

2011-2012 Redistricting: Pre-Meeting Outreach Report



June 20 – Tallahassee

June 21 – Pensacola

June 21 – Fort Walton Beach

June 22 – Panama City

The contents herein reflect media and community outreach done by the Florida House of Representatives to increase awareness of and participation in the redistricting public input meetings listed above.

Note, the following does not necessarily reflect contributions to community outreach done by individual Members of the House. Nor does the following represent the totality of all media related to the public meetings.

Rather, the following represents contributions to community outreach made by Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford, the Office of the Speaker, the Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Public Information at (850) 921-7747.

Print (Pg. 4)

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette	Friday, June 17, 2011
The Destin Log	Saturday, June 18, 2011
Tallahassee Democrat	Monday, June 20, 2011
Pensacola News-Journal	Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Published Opinion Editorials* (Pg. 8)

Tallahassee Democrat	Sunday, June 19, 2011
Pensacola News-Journal	Sunday, June 19, 2011

* - This list only represents those newspapers that printed the opinion editorial. House staff contacted other newspapers to request that they printed the opinion editorial.

Radio & TV (Pg. 11)

The Morning Show with Preston Scott	Thursday, June 9, 2011
Florida Face to Face	Monday, June 20, 2011
WCTV-TV CBS Tallahassee (Jerry Hume)	Monday, June 20, 2011
Wake-up Call with Ken Walsh	Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Doc Washburn Radio Show	Wednesday, June 22, 2011
The Burnie Thompson Show	Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Paid Advertising (Pg. 13)

Northwest Florida Daily News*	Monday, June 20, 2011
Panama City News-Herald*	Monday, June 20, 2011
Destin Log	Saturday, June 18, 2011
Walton Sun	Saturday, June 18, 2011
Santa Rosa Press Gazette	Saturday, June 18, 2011
Santa Rosa Free Press	Wednesday, June 15, 2011
Crestview News Bulletin	Saturday, June 18, 2011
Crestview News Extra	Wednesday, June 15, 2011
Washington County News	Saturday, June 18, 2011
Gulf Breeze News	Monday, June 20, 2011

* - Indicates online advertising in addition to print

Community Calendar Postings (Pg. 25)

Panama City News-Herald	Monday, June 6 – Wednesday, June 22
Northwest Florida Daily News	Monday, June 6, 2011 – Tuesday, June 21
Destin Log	Monday, June 6, 2011 – Tuesday, June 21
Walton Sun	Monday, June 6, 2011 – Tuesday, June 21
Santa Rosa Press Gazette	Monday, June 6, 2011 – Tuesday, June 21
WMBB-TV ABC Panama City	Monday, June 6, 2011 – Wednesday, June 22

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – TV* (Pg. 31)

WCTV-TV CBS Tallahassee	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 22
WTWC-TV NBC Tallahassee	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 22
WPGX-TV FOX Panama City	Monday, June 20 – Wednesday, June 22

* - This list only represents those television stations that could verify that placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – Radio* (Pg. 33)

WAKU 94.1 FM Tallahassee	Thursday, June 16 – Wednesday, June 22
WAAZ 104.7 FM Crestview	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 22
WNVC 100.3 FM Fort Walton Beach	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 22
WZNS 96.5 FM Fort Walton Beach	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 22
WFLA 94.5 FM Fort Walton Beach	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 22
WZEP 1640 Defuniak Springs	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, June 22

* - This list only represents those radio stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Social Media (Pg. 36)

Twitter	Monday, June 6 – Wednesday, June 22
Facebook	
Blogging	
MyFloridaHouse.gov	
FloridaRedistricting.org	
Florida Channel	
Email & Direct Contact	

Print

Input sought for Florida redistricting

Santa Rosa Press-Gazette
June 17, 2011

By: Mathew Pellegrino

The 10-year wait is almost over.

Next Tuesday, the Florida Legislature is holding its Florida House and Senate redistricting meeting to acquire public input at the WSRE-TV Amos Studio at the Pensacola State College campus in Pensacola from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every ten years, the legislature looks at possible redistricting, or the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines or electoral districts. This is done every decade to reflect the change in population over specific areas around Florida.

Different legislatures from around the state of Florida will attend the meeting to answer questions and take in suggestions that people may have as far as where political and district boundaries should be drawn.

"We've been calling this a 'listening tour'," Florida House representative Lyndsey Cruley said. That's because attendees and speakers will have the opportunity to listen to opinions from people in the community on what redistricting could do to hurt or help their community based on population standards and census data, and where they believe the state should move certain boundary lines to.

Cruley noted that redistricting is important because it draws the basis for state representation in both Tallahassee and Washington D.C. This may also ultimately affect all local governments including the local school board and city council.

Essentially, everyone in the state of Florida lives in a district whether it's congressional or legislative.

The state is looking for input on where these districts should extend to or if they should be shrunk.

Following every census, the 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives are apportioned to each state based on population spikes or declines. The larger the state, the more representatives that state will have.

This ensures that each district and state has proper representation based on population.

If people are unable to attend, they can watch a live web cast of the meeting via the Florida Channel.

Cruley said the redistricting committee has set up an online application on their website called MyDistrictBuilder that allows people to ultimately draw out where they think their district should be and will be submitted to them for consideration in case they are unable to attend the meeting.

“We want people to come to give their input to these lawmakers,” Cruley said.

Additional redistricting terminology can be found on the Florida redistricting website at Floridaredistricting.org.

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Okaloosa County redistricting meeting set for Tuesday

The Destin Log
June 18, 2011

By: Tom McLaughlin

Tuesday is redistricting day in Okaloosa County.

Members of the state House and Senate redistricting committees will gather at Fort Walton Beach High School from 6 to 9 p.m. for a first round of public hearings on the issue.

The meeting is all about getting residents’ input as the important business of drawing political boundaries begins, said state Sen. Don Gaetz, who chairs the Senate’s Redistricting Committee.

“We’re not going to say boo,” Gaetz said. “My plan is to give a brief announcement discussing the laws and regulations governing redistricting and its process and a timetable.

“Then we’ll zip our lips.”

Earlier Tuesday, panelists not associated with the redistricting process will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Fort Walton Beach Golf Club to offer their views. The seminar is titled “Redistricting: What it means for Okaloosa County.”

Former Supervisor of Elections Pat Hollarn will be one of the speakers. She said she plans to warn attendees to be on the alert as the redistricting process begins.

“This whole public hearing thing is theater,” Hollarn said. “Our best bet is public vigilance from now until the end of next session.”

Redistricting takes place every decade in Florida, traditionally two years after the national census is completed.

The redistricting committees are charged with drawing new lines for the state's House and Senate and the Florida delegation to the U.S. House. The lines are drawn to ensure that all the governmental districts hold close to the same population.

Nearly as traditional as the redistricting process is the politics that comes with it. The political party in power typically finds a way to squeeze more likely voters into areas where they'll do that party the most good.

But Florida lawmakers find themselves restricted this time around by two recently passed amendments to state's constitution.

Amendments 5 and 6, passed by voters in 2010, will force redistricting committees to draw maps that favor no party or incumbent, that are compact and that adhere to existing political or geographical boundaries.

Gaetz said public input is key to the redistricting, and though he and other committee members believe many people with political agendas will show up at the public hearings, the hope is to hear from everyday residents as well.

"We hope by holding 26 hearings across the state, interest will go beyond the usual suspects and we'll hear from individual Floridians who live in these districts and these communities," he said.

Gaetz speaks glowingly of the transparency of the process this term. He said Florida will be the first state to allow its residents to participate via the Internet in drawing district maps.

Hollarn said the prospect of "true and meaningful public input" is low.

She plans to outline the last 40 years of redistricting history, discuss how abjectly political redistricting has become and to let seminar attendees know how many election laws now on the books were passed with manipulating the redistricting process in mind.

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Series of public hearings on redistricting kicks off today in Tallahassee

Tallahassee Democrat
June 20, 2011

By: Jim Ash

Two of the state's most powerful lawmakers pledged this morning that they will do their best to do the impossible -- keep partisan politics out of the once-a-decade chore of redrawing the state's political boundaries.

Sen. Don Gaetz of Niceville and Rep. Will Weatherford of Wesley Chapel, two Republicans who head the redistricting committees in their chambers, met with editors of the Tallahassee Democrat to discuss today's kick-off of a grueling, 26-stop series of public hearings.

The first hearing begins at 1 p.m. in the Capitol.

