below, please find a memo sent today from Senator Don Gaetz, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment, regarding committee schedule and procedures.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.
Lyndsey

From: GAETZ.DON.S04
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 5:08 PM
To: IALL SENATORS & STAFFs
Cc: HARIDOPOLOS.MIKE.S26; Weatherford, Will; MEYER.CRAIG; CRULEY.LYNDSEY
Subject: Senate Reapportionment Committee Schedule and Procedures

To: Senators and Staff
CC: President Haridopolos and Speaker Designate Weatherford
From: Senator Don Gaetz, Chair, Senate Committee on Reapportionment
Subject: Senate Reapportionment Committee Schedule and Procedures
Date: November 18, 2011

The schedule and procedures agreed to by consensus at Tuesday's meeting of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment are outlined below:

Monday, November 28

- Professional staff will publish the proposed committee bills that will be on the agenda when we meet Tuesday, December 6.
- Maps, statistics, downloads, and other background information will be posted prominently on the Senate Redistricting website.
- Invitations for public comment will be sent by email, publicized on www.flsenate.gov, and communicated in press releases.

Monday, November 28 through Friday, December 2

- Senators may submit alternative plans and file amendments to the proposed committee bills. Each amendment must include a complete statewide plan that is posted on the committee’s Submitted Plans page (with a unique name tied to its legal description, maps, statistics, and downloads).
- Professional committee staff can help with technical details, but it is up to Senators themselves to allow sufficient time to meet the 5:00 pm Friday deadline.
- Citizens can comment on plans by any of several convenient ways:
 - Record a video message and post it on the Committee’s YouTube page.
 - Dial 1-855-FLA-MAPS (toll free) and record a voice message.
 - Send an email to RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov
 - Send a “tweet” to @Redistrict2012.
 - Post a comment on the Committee’s Facebook page.
- Prerecorded comments will be assembled by professional committee staff, and the Florida Channel will assist with producing video segments that can be viewed at the December 6 meeting.

Friday, December 2, at 5:00 pm

- Because our self-imposed 48-hour deadline for amendments falls on Sunday, I will ask the committee not to approve amendments filed after 5:00 pm on Friday December 2.
- Public comments received after the close of business Friday are less likely to be included in the video segments produced by the Florida Channel.

Tuesday, December 6

- There will be two proposed committee bills on the agenda for the December 6 meeting: one for congressional districts, and one for state legislative districts.
- The proposed committee bills will be taken up as regular agenda items.
- The committee will listen to the video segments produced by the Florida Channel and hear live testimony from citizens attending the meeting.
- If we get more public comment than we have time to hear at the meeting, we will post the entire collection on the Senate Redistricting website.
- Before adjourning, I will entertain motions to introduce the congressional and legislative redistricting plans as committee bills.

During the winter holidays

- We will expect the President of the Senate to refer the redistricting bills to the Reapportionment Committee.
- Professional staff may incorporate suggestions and feedback from the public into a proposed committee substitute, which will be published at least 7 calendar days in advance of when it will be heard by the committee.

January 2012

- Our top priority will be reporting congressional and legislative plans early in Session and making them available for consideration on the Senate Floor.

- We will consult with the Rules Committee chair about formal measures to insure that the same level of openness and transparency that has marked our deliberations thus far continues throughout the legislative process.

I would like to express gratitude to those senators who have taken the time to meet with professional staff and familiarize themselves with the legal and technical aspects of this process. Thanks also for sharing with staff and me your recollections of and insights about the input we have received. Hearing your thoughts and concerns directly will continue to be very helpful to me in the days and weeks ahead.

Let me again extend my thanks to Majority Leader Gardiner and Minority Leader Rich for helping the committee arrive at unanimous agreement about the course we have set for ourselves. Our success thus far is a testament to their leadership.

For Immediate Release:

Monday, November 28, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-5632

Senate Panel Proposes 2012 Redistricting Maps

Proposed Committee Bills Based on Public Input

Tallahassee, Fla. – Drawing on 157 redistricting maps submitted by citizens and on testimony by more than 1,600 people across the state, the Florida Senate today published proposed redistricting plans for congressional and senate districts.

The plans, which can be found at www.flsenate.gov/redistricting, will define boundaries for voting districts for the next ten years, beginning with the 2012 elections. All Floridians are encouraged to review the proposed redistricting plans and provide their comments and suggestions.

The proposals were developed by the Senate Reapportionment Committee based on bipartisan guidelines agreed to by all 24 of the Democrats and Republicans on the committee. All directions to staff and committee procedures have been agreed to in a bipartisan manner by the Senate Majority Leader, Andy Gardiner, and the Senate Minority Leader, Nan Rich. Also agreed to unanimously were instructions to staff to preserve minorities' access to the political system and avoid retrogression.

“Months ahead of past redistricting schedules and after the most open, transparent and interactive process in Florida history, the Senate committee has produced a product which is fair, sensible and faithful to the law,” said committee chairman Senator Don Gaetz.

Gaetz credited Majority Leader Andy Gardiner and Minority Leader Nan Rich with keeping the committee's deliberations nonpartisan and developing unanimous agreements governing deadlines and procedures.

The proposed committee bills unveiled today contain districts providing voting opportunities for racial and language minorities in areas of fast-growing population in and around Orlando. They were inspired by testimony and proposals from Hispanic groups and citizens based on exceptional increases in primarily Puerto Rican population in the area in recent years.

Consistent with Amendments 5 and 6 added by voters to the State Constitution, the Senate plans protect minority voters from diminishment in the ability to elect candidates of their choice. Protecting minority opportunities, as required by both the State Constitution and federal law, was unanimously agreed to by the Senate committee as a guiding principle for redistricting.

Plans also cannot be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor incumbents or political parties. To a far greater extent than ever before, district lines follow city, county, and geographic boundaries.

“Some counties and cities will have more than one senator or congressperson because of dense population,” Gaetz explained. “Others had to be divided to protect minority voting rights and avoid retrogression. We heard and respected the testimony of hundreds of Floridians who said, ‘Keep our community together.’ Wherever we could, we heeded what people living in communities and neighborhoods told us made sense to them.”

Extensive public hearings already have taken House and Senate members to 26 communities across Florida in an unprecedented effort to listen to citizen concerns about how legislative and congressional maps have been drawn in the past and suggestions for better, fairer districts in the future. The hearings attracted just under 5,000 people. After another period for public comment beginning today, the Senate committee will vote December 6, on whether to introduce the proposal to the full Senate.

Members of the public are encouraged to provide suggestions, criticisms and comments by:

- Calling 850-487-5757 or 855-FLA-MAPS toll free.
- Visiting the committee’s [Facebook](#) page (search for “Florida Senate Reapportionment Committee”)
- Emailing RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov
- Sending a “tweet” to @Redistrict2012
- Posting video feedback on the committee’s [YouTube](#) page at www.youtube.com/SenateRedistricting
- Writing the committee at 103 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-1100
- Attending the December 6 meeting in person.
- Contacting their own senator or representative.

The Florida Channel will develop a video report based on comments received and present it to the committee prior to any vote on the proposed plans. All comments, whether used by the Florida Channel or not, will be posted on the committee’s website for all senators to review.

Gaetz explained that if the Senate committee votes favorably to introduce the bills on December 6, the Rules Chairman and Senate President will likely send the bills back to the Reapportionment Committee for a final vote as soon as the Legislature convenes in early January. This would allow the proposals to be voted on the Senate floor early in the legislative session.

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For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-5632

Senate Committee on Reapportionment Votes to Formally Introduce Senate and Congressional Redistricting Plans

Tallahassee, Fla. – After receiving more than 500 emails, phone calls and social media messages since the proposed Senate and Congressional Redistricting plans were published, as well as hearing public testimony, the Senate Committee on Reapportionment voted to introduce the proposed congressional and senate redistricting plans today.

“After listening to our fellow Floridians and engaging in the most open, transparent and interactive redistricting process in the history of Florida, we voted today to formally introduce the congressional and senate redistricting plans,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Niceville). “I am proud to say that these plans are not only faithful to the law, but that they were drawn based on the public input that we gathered, as well as the redistricting maps submitted by citizens.”