Gaetz, who is next in line to be Senate President, responded to criticism that the hearings are only for show while powerbrokers draw up new legislative and congressional districts behind closed doors. The public will get a chance to suggest new districts, but lawmakers won't reveal their proposals during any of the hearings the critics complain.

The lawmakers say they want the input before they start the work.

"If it's pre-ordained, then I want the speaker to give me a copy," Gaetz joked.

"I'm frankly disappointed by the skepticism," said Weatherford, who is next in line to be House speaker. "The only alternative to having public hearings is not having any."

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Redistricting meeting today

Pensacola News Journal
June 21, 2011

The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees are hosting their first round of joint public meetings on redistricting across the Panhandle.

The meetings will give the public a chance talk with state legislators about redistricting. The meeting is now until 1 p.m. today at the WSRE-TV studios, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola.

For more information on the Florida House of Representatives' redistricting efforts, visit FloridaRedistricting.org.

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Published Opinion Editorials

Listen, comment and even draw your own maps

Tallahassee Democrat

Published: June 19, 2011

This summer, lawmakers from across the state will begin the process of redrawing Florida's boundary lines for equal representation. This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the U.S. Constitution.

In keeping with our state's strong commitment to transparency, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that Floridians will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools and resources that they need to impact the redistricting process.

Senate President Mike Haridopolos and House Speaker Dean Cannon have charged us with the responsibility of engaging every Floridian in this fundamental exercise of their political rights.

With that duty in mind, we are proud to announce that Florida's legislators will host a series of 26 community meetings throughout the state.

The first round of public meetings will take place in Florida's Panhandle and Big Bend, starting in Tallahassee on Monday from 1 until 4 p.m., and from 6 until 8 p.m. in the Knott Building next to the Capitol. Tuesday, the meetings will move to Pensacola and then around the state, ending in Clewiston on Sept. 1.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to the public. Legislators will not be offering comments or giving their options at these meetings, because we want to dedicate the time spent in these communities to gathering thoughts about what Floridians believe are the important facts and the unique characteristics of their communities.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meetings can access a live web stream via the Florida Channel at www.thefloridachannel.org. And there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process. Web pages launched by both the Florida House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting) are filled with information about redistricting.

Both sites even include options for people to create and submit their own redistricting maps, using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside each community meeting, and everyone who attends will have the chance to ask House and Senate staff about using the applications to build districts and how the redistricting process works.

In addition to drawing districts, Floridians can go online now to submit comments, access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply keep up with the latest information on the process.

Legislators will use the feedback, comments and submitted plans to help inform their redistricting proposals.

Redistricting is the opportunity for Florida citizens to help shape the districts that are the basis of their representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. We hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings so that your voice can be heard.

— State Sen. Don Gaetz, a Republican, represents District 4, which includes parts of Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties. He is chair of the Senate Reapportionment Committee. Contact him at gaetz.don.web@flsenate.gov. State Rep.

Will Weatherford, a Republican, represents District 61, which includes parts of Hillsborough and Pasco counties. He is chair of the House Redistricting Committee.

You can have your voice heard in Florida's redistricting process

Pensacola News-Journal

June 19, 2011

This month, lawmakers from across the state will begin the critical process of redrawing Florida's boundary lines for equal representation. This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the United States Constitution.

As a part of the Sunshine State's commitment to transparency in government, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools and resources that you need to participate in and impact the redistricting process.

Senate President Mike Haridopolos and House Speaker Dean Cannon have charged us with the responsibility of engaging every Floridian in this fundamental exercise of your political rights.

With that duty in mind, we are proud to announce Florida's legislators will host a series of 26 community meetings throughout the state.

The first round of public meetings will take place in the Panhandle, starting in Tallahassee on Monday, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the Knott Building next to the Capitol. On Tuesday, meetings will be at the WSRE-TV studios in Pensacola from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and at Fort Walton Beach High School from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. On Wednesday, we'll travel to Panama City to Gulf Coast Community College for a meeting from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you. Legislators will not be offering comments or making speeches because we want to dedicate the time we spend in your community to hearing from you. We want to know what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community. We want to draw districts that truly represent you and your community.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live web stream via the Florida Channel at: www.thefloridachannel.org. If you cannot attend or tune-in to the web stream, there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the web pages launched by both the Florida House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting) which are filled with information. Both sites include options to create and submit your own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use.

We created online computer programs that we will use to build districts with you in mind. There are training resources that can help you get started drawing your own plan, and we will have demonstrations of the web applications at each meeting. Everyone who attends will have the chance to ask House and Senate staff about using the applications to build districts and how the redistricting process works.

In addition, Floridians can go online now to submit comments, access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply keep up to date with the latest information. Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help inform their redistricting proposals.

Redistricting happens only once a decade. It is your opportunity to help shape the districts that are the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

Stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and join us at one or more redistricting hearings so that your voice can be heard.

Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville is chairman of the Senate Redistricting Committee.

Rep. Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, is chairman of the House Redistricting Committee.

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Radio & TV

The Morning Show with Preston Scott

Date: Thursday, June 9
Time: 7:35 a.m. EDT
Duration: 20 mins
Station: 100.7 WFLA-FM Tallahassee
Topic: Public Redistricting meetings
Listen Live: <http://www.wflafm.com/pages/morningshow.html>

Florida Face to Face

Date: Monday, June 20
Time: 11 a.m. EDT
Station: The Florida Channel
Host: Beth Switzer

WCTV-TV CBS Tallahassee

Date: Monday, June 20
Time: 11:30 a.m. EDT
Station: WCTV-TV CBS Tallahassee
Reporter: Jerry Hume

The Wake Up Call with Ken Walsh

Date: Tuesday, June 21
Time: 7:30 a.m. CDT 8:30 a.m. EST
Duration: 20 mins
Station: NewsTalk1260 Fort Walton Beach
Topic: Public Redistricting meetings
Listen Live: <http://www.wftw.com/>