The plans, which can be found at www.flsenate.gov/redistricting, propose boundaries for voting districts for the next ten years, beginning with the 2012 elections.

“Because of the expedited timeline we are operating under, the bills will be available for the committee to vote on in early January, allowing the proposals to be voted on the Senate floor early in the 2012 Legislative Session – two months ahead of past redistricting schedules,” added Senator Gaetz.

Gaetz also noted that the public is encouraged to stay engaged in this once-a-decade process and submit their suggestions, criticisms and comments throughout the redistricting process.

“The public has been an essential part of this redistricting process since day one, and that does not stop with the formal introduction of these committee bills. We will continue to take your comments and input into consideration as the plans move through the process.” concluded Senator Gaetz.

The committee voted to introduce the maps by a vote of 23-3, with 17 Republicans and 6 Democrats voting in favor of the proposals.

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THE FLORIDA SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

Location

103 Senate Office Building

Mailing Address

404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
(850) 487-5855

Senator Don Gaetz, *Chair*
Senator Gwen Margolis, *Vice Chair*

Professional Staff: John Guthrie, *Staff Director*

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Reapportionment Committee Members and Staff
From: Don Gaetz, Chairman
Subject: Committee Meeting January 11, 2012
Date: December 30, 2011

Today committee staff published two proposed committee substitutes; one to SB 1174, an act relating to congressional districts, and the other to SJR 1176, relating to state legislative districts. These proposed committee substitutes will be on the agenda for Wednesday, January 11. Today's release comes 12 days in advance of the meeting, and exceeds what is required by the seven-day policy the Reapportionment Committee unanimously set for itself and the one-day deadline as required by Senate Rules. The advance publication gives legislators, staff, and the public additional time to review the new maps.

The new congressional and senate maps improve the original maps, incorporating feedback received at our December 6 committee meeting and thereafter from members of the general public and Supervisors of Elections as well as refinements made by professional staff consistent with federal and state law. The new plans and the accompanying maps, statistics, and downloads are available on the [Senate Redistricting website](#). A summary of the substantial changes is included in the respective Bill Analyses.

On Wednesday January 11, 2012, at 1:00 PM, the Reapportionment Committee will meet to consider the proposed committee substitutes and take the final committee action. At the meeting, staff will explain the new plans and answer questions. Time will be reserved for public testimony on the plans and for discussion and debate by the members.

Members of the Reapportionment Committee may propose amendments to the proposed committee substitutes. Per our unanimous agreement, amendments must be filed at least 48 hours prior to noticed meeting times. The Committee will not compromise openness, transparency, or the opportunity to question, consider, and debate the impacts of amendments.

Senate Reapportionment Committee
December 30, 2011
Page 2

For the meeting on January 11, the Reapportionment Committee's self-imposed amendment deadline will be Monday, January 9, at 1:00 PM. Please remember the process of drafting and filing amendments to reapportionment plans is different than other amendments. It is important to work with professional committee staff, who can assist senators and ensure amendments are technically correct.

If the Committee reports SB 1174 and SJR 1176, we will be in position to be hear them on a Special Order calendar when the Senate returns from the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Tuesday, January 17. That is a full two months earlier than floor votes in the Senate 10 years ago. The fact that we are this far along in the process at this point in time is a direct result of the hard work each and every member of our committee has put forth, and I thank you for that.

If you have questions, about the Committee's upcoming schedule or the proposed committee substitutes, please feel free to contact our Professional Staff Director, John Guthrie, our Vice Chair, President Margolis, or me at any time.

cc: Senate President Mike Haridopolos
Speaker-designate Will Weatherford
All members of the Senate

For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, January 11, 2011

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-5632

**Senate Committee on Reapportionment Passes Proposed Committee
Substitutes
for Congressional & State Senate Redistricting Plans with Bipartisan Support**
Redistricting Proposals Now Ready to be Heard on Senate Floor

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today the Florida Senate Committee on Reapportionment passed proposed committee substitutes (PCSs) for Senate Bill 1174 and Senate Joint Resolution 1176, the state Senate and Congressional redistricting plans, with bipartisan support. These proposals are now ready to be heard on the Senate floor.