The Doc Washburn Show

Date: Wednesday, June 22

Time: 7:30 a.m. CDT / 8:30 a.m. EDT

Duration: 20 mins

Station: 94.5 WFLA-FM Fort Walton Beach

Topic: Public Redistricting meetings

Listen Live: <http://www.945wfla.com/pages/docwashburn.html>

The Burnie Thompson Show

Date: Wednesday, June 22

Time: 1:05 p.m. CDT & 2:05 p.m. EDT

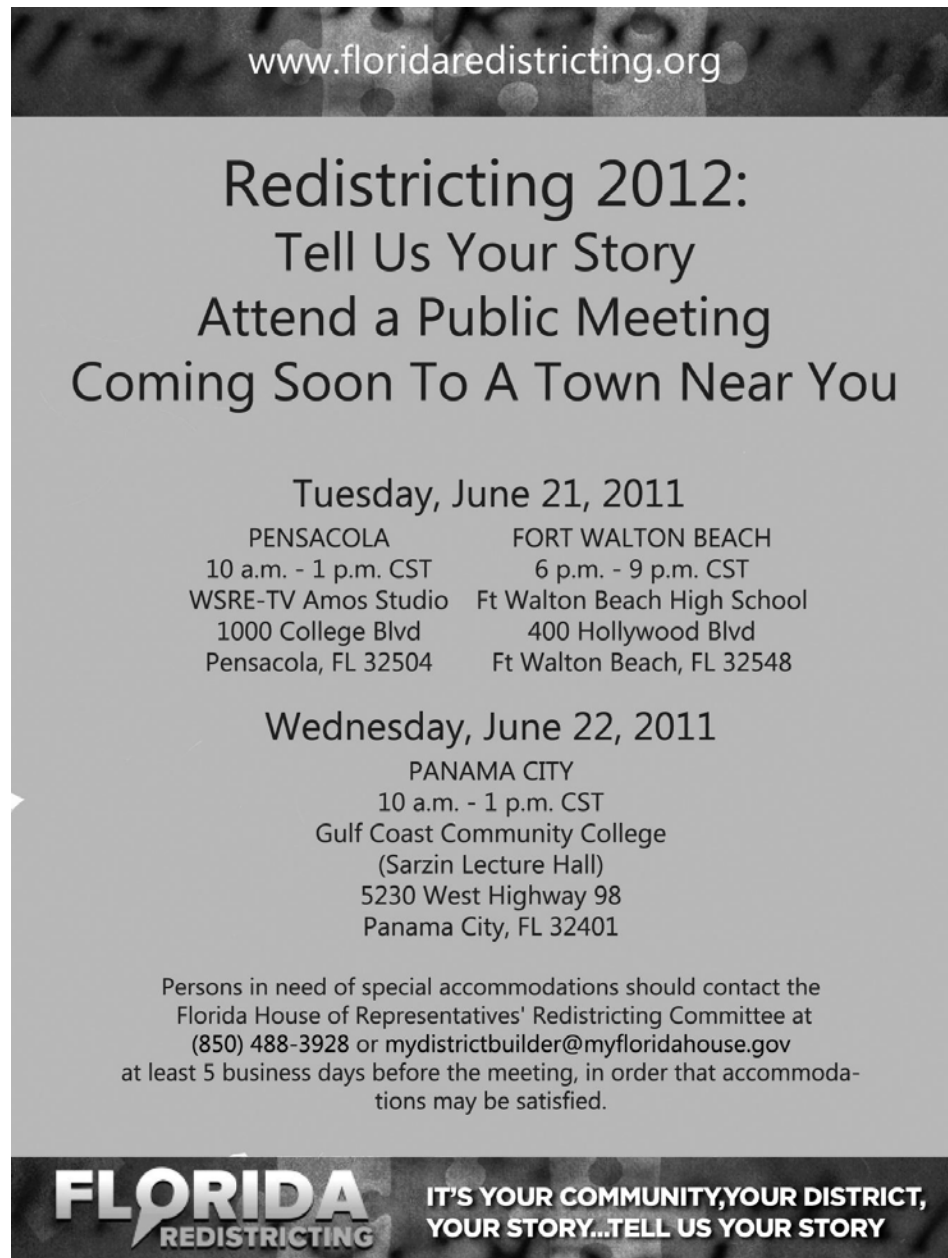
Duration: 20 mins

Station: 101.5 WYOO-FM

Listen Live: <http://burniethompson.com/>

Paid Advertising

Northwest Florida Daily News



www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012: Tell Us Your Story Attend a Public Meeting Coming Soon To A Town Near You

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

PENSACOLA	FORT WALTON BEACH
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST	6 p.m. - 9 p.m. CST
WSRE-TV Amos Studio	Ft Walton Beach High School
1000 College Blvd	400 Hollywood Blvd
Pensacola, FL 32504	Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

PANAMA CITY
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST
Gulf Coast Community College
(Sarzin Lecture Hall)
5230 West Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401

Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives' Redistricting Committee at
(850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting, in order that accommoda-
tions may be satisfied.

FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

**IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This ¼ page black and white ad appeared in the Northwest Florida Daily News on Monday, June 20, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

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PENSACOLA	FORT WALTON BEACH
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST	6 p.m. - 9 p.m. CST
WSRE-TV Amos Studio	Ft Walton Beach High School
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This ¼ page black and white ad appeared in the Panama City News-Herald on Monday, June 20, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

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This ¼ page black and white ad appeared in the Destin Log on Saturday, June 18, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012: Tell Us Your Story Attend a Public Meeting Coming Soon To A Town Near You

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

PENSACOLA	FORT WALTON BEACH
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST	6 p.m. - 9 p.m. CST
WSRE-TV Amos Studio	Ft Walton Beach High School
1000 College Blvd	400 Hollywood Blvd
Pensacola, FL 32504	Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

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10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST
Gulf Coast Community College
(Sarzin Lecture Hall)
5230 West Highway 98
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FLORIDA
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This ¼ page black and white ad appeared in the Walton Sun on Saturday, June 18, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012: Tell Us Your Story Attend a Public Meeting Coming Soon To A Town Near You

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

PENSACOLA	FORT WALTON BEACH
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST	6 p.m. - 9 p.m. CST
WSRE-TV Amos Studio	Ft Walton Beach High School
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www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012: Tell Us Your Story Attend a Public Meeting Coming Soon To A Town Near You

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

PENSACOLA 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. CST WSRE-TV Amos Studio 1000 College Blvd Pensacola, FL 32504	FORT WALTON BEACH 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. CST Ft Walton Beach High School 400 Hollywood Blvd Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
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5230 West Highway 98
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www.floridaredistricting.org

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Pensacola, FL 32504	Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548

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www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012: Tell Us Your Story Attend a Public Meeting Coming Soon To A Town Near You

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This ¼ page black and white ad appeared in the Washington County News on Saturday, June 18, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

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This ¼ page black and white ad appeared in the Santa Rosa Press Gazette on Monday, June 20, 2011.

Panama City News-Herald

A blue rectangular graphic with white text. The top section has the title 'Redistricting Meetings are Coming to a Town Near You...'. Below this, it lists three meeting locations: Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach, and Panama City, each with a date. A line of text asks for more information and provides a website URL. The bottom section features a logo for 'FLORIDA REDISTRICTING' and a slogan.

Redistricting Meetings are Coming to a Town Near You...

Join members of your Florida House and Senate in:
Pensacola - Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Fort Walton Beach - Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Panama City - Wednesday, June 22, 2011

For more information, including a schedule of all statewide meetings please visit:
www.floridaredistricting.org

FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

**IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY... TELL US YOUR STORY**

This online advertisement appeared on the Panama City News-Herald website from Friday, June 17 to Tuesday, June 21.

Northwest Florida Daily News

**Redistricting Meetings are Coming to a
Town Near You...**

Join members of your Florida House and Senate in:
Pensacola - Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Fort Walton Beach - Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Panama City - Wednesday, June 22, 2011

For more information, including a schedule of
all statewide meetings please visit:
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IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
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Community Calendar Postings

Panama City News-Herald

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[Home](#) > [Panama City Events](#) > [Panama City Civic/Government Events](#) > [Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings](#)

[Summary](#) [Full Details](#)

Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Wednesday, June 22 10:00a to 1:00p
at Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City, FL

Phone: (850) 921-7747

Age Suitability: All Ages

Tags: community, government, politics, florida, redistricting

This summer, Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Florida's panhandle from June 20 - 22, and includes stops in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Ft. Walton Beach and Panama City.

Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process!


For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

☐ [Event Website](#)


Category: Civic/Government

Creator: LindseyCruley (Manage editors)


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Tue 11/1 10:00a

OMK Camp Timpoochee 2011



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Home > Fort Walton Beach Events > Fort Walton Beach Civic/Government Events > Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

[Summary](#) [Full Details](#) [Edit](#) [Print](#)

Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Tuesday, June 21 6:00p to 9:00p
at Fort Walton Beach High School, Fort Walton Beach, FL

Price: This event is free to the public
Phone: (850) 921-7747
Age Suitability: All Ages
Tags: government, politics, florida, civics, redistricting, florida government

This summer, Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Florida's panhandle from June 20 - 22, and includes stops in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Ft. Walton Beach and Panama City.

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[Event Website](#)
Category: Civic/Government
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EPTWorks™ Lifeworks Retreat November 9-11, 2011 [BUY](#)

Sat 11/12 8:30a

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Mon 6/27 9:00a

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Category: Civic/Government

Creator: LindseyCruley

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Category: Civic/Government

Creator: LyndseyCruley

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For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

[Event Website](#)

Category: Civic/Government
Creator: LyndseyCruley

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Today June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:30am Billy and 10:30am MEMORI	30 2pm PC GARDEN 5:30pm Harmony	31 8am FLAG FOOTE 10am YOUTH JOE	Jun 1 5pm SMOKING C 7pm PIER PARK C	2	3	4 AMERICAN LEG 7am NEIGHBORH 8:30am PLAY IT F 8:30am AMERICA 3pm SHIMMY IN I 7:30pm "TRIBUTE
5	6 8:30am "BIG APPI 5:30pm Harmony	8:30am "BIG 8:30am WALI	PUBLIC REDISTRICTING MEETING When Wed, June 22, 10am – 1pm Where Gulf Coast Community College, Sarzin Lecture Hall, 5230 W. Highway 98, Panama City FL (map) Description This summer, Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Florida's panhandle from June 20 - 22, and includes stops in Tallahassee, Pensacola, Ft. Walton Beach and Panama City. Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process! For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org . more details» copy to my calendar»			11 S MIS NIT SL N' / er T
12 5:30pm TAIZE SE 6pm BIG APPLE / 6pm BIG ADVEN	13 8:30am WALLER E 9am SUMMER LA 5:30pm Harmony 6pm BIG APPLE A	8:30am WALI 6pm BIG AP				18 OR OPE OF INT VEN
19 5:30pm Harmony	20	21	22 10am PUBLIC RE	23 7pm PIER PARK C	24 8:30am UNDERST	25 7:30am NORTH FL 9am HERB RECIF 10am PANAMA C 11am UNION SCH 6:30pm JAMMING

Public Service Announcements - TV

WCTV-TV CBS Tallahassee

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA-REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WTWC-TV NBC Tallahassee

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WPGX-TV FOX Panama City

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Public Service Announcements – Radio

WAKU 94.1 FM Tallahassee

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WAAZ 104.7 FM Crestview

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WNVC 100.3 FM Fort Walton Beach

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WZNS 96.5 FM Fort Walton Beach

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WFLA 94.5 FM Fort Walton Beach

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WZEP 1640 Defuniak Springs

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Social Media

The House's official **Twitter and Facebook** accounts were used daily in the two weeks leading up to the meetings and during the meetings to increase awareness and participation.

[@MyFLHouse on Twitter](#)

[@FLRedistricting on Twitter](#)

www.facebook.com/MyFLHouse

www.facebook.com/MyDistrictBuilder

The collage displays four social media profiles:

- Twitter: MyDistrictBuilder**
Profile picture: Blue puzzle pieces with 'MyDistrictBuilder' text.
Bio: @FLRedistricting Tallahassee, Florida. Official MyDistrictBuilder Twitter account. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the FL House of Reps. Contact: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov http://www.floridaredistricting.org/
Stats: 869 Tweets, 411 Following, 527 Followers, 21 Listed.
- Twitter: Florida House (@MyFLHouse)**
Profile picture: Florida House of Representatives seal.
Bio: @MyFLHouse Tallahassee, FL. Official Florida House Twitter account. Messages and comments received are subject to FL's public records law. Email us: publicinfo@myfloridahouse.gov http://www.myfloridahouse.gov
Stats: 416 Tweets, 178 Following, 1,355 Followers, 80 Listed.
- Facebook: MyDistrictBuilder (FloridaRedistricting.Org)**
Cover photo: Blue puzzle pieces with 'MyDistrictBuilder' text.
Bio: Government organisation · Tallahassee, Florida · Edit info
Recent post: MyDistrictBuilder (FloridaRedistricting) Did you know you can RSVP for the July 11-1 Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, have to RSVP, but we are taking speakers first and we want to make sure we have enough participants. Visit the Meeting Calendar at www.floridaredistricting.org for more information.
- Facebook: My Florida House**
Cover photo: Group of people in a meeting.
Bio: Government organisation · Tallahassee, Florida
Recent post: My Florida House Just released! Please enjoy the latest edition of OPI: On Track, which depicts all legislation that has been either signed, vetoed or passed into law without the Governor's signature. You can also view the OPI: On Track in the Announcements section of the Florida House's website at: www.myfloridahouse.gov

[illegible]

FloridaRedistricting.org and MyFloridaHouse.gov were used as hubs of information and access to [Watch Meetings Live](#) (via the [Florida Channel's Redistricting Hearings webcasting](#)), access the [Meeting Calendar](#) and follow other announcements related to the public meetings.

The image displays two webpages side-by-side. The left webpage is the FloridaRedistricting.org homepage, featuring a blue header with the text "FLORIDA REDISTRICTING" and "IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY". Below the header is a "MyDistrictBuilder" section with a "SIGNUP" button. The main content area includes sections for "Redistricting...What? Why? How?", "Legislative Headlines", "Public Participation", and "Legal Concepts". The right webpage is the MyFloridaHouse.gov homepage, featuring a blue header with the text "FLORIDA REDISTRICTING" and "IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY". Below the header is a "Florida Redistricting Streaming Media and Archives" section with a table of "Upcoming Events". The table lists events such as "Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville" and "Redistricting Hearing - St. Augustine" with their respective dates and times. The bottom of the page shows a "Speaker Dean Cannon" section with a photo and a "Read Full Message" link.

FloridaRedistricting.org

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MyDistrictBuilder

STAY INFORMED!
Do you want to receive email updates or news alerts about MyDistrictBuilder and Redistricting?
SIGNUP

Redistricting...What? Why? How?
Welcome to FloridaRedistricting.Org. Redistricting is the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines, every ten years, to reflect changes in population. Everyone lives in districts...congressional, legislative, etc. Those districts tell the stories of their communities. The Florida House is inviting Floridians to start the redistricting conversation. To enable that conversation, FloridaRedistricting.Org serves as a hub of public participation opportunities, including access to MyDistrictBuilder™, the online tool for both Floridians and their legislators to suggest new district boundary lines.

Legislative Headlines:
Below are the latest releases of public information, calendar updates, legislative information and more.

- Plan Explorer's New Written Redistricting Plan Submissions (June 26)
- Press Release: Recap Public Participation Meetings in FL's Panhandle (June 22)
- Are You Ready to Participate in Florida's Redistricting? (June 17)
- Redistricting Public Services Announcements (June 16)
- Media Advisory for Redistricting Meetings in Florida's Panhandle (June 13)
- Video Update Regarding Public Meetings (June 12)

Public Participation:
Below are resources to guide your involvement in the many ways Floridians can participate in the 2011-2012 redistricting.

- Participate in Florida's Redistricting
- What is Redistricting and How Can Floridians Participate?
- Tell Us Your Story at a Public Meeting on Redistricting
- Helpful Guidance for Public Participation
- Learn Redistricting Concepts & Terminology
- Timeline for Redistricting in Florida
- Florida Redistricting By The Numbers
- Printable/Emailable Suggestion Form for Vision & Technology Impaired
- Learn to Use MyDistrictBuilder
- Complete Public Participation Toolkit

Legal Concepts:
Below are in-depth resources on Florida and federal redistricting legal requirements.

- Introduction to the Legal Concepts of Redistricting

MyFloridaHouse.gov

IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

Florida Redistricting Streaming Media and Archives

Archived videos are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. Click Video to watch the meeting with documents, or Agenda / Minutes to see just the documents. You can also search the archives by typing keywords into the Search box.

To enable the most effective streaming experience for all browsers and operating systems, please download and install [Silverlight](#) from Microsoft.

The minimum system requirements for watching the Archived video [are available here](#).

Streaming video support

Upcoming Events

Name	Date
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - St. Augustine	July 12, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Daytona Beach	July 12, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - The Villages	July 13, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Gainesville	July 13, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Lakeland	July 25, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Wauchula	July 25, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Wesley Chapel	July 26, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

Florida House of Representatives

MyFloridaHouse.gov

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FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE | BILL FINDER | SEARCH BILLTEXT | SEARCH STATUTES

NEWS ALERTS Governor Scott Signs Legislation Expanding School Choice

Speaker Dean Cannon

Welcome to the Florida House of Representatives' Official Website.

Here, you can find information about what is happening in the Florida House and the Florida Legislature, including frequent updates on the once-in-a-decade Redistricting process and instant access to bills, bill analyses and amendments.

During the upcoming 2012 Session, legislators will redraw Florida's legislative and congressional districts. The House of Representatives is proud to make this the most open and transparent process of its kind and your input is critical to our mission. This summer, House Members will visit more than two dozen cities across our great state to listen to your thoughts on where the new lines should be drawn.

Read Full Message

- Redistricting Schedule
- MyDistrictBuilder™
- Legislative Appointments
- Contact the Speaker

In The News

Governor Scott Signs Legislation to Strengthen, Expand Charter and Virtual Schools
| Read More

Funerals for Fallen Firefighters Scheduled for Friday and Saturday
| Read More

Citizens to have say in new districts
| Read More

Redistricting Tour Stops in Bay County
| Read More

Brave new world of do-it-yourself mapping
| Read More

Full Listing

MyFloridaHouse Mobile

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING MEETINGS
Watch meetings live or view video archives at:

House Daily Schedule

No Events For Today.

[FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE]

Videos

CS/CS/HB 75 Five Questions with Rep

Email was also used to increase participation in the public meetings. Redistricting Committee Chair Will Weatherford provided all 120 Members of the House with the contents from the Committee's Public Participation Toolkit for redistricting, to help enable the Members to reach out to their constituents. Furthermore, the House Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee updated their email lists with information about and ways to participate in the public meetings.

Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – June 6, 2011

Public Meeting Locations Finalized:
This summer's public meeting schedule for redistricting has been updated and social media and more can be found at:

- <http://mydistrictbuilder.wordpress.com/2011/06/02/redistricting-public-meeting-locations/>

RSVP for Public Meetings:
Our friends in the Florida Senate created this helpful website to RSVP for this summer's public meetings:

- [Public Hearing RSVP Form \(Optional\)](#)

RSVPing in advance of meetings is optional, but it does help us ensure that we have the resources we need for each meeting.