“I applaud Senator Don Gaetz for skillfully guiding this redistricting process,” said Senate President Mike Haridopolos (R-Merritt Island). “Not only have the Congressional and state Senate maps that the Redistricting Committee drawn under his leadership gained bipartisan support, but they have also been drafted in an open and transparent forum with unprecedented public input. I commend Senator Gaetz on a job well done, and I look forward to hearing these proposals on the Senate floor next week.”

“The proposed committee substitutes that we passed today represent a great improvement over the first redistricting plans as they reflect changes the committee incorporated as a direct result of the public feedback that we received since publishing the initial maps,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Niceville), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “These plans not only echo the will of our state’s citizens based on the input and comments they have provided to us throughout the redistricting process, but I am also confident that they adhere to Amendments 5 and 6.”

During the course of the meeting, members of the committee, both Republican and Democratic alike, expressed disapproval of any amendments being heard on the Senate floor that would significantly alter the current plans without first being subject to public input and comment.

“I am also happy to announce that we are now in a position to vote on the Congressional and state Senate redistricting plans on the floor of the Florida Senate during the second week of the 2012 Legislative Session,” said Senator Gaetz. “The expedited timeline that we are following represents a dramatic difference from the last redistricting session – in fact, the vote on the Senate floor will take place a full two months earlier than it did 10 years ago,” concluded Senator Gaetz.

The plans, which can be found at www.flsenate.gov/redistricting, propose boundaries for voting districts for the next ten years, beginning with the 2012 elections.

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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:

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Contact:

Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 487-5632

Florida Legislature Passes Congressional and State Legislative Redistricting Plans

Plans Headed to Attorney General & Governor for Review

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, the Florida Legislature took the final step to approve the Congressional and state legislative redistricting plans. The Senate, after another pair of bipartisan votes, will be delivering the legislative plans to Attorney General Pam Bondi and the Congressional plan to Governor Rick Scott.

The Attorney General will petition the Florida Supreme Court for declaratory judgment regarding the validity of the new state senatorial and representative districts. The new Congressional plan will be sent to the Governor for approval. The legislature will also ask the United States Department of Justice to preclear all redistricting plans prior to their implementation.

“Today, the Florida Legislature has made history by passing redistricting plans off the floor of both the House and Senate after holding 26 public meetings across the state, and hearing an unprecedented amount of public input and comment,” said Senate President Mike Haridopolos (R-Merritt Island). “We also passed these plans off the floor of the House and Senate earlier than in any past redistricting process. In fact, in 1992 legislative redistricting plans didn’t pass the full legislature until April and Congressional plans had to be drawn by the courts because an agreement couldn’t be reached. Similarly in 2002 redistricting plans didn’t pass off the floor of the full legislature until March.”

“I commend Senator Gaetz for expertly guiding this process, as well as his counterpart in the Florida House, Representative Will Weatherford. These bills were developed on the public input and feedback that their committees collected, and they have conducted the redistricting process in such a way that made it the most open and transparent effort in Florida’s history.”

The plans, which can be found at www.flsenate.gov/redistricting, establish boundaries for voting districts for the next ten years, beginning with the 2012 elections.

“From the onset, it was our goal to draw district boundary lines that reflect the will of our citizens, follow state and federal law, and comply with Amendments 5 and 6,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Niceville), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “Today, I can proudly say that working together with Chairman Weatherford, we have accomplished that goal.”

“I am also proud of the fact that we were able to work across party lines to pass these redistricting plans. Today’s bipartisan vote punctuates the fact that we, as a legislative body,

were committed to following the letter of the law and drew these lines without the intent to favor or disfavor any particular political party,” said Senator Gaetz. “I also want to extend a special thank you to former Senate President Gwen Margolis, the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment, as she was instrumental in ensuring this process ran smoothly and gained bipartisan support,” concluded Senator Gaetz.

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