Special Accommodations:
Persons in need of special accommodations (such as sign language, translation, etc.) should contact the House Office of Public Information at mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov or call (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov at least (5) business days before the meeting.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Greetings!

Starting next week, Members of the Florida House of Representatives will be traveling throughout the state to meet with Floridians in the critical, once-a-decade process known as redistricting. This is an invaluable process and to utilize the House Office of Public Information's resources to help you participate in this process.

The mission of OPI is to empower and engage all Floridians in the redistricting process in a timely and consistent manner. The Office of Public Information records requests, facilitating Speaker's appointments and providing all Floridians with worthwhile legislative content in a variety of formats including publications, video and audio files and social media outreach.

The first leg of the state's redistricting tour will take place in several communities throughout beautiful Northwest Florida starting June 20th. A full schedule including dates, times and locations is provided below for your reference. We are hopeful you will be able to attend and that you will also encourage members of your community to participate as well.

Public Redistricting Meeting – Tallahassee
Monday, June 20, 2011
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT & 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
412 Knott Building
404 South Monroe Street

Public Redistricting Meeting – Pensacola
Tuesday, June 21, 2011
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT
WSRE-TV – Amos Studio

You forwarded this message on 6/17/2011 4:24 PM.

From: Weatherford, Will
To: HSE All House Districts
Cc: HSE Redistricting Committee
Subject: Public Participation Toolkit - Additional Materials for Public Input Meetings on Redistricting

Sent: Fri 6/17/2011 3:58 PM

Message: Sample Letter to the Editor (less than 600 words) - Copy.docx (35 KB) Sample Letter to the Editor (less than 300 words) - Copy.docx (37 KB) Sample Letter to the Editor (less than 500 words) - Copy.docx (35 KB) TellusYourStory_PanamaCity.docx (124 KB) TellusYourStory_Tallahassee.docx (124 KB) TellusYourStory_Pensacola.docx (124 KB) TellusYourStory_FtWaltonBeach.docx (124 KB)

Dear Members,

As we are just three days away from the start of our public input meetings on redistricting, I wanted to provide you with updated outreach materials that you can use to enlist the participation of your constituents in this once-in-a-decade redistricting process. An introduction to the materials below will always be available at www.floridaredistricting.org, with the full menu available via our Blog & Resources page at mydistrictbuilder.wordpress.com/participation.

Informational Fliers:

- Participate in Florida's Redistricting! *New!*
- What is Redistricting and How Can Floridians Participate?
- Tell Us Your Story at a Public Meeting on Redistricting
- Helpful Guidance for Public Participation
- Learn Redistricting Concepts & Terminology
- Timeline for Redistricting in Florida
- Florida Redistricting By The Numbers

Meeting Calendar:

- Calendar of Public Meetings

Radio Resources:

- 60-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- 30-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- 15-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- June 9, 2011 – Redistricting Committee Chair Will Weatherford on Tallahassee's 100.7 WFLA with Preston Scott and Eric Eggers *New!*

Video Resources:

- 60-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- 30-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- 15-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- Complete MyDistrictBuilder at YouTube collection *Updated!*

Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – June 17, 2011

Public Participation Toolkit
The Florida House of Representatives' public participation documents are updated to reflect the outreach being conducted in Tallahassee on Monday, June 20, and will also include meetings in Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach and Panama City.

- [Click Here](#) to see the media advisory regarding next week's meetings.
- [Click Here](#) to watch our latest video update with helpful information regarding the public input meetings.

Below are the various outreach and other helpful materials from the House's Public Participation Toolkit, including educational resources regarding redistricting. The most popular of the materials below will always be available at mydistrictbuilder.wordpress.com/participation.

You are welcome to use any of the materials for your own education and involvement, or to help others get involved. In combination with perhaps one the public participation fliers, in presenting on the topic of redistricting.

Also, note that the House's legislative home page, www.myfloridahouse.gov, was just updated (a few minutes ago) to include the link to the redistricting public input meetings. The direct link for watching the webcasts is www.floridaredistricting.org.

Informational Fliers:

- Participate in Florida's Redistricting! *New!*
- What is Redistricting and How Can Floridians Participate?
- Tell Us Your Story at a Public Meeting on Redistricting
- Helpful Guidance for Public Participation
- Learn Redistricting Concepts & Terminology
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Video Resources:

- 60-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- 30-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- 15-second Public Service Announcement *New!*
- Complete MyDistrictBuilder at YouTube collection *Updated!*

Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – June 20, 2011

Redistricting Meetings Start Today!
This week, the Florida House and Senate begin the first four of more than two dozen public input meetings on redistricting. For those Floridians at the meetings, the Florida House and Senate will be talking face-to-face with members of the Florida House and Florida Senate about how Florida's many diverse communities should be represented in the next legislative session.

For those Floridians who cannot attend the meetings, there are still many opportunities to watch the meetings and even participate via social media.

Watch Meeting Webcasts Live and Archived
First, Florida residents can visit <http://www.floridaredistricting.org/media.aspx> to watch the live webcast of redistricting meetings, via the Florida Channel at www.floridaredistricting.org.

Participate via Facebook, Twitter and Email
Second, Florida residents can submit their comments via social media. It is recommended that social media participants clearly identify to which meeting they are commenting, including "Tallahassee", "Pensacola", "Fort Walton", or "Panama City" are easily recognizable ways to indicate that a comment is associated with a specific meeting.

Social media comments that are directed to any of the following will be included in the public record of the meeting. Time permitting, the comments may be posted on the meeting's Facebook page, Twitter feed, or email list.

- Facebook: Post comments at <http://www.facebook.com/MyDistrictBuilder>
- Twitter: Send tweets to @FLRedistricting (<http://twitter.com/FLRedistricting>)
- Email: Send email messages to mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov

After the Meetings
The records from these meetings – videos, podcasts, transcripts and more – will be archived and available via www.floridaredistricting.org. Along with it, MyDistrictBuilder™ online district building application and other outreach efforts, the collective input of the public can start, sustain and watch over Florida's redistricting process. Visit www.floridaredistricting.org's Plan Explorer page (directly at <http://mydistrictbuilder.planexplorer.wordpress.com/>) to see early submissions of redistricting suggestions.

We hope to see you at a public meeting this summer, or hear from you via any of the resources mentioned above.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or need for additional information.

Happy Monday!

Benjamin M. Fairbrother
House Redistricting Committee
Florida House of Representatives
400 House Office Building
Or: (850) 921-8831

www.floridaredistricting.org

Direct Contact (via email and phone) with numerous civic organizations, colleges and universities, local governments and other organizations has also been made throughout the process of preparing for the public meetings. The following organizations were contacted prior to these redistricting public input meetings.

County governments and regional planning entities:

- ☐ All 67 County Supervisors of Election
- ☐ All 67 County Commissions in Florida
- ☐ All 11 Regional Planning Councils in Florida
- ☐ All 67 School Boards in Florida

Civic organizations, associations and other membership organizations:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AARP Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Florida PTA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACLU of Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Florida School Boards Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Pacific American Bar Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic National Bar Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broward Teachers Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Caribbean American Cultural Coalition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean Bar Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Law Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville NAACP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Cause of Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> James Madison Institute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Democracia Ahora Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Rights Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> League of Women Voters of Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FairDistrictsFlorida.org and Fair Districts Now | <input type="checkbox"/> Miami NAACP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Amendment Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Miami Urban League |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Association of Counties | <input type="checkbox"/> National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Association of Professional Lobbyists | <input type="checkbox"/> National Urban League Policy Institute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Board of Governors | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange County NAACP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Boys State | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Chamber of Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Small County Coalition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who contacted <u>every</u> local chamber on behalf of the House | <input type="checkbox"/> South Asian Bar Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Civil Rights Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Tallahassee NAACP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Girls State | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban League of Broward County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Law Related Education Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban League of Palm Beach County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida League of Cities | |

Municipal commissions or councils of the following:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altamonte Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Homestead | <input type="checkbox"/> Palm Coast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apopka | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville | <input type="checkbox"/> Panama City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aventura | <input type="checkbox"/> Jupiter | <input type="checkbox"/> Pembroke Pines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boca Raton | <input type="checkbox"/> Kissimmee | <input type="checkbox"/> Pensacola |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonita Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Worth | <input type="checkbox"/> Pinellas Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boynton Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeland | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bradenton | <input type="checkbox"/> Largo | <input type="checkbox"/> Plantation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cape Coral | <input type="checkbox"/> Lauderdale Lakes | <input type="checkbox"/> Pompano Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater | <input type="checkbox"/> Lauderhill | <input type="checkbox"/> Port Orange |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coconut Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Margate | <input type="checkbox"/> Port Saint Lucie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooper City | <input type="checkbox"/> Melbourne | <input type="checkbox"/> Riviera Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coral Gables | <input type="checkbox"/> Miami | <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Palm Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coral Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Miami Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cutler Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Miami Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Sarasota |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Davie | <input type="checkbox"/> Miramar | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Petersburg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daytona Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> North Lauderdale | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunrise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deerfield Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> North Miami | <input type="checkbox"/> Tallahassee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delray Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> North Miami Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Tamarac |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deltona | <input type="checkbox"/> North Port | <input type="checkbox"/> Tampa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunedin | <input type="checkbox"/> Oakland Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Titusville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Lauderdale | <input type="checkbox"/> Ocala | <input type="checkbox"/> Wellington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Myers | <input type="checkbox"/> Ocoee | <input type="checkbox"/> West Palm Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Pierce | <input type="checkbox"/> Orlando | <input type="checkbox"/> Weston |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gainesville | <input type="checkbox"/> Ormond Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenacres | <input type="checkbox"/> Oviedo | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Haven |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hallandale Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Palm Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Springs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hialeah | <input type="checkbox"/> Palm Beach Gardens | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hollywood | | |

The student government associations, government coordinators, and/or political science departments of the following colleges and universities:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ave Maria University | <input type="checkbox"/> New College of Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barry University | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Florida State College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bethune-Cookman University | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasco-Hernando CC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brevard CC | <input type="checkbox"/> Pensacola Christian College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broward College | <input type="checkbox"/> Pensacola State College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chipola College | <input type="checkbox"/> Polk State College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearwater Christian College | <input type="checkbox"/> Rollins College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College of Central Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daytona State College | <input type="checkbox"/> Seminole State College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eckerd College | <input type="checkbox"/> South Florida CC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edison State College | <input type="checkbox"/> Southeastern University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flagler College | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Johns River State College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida A & M | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Petersburg College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Atlantic University | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Thomas University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Christian College | <input type="checkbox"/> State College of Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Christian University | <input type="checkbox"/> Stetson University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Gateway College | <input type="checkbox"/> Tallahassee CC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Gulf Coast University | <input type="checkbox"/> Trinity College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida International University | <input type="checkbox"/> University of Central Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Memorial University | <input type="checkbox"/> University of Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Southern College | <input type="checkbox"/> University of Miami |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida State University | <input type="checkbox"/> University of North Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf Coast CC | <input type="checkbox"/> University of South Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hillsborough Community College | <input type="checkbox"/> University of West Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hope Sound Bible College | <input type="checkbox"/> University of Tampa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian River State College | <input type="checkbox"/> Valencia CC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville University | <input type="checkbox"/> Warner University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miami Dade College | |

2011-2012 Redistricting: Pre-Meeting Outreach Report



July 11 – Jacksonville

July 12 – St. Augustine

July 12 – Daytona Beach

July 13 – The Villages

July 13 – Gainesville

The contents herein reflect media and community outreach done by the Florida House of Representatives to increase awareness of and participation in the redistricting public input meetings listed above.

Note, the following does not necessarily reflect contributions to community outreach done by individual Members of the House. Nor does the following represent the totality of all media related to the public meetings.

Rather, the following represents contributions to community outreach made by Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford, the Office of the Speaker, the Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Public Information at (850) 921-7747.

[Print \(Pg. 5\)](#)

Daytona Times	Friday, July 8, 2011
The Florida Times Union	Monday, July 11, 2011
The St. Augustine Record	Monday, July 11, 2011
Orlando Sentinel	Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Gainesville Sun	Tuesday, July 12, 2011

[Published Opinion Editorials* \(Pg. 10\)](#)

Daytona Beach News-Journal	Wednesday, July 6, 2011
St. Augustine Record	Wednesday, July 6, 2011
Florida Times-Union	Thursday, July 7, 2011
Gainesville Sun	Monday, July 11, 2011

* - This list only represents those newspapers that printed the opinion editorial. House staff contacted other newspapers to request that they printed the opinion editorial.

[Radio & TV \(Pg. 14\)](#)

WJCT NPR 89.9 FM	Thursday, July 7, 2011
WOKV NewsTalk Radio AM690	Friday, July 8, 2011
Just Speak Up! Chuck and Colleen White	Monday, July 11, 2011
First Coast News	Monday, July 11, 2011
The Marc Bernier Show	Tuesday, July 12, 2011

[Online \(Pg. 16\)](#)

CapitalSoup.com	Monday, July 11, 2011
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[Paid Advertising \(Pg. 18\)](#)

Florida Times-Union*	Wednesday July 6 - Monday, July 11
Jacksonville Free Press	Thursday, July 7
Daytona Beach News-Journal	Thursday, July 7
Daytona Times	Thursday, July 7
Ocala Star-Banner	Thursday, July 7
The Villages Daily Sun	Thursday, July 7
Gainesville Sun	Thursday, July 7
Alachua County Today	Thursday, July 7
Citrus County Chronicle	Thursday, July 7

The Florida Star	Saturday, July 9
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* - Indicates online advertising

Community Calendar Postings (Pg. 27)

Florida Times-Union	Tuesday, June 28 – Wednesday, July 13
St. Augustine Record	Tuesday, June 28 – Wednesday, July 13
Ocala Star-Banner	Wednesday, June 29 – Wednesday, July 13
Gainesville Sun	Wednesday, June 29 – Wednesday, July 13
SKY NewsTalk Gainesville	Tuesday, July 5 – Wednesday, July 13
First Coast News	Tuesday, July 5 – Wednesday, July 13
WFTV-TV Orlando, Daytona Beach	Tuesday, July 5 – Wednesday, July 13
The Citrus County Chronicle	Tuesday, July 5 – Wednesday, July 13

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – TV* (Pg. 35)

WJXX-TV ABC Jacksonville	Monday, June 13 – Wednesday, July 13
WTLV-TV NBC Jacksonville	Monday, June 13 – Wednesday, July 13
WDSC-TV Jacksonville	Tuesday, June 14 – Wednesday, July 13
WGFL-TV CBS Gainesville	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, July 13
WNBW-DT Gainesville	Wednesday, June 15 – Wednesday, July 13
WMYG-LP CBS Gainesville	Thursday, June 16 – Wednesday, July 13

* - This list only represents those television stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – Radio* (Pg. 38)

WAPE 95.1 FM Jacksonville	Thursday, June 16 – Wednesday, July 13
WJGL 96.9 Jacksonville	Thursday, June 16 – Wednesday, July 13
WFYV 104.5 FM Jacksonville	Thursday, June 16 – Wednesday, July 13
WOKV 960 AM Jacksonville	Thursday, June 16 – Wednesday, July 13
WXXJ 102.9 FM Jacksonville	Thursday, June 16 – Wednesday, July 13

* - This list only represents those radio stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Social Media (Pg. 41)

Twitter	Thursday, June 23 – Wednesday, July 13
Facebook	
YouTube	
Blogging	
MyFloridaHouse.gov	
FloridaRedistricting.org	
Florida Channel	
Email & Direct Contact	

Print

Legislators coming to Daytona next week to get comments on redistricting

Daytona Times
July 8, 2011

By: James Harper

More than 40 Florida state legislators are expected to descend upon Daytona Beach on Tuesday for a joint meeting of the House Redistricting Committee, the Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee, the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee and the House Redistricting Subcommittee.

The meeting will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the News-Journal Center at Daytona State College, 221 N. Beach St. The meeting is a public hearing on redistricting. The purpose of the meetings is to give information and gather public input about redistricting.

Critics of meetings already held are upset that the public hearings are taking place before the legislators propose maps for the once-every-10-years redrawing of districts.

Redistricting is the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines, occurring every 10 years, to reflect changes in population. The Florida Legislature must redraw the state's congressional and legislative boundary lines prior to the 2012 elections.

Changing the shape of state districts

State Rep. Dwayne Taylor of Daytona Beach was chosen to serve on congressional redistricting subcommittee, one of three committees that will change the shape of every legislative district in Florida and decide where to place two new congressional seats.

"In the past, they were gerrymandering the districts, making districts favorable to an incumbent or a particular party. Can't do that with Fair Districts amendments," said Taylor, noting among congressional districts he will be redrawing are the ones currently held by Congress members Corrine Brown, John Mica and Sandy Adams.

The U.S. Department of Justice green-lighted the controversial Fair District amendments last month saying it could find no reason why the Voting Rights Act barred Florida from using the new standards.

Strict guidelines must be followed

There is a history of racial discrimination in at least five Florida counties. Florida has to submit all changes to voting and elections laws to the Justice Department for preclearance.

Advocates for the Fair District amendments are aiming at limiting lawmakers' ability to craft gerrymandered districts based on political considerations.

Rep. Dorothy Hukill of Port Orange is co-chair of the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee.

Members of the committees must follow strict guidelines and are told to refrain from discussing their personal political ambitions, personal district preferences or the ambitions or preferences of other candidates or office holders with the chairman, the members or the staff of the redistricting committee.

Meetings next week in other cities

Members of the Florida House and Senate recently kicked off the 2012 Florida Redistricting Public Input meetings in several Northwest Florida communities with great participation from Panhandle residents.

The members will kick off next week with a meeting in Jacksonville on July 11 at the Florida State College, downtown Jacksonville at 401 W. State St. from 2 to 4 p.m.

Before coming to Daytona Beach on Tuesday, the legislators will be at Flagler College in St. Augustine from 8 to 11 a.m.

"If you or someone you know lives in the Northeast or North Central Florida regions, we encourage you to participate in one or many of these unique forums where your opinions regarding Florida's redistricting will be heard," said Florida Rep. John Legg, Speaker pro tempore.

On Wednesday, the group moves on to The Villages at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center from 8 a.m. to noon.

Legislators will round up the week at a public meeting in Gainesville at Santa Fe Community College beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m.

How to access info online

Residents who can't attend meetings can visit www.floridaredistricting.org and can access social media to provide commentary, watch the meetings live on the web. Residents also can access a state-of-the-art MyDistrictBuilder application, which allows users to draw their own district maps for submission to the Florida Legislature for consideration.

Public comments and suggestions also can be submitted via e-mail to MyDistrictBuilder@myfloridahouse.gov.

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Read More: <http://www.flcourier.com/fldaytona-times/5676-legislators-coming-to-daytona-next-week-to-get-comments-on-redistricting>

Redistricting: How much do First Coast districts need to lose/gain to be 'ideal'?

The Florida Times Union
July 11, 2011

By: Matt Dixon

With redistricting public hearings rolling into Northeast Florida today and Tuesday, thought now would be a good time to take a look at where some local districts need to get to be considered at ideal size. The measurement is based on population.

Note: This is a first, brief look at the issue, but we will delve into it deeper moving forward.

Right off the bat, one of the most interesting aspects is that candidates running for State Sen. Tony Hill's District 1 seat in a not-yet-called special election are running for a seat that will look different when the winning candidate will have to run again in 2012.

The Senate's numbers indicate that the seat must gain 45,577 people. More on why Hill won't be running again here.

Below is a breakdown of area districts, and how much they need to gain or lose. You can read the Senate's full report [here](#).

State Senate (Ideal population is 470,033)

District	Amount needed to gain/lose
1 (Tony Hill)	Gain 45,577
5 (Stephen Wise)	Lose 45,336
8 (John Thrasher)	Lose 55,641

State House (Ideal population 156,678)

12 (Janet Adkins)	Lose 2,676
13 (Daniel Davis)	Lose 38,753
14 (Mia Jones)	Gain 22,261
15 (Reggie Fullwood)	Gain 32,167
16 (Charles McBurney)	Gain 16,250

17 (Lake Ray)	Lose 5,265
18 (Ronald "Doc" Renuart	Lose 4,512
19 (Mike Weinstein)	Lose 18,950
20 (Bill Proctor)	Lose 45,275

Congressional seats (ideal population 696,345)

3 (Corrine Brown)	Gain 37,290
4 (Ander Crenshaw)	Lose 48,073
6 (Cliff Stearns)	Lose 116,389
7 (John Mica)	Lose 116,097

Residents Invited to Redistricting Session

The St. Augustine Record
July 11, 2011

By From staff

Area residents can share their ideas regarding redistricting with Florida House and Senate members this morning at Flagler College Auditorium, 14 Granada St.

The meeting is from 8 to 11 a.m. and is open to the public.

House and Senate redistricting committees are on their second round of joint public meetings in northeastern and north-central Florida as Congressional and Legislative districts are redrawn.

While members of the public will be able to speak, committee members won't be able to respond to anything but technical questions.

The Legislature won't release its proposed maps until next year. Citizens can find out more and draw up their own map proposals by using the redistricting website at www.floridaredistricting.org.

Redistricting Hearing to be Held Today at The Villages

Orlando Sentinel

July 12, 2011

THE VILLAGES — Florida lawmakers will host a redistricting hearing from 8 a.m. to noon today at The Villages' Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd.

After the national census every 10 years, state lawmakers must redraw the voting boundaries of each district. The process of redistricting must be finished before candidates can qualify for the 2012 election.

At the hearing, citizens will have a chance to discuss the process with lawmakers from the Senate Committee on Reapportionment and House Committee on Redistricting.

The number of congressional districts in Florida will increase from 25 to 27, according to a brochure put out by the committee.

The Senate committee's website offers a draw-your-own-district map, maps of the current districts and a list of current state senators and representatives.

Hearings are also being held in 24 other cities across the state, including two in Orlando on July 27. For a list of hearings, visit thefloridachannel.org/redistricting-hearings.

— *Meredith Rutland*

Views of Public are Sought

Gainesville Sun

July 12, 2011

COMMUNITY

Views of public are sought

A public meeting to gain local input on the redistricting of the Florida Legislature and the state's congressional districts is scheduled for this evening.

The meeting will run from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall, 3000 NW 83rd St.

State government is holding similar meetings across the state over the next few months. More information on the process is available online at www.floridaredistricting.org.

— *Staff report*

Published Opinion Editorials

Hearings take redistricting questions to communities

Daytona Beach News-Journal
July 6, 2011

This summer, lawmakers from across the state will begin the process of redrawing Florida's boundary lines for equal representation. This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the United States Constitution. In keeping with our state's strong commitment to transparency, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools, and resources that you need to impact the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, we are making your community aware that Florida's legislators are hosting a series of 26 public input meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

The next set of public redistricting meetings is coming to the Northeast Florida area:

- July 11: At Florida State College in Jacksonville, from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
- July 12: At Flagler College in St. Augustine from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- July 12: At the News-Journal Center in Daytona Beach from 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you. Legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community. We will provide Floridians with opportunities to ask questions throughout the process; however, this series of meetings will be completely dedicated to hearing from you.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live web stream via the Florida Channel at: thefloridachannel.org. If you cannot attend or tune-in to the Web stream there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the Web pages launched by both the Florida House of Representatives (floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (flsenate.gov/Redistricting), which are filled with information about redistricting. Both sites even include options to create and submit your own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

The online computer programs that we will use to build districts were created with you in mind. There are training resources that can help you get started drawing your own plan. Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting and everyone who attends a community meeting will have the chance to ask House and Senate staff about using the applications to build districts and how the redistricting process works.

In addition to drawing districts, Floridians can go online now to submit comments, access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply keep up with the latest information on the process. Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help inform their redistricting proposals.

Redistricting happens only once a decade. It is your opportunity to help shape the districts that are the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings so that your voice can be heard.

© 2011 *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*.

Guest column: Lawmakers: Floridians will make a difference in redistricting

St. Augustine Record
July 6, 2011

This summer, lawmakers from across the state will begin the process of redrawing Florida's boundary lines for equal representation. This historic event happens just once every ten years, as directed by the United States Constitution. In keeping with our state's strong commitment to transparency, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools, and resources that you need to impact the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, Florida's legislators are hosting a series of 26 public input meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

The meetings in Northeast Florida begin Monday in Jacksonville. They are: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Florida State College at Jacksonville. Tuesday, meetings will be at Flagler College in St. Augustine, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and at the News Journal Center at Daytona State College in Daytona Beach, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you. Legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community. We will provide Floridians with opportunities to ask questions throughout the process; however, this series of meetings will be completely dedicated to hearing from you.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live web stream via the Florida Channel at www.thefloridachannel.org. If you cannot attend or tune-in to the web stream there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the web pages launched by both the Florida House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting) which are filled with information about redistricting. Both sites even include options to create and

submit your own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

The online computer programs that we will use to build districts were created with you in mind. There are training resources that will help you get started drawing your own plan. Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting. House and Senate will be available to talk to those in attendance about using the applications to build districts and how the redistricting process works.

In addition to drawing districts, you may go online now to submit comments, access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply keep up with the latest information on the process. Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help inform their redistricting proposals.

Redistricting happens only once a decade. It is your opportunity to help shape the districts that are the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings so that your voice can be heard.

St. Augustine Record ©2011.

Redistricting: A once-in-a-decade chance to speak out

Florida Times-Union
July 7, 2011

This summer, lawmakers from across the state will begin the process of redrawing Florida's boundary lines for equal representation.

This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the United States Constitution.

In keeping with our state's strong commitment to transparency, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that citizens will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools and resources to impact the redistricting process.

Florida's legislators are hosting a series of 26 public input meetings on redistricting. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live webstream via the Florida Channel at this site: www.thefloridachannel.org.

If you cannot attend or tune-in to the web stream, there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite citizens to visit the web pages launched by the Florida House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting).

Both sites even include options to create and submit your own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting. Everyone who attends a community meeting will have the chance to ask House and Senate staff how the redistricting process works.

In addition to drawing districts, Floridians can go online to submit comments, access committee and public hearing schedules or simply keep up with the latest information on the process.

Legislators will use feedback, comments and submitted plans to help inform their redistricting proposals.

This is your opportunity to help shape the districts that are the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington.

Jacksonville.com ©2011.

Read More: <http://jacksonville.com/opinion/letters-readers/2011-07-07/story/redistricting-once-decade-chance-speak-out>

Don Gaetz and Will Weatherford: Your Opportunity to Help Guide the State's Reapportionment

Gainesville Sun

July 11, 2011

This summer, lawmakers from across the state will begin the process of redrawing Florida's legislative and congressional district boundaries.

This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the United States Constitution.

In keeping with the Sunshine State's strong commitment to transparency, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools and resources that you need to impact the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, we are making your community aware that Florida's legislators are hosting a series of 26 public input meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

The pair of public redistricting meetings in North Central Florida will be held Wednesday from 8 a.m. until noon in The Villages in Marion County; and from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Santa Fe College.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you, not for politicians to stand on their soapboxes.

We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community.

We will provide Floridians with opportunities to ask questions throughout the process; however, legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live web stream provided by the Florida Channel at www.thefloridachannel.org.

If you cannot attend or tune in to the web stream, there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the web pages launched by both the Florida House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting). Both sites are filled with information about redistricting, and allow users to create and submit your own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

The online district building applications were created with you in mind, and include training resources that can help you get started drawing your own plan. Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting and everyone will have the chance to ask House and Senate staff about the applications and the redistricting process in general.

Floridians also can go online to submit comments, to access committee and public hearing schedules or to keep up with the latest information on the process.

Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help construct their redistricting proposals.

This is your opportunity to help shape the districts that form the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings to make your voice heard.

State Sen. Don Gaetz is chair of the Senate Reapportionment Committee. Rep. Will Weatherford chairs the House Redistricting Committee.

Radio & TV

WJCT NPR 89.9 FM

Date: Thursday, July 7
Time: 4:15 p.m EDT
Host: Cyd Hoskinson
Duration: 15 mins
Station: 89.9 FM Jacksonville
Topic: Public Redistricting meetings

WOKV NewsTalk Radio AM690

Date: Friday, July 8
Host: Tiffany Griffith
Duration: 5 min
Station: WOKV 960 AM Jacksonville

Just Speak Up! Chuck and Colleen White

Date: Monday, July 11
Time: 12:15 p.m. EST
Duration: 15 mins
Call-in #: 904-332-0694
Topic: Public Redistricting meetings

First Coast News

Date: Monday, July 11
Time: Live Broadcasting on-site

The Marc Bernier Show

Date: Tuesday, July 12
Time: 3:05 p.m. EST
Host: Marc Bernier
Call-in #: 1-800-927-0033 or 386-239-0033
Listen Live: <http://www.marcberniershow.com/index.cfm>

Online

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

CapitalSoup.com
July 11, 2011

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.

#

Contact:


Lyndsey Cruley, (850) 524-5006

Paid Advertising

Florida Times-Union



These online advertisements appeared on the Florida Times-Union website from Wednesday, July 6, 2011 to Monday, July 11, 2011.



Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Monday, July 11, 2011

JACKSONVILLE 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. FL State College Jax Downtown Campus 401 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32203	JACKSONVILLE 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. FL State College Jax Downtown Campus 401 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32203
---	---

We hope to see you at one or both of the events!


Tuesday, July 12, 2011

ST. AUGUSTINE 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Flagler College (Auditorium) 14 Granada St St. Augustine, FL 32084	DAYTONA BEACH 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. News Journal Center at Daytona State College 221 N Beach St #100 Daytona Beach, FL 32114
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Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING **IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Jacksonville Free Press on Thursday, July 7, 2011.



Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Monday, July 11, 2011


JACKSONVILLE 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. FL State College Jax Downtown Campus 401 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32203	JACKSONVILLE 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. FL State College Jax Downtown Campus 401 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32203
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We hope to see you at one or both of the events!

Tuesday, July 12, 2011


ST. AUGUSTINE 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Flagler College (Auditorium) 14 Granada St St. Augustine, FL 32084	DAYTONA BEACH 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. News Journal Center at Daytona State College 221 N Beach St #100 Daytona Beach, FL 32114
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in order that accommodations may be satisfied.



FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Daytona Beach News-Journal on Thursday, July 7, 2011.



Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Monday, July 11, 2011

JACKSONVILLE 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. FL State College Jax Downtown Campus 401 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32203	JACKSONVILLE 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. FL State College Jax Downtown Campus 401 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32203
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We hope to see you at one or both of the events!


Tuesday, July 12, 2011

ST. AUGUSTINE 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Flagler College (Auditorium) 14 Granada St St. Augustine, FL 32084	DAYTONA BEACH 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. News Journal Center at Daytona State College 221 N Beach St #100 Daytona Beach, FL 32114
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FLORIDA REDISTRICTING **IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Daytona Times on Thursday, July 7, 2011.



Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

THE VILLAGES
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Colony Cottage Recreation Center
510 Colony Boulevard
The Villages, FL 32162

GAINESVILLE
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Santa Fe College
(Fine Arts Hall - NW Corner of Campus)
3000 NW 83rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606

Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Ocala Star-Banner on Thursday, July 7, 2011.



Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Monday, July 11, 2011

JACKSONVILLE 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. FL State College Jax Downtown Campus 401 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32203	JACKSONVILLE 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. FL State College Jax Downtown Campus 401 W State St Jacksonville, FL 32203
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We hope to see you at one or both of the events!

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

ST. AUGUSTINE 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Flagler College (Auditorium) 14 Granada St St. Augustine, FL 32084	DAYTONA BEACH 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. News Journal Center at Daytona State College 221 N Beach St #100 Daytona Beach, FL 32114
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Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
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at least 5 business days before the meeting,
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FLORIDA REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Villages Daily Sun on Thursday, July 7, 2011.

Redistricting 2012: Tell Us Your Story

**Attend a Redistricting
Public Meeting
Coming to Gainesville
and The Villages**

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Check out local meeting
dates and times at:

www.floridaredistricting.org

For special accommodations, contact
the Florida House at (850) 488-3928



This appeared as a 1/8 page black and white ad in The Gainesville Sun on Friday, June 8, 2011.

A poster for the Florida Redistricting 2012 public meeting. The top section has a blue background with a puzzle piece pattern. The main text is in bold black font on a light blue background. The bottom section has a blue background with a puzzle piece pattern.

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, July 13, 2011


THE VILLAGES
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Colony Cottage Recreation Center
510 Colony Boulevard
The Villages, FL 32162

GAINESVILLE
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Santa Fe College
(Fine Arts Hall - NW Corner of Campus)
3000 NW 83rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606

Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
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at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Alachua County Today on Friday, June 8, 2011.




Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

THE VILLAGES
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Colony Cottage Recreation Center
510 Colony Boulevard
The Villages, FL 32162

GAINESVILLE
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Santa Fe College
(Fine Arts Hall - NW Corner of Campus)
3000 NW 83rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606

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at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
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FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Citrus County Chronicle on Friday, June 8, 2011.

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Monday, July 11 2:00p to 4:00p

at [Florida State College at Jacksonville Downtown Campus](#), Jacksonville, FL

Price: Free

Phone: (850) 921-7747

Age Suitability: All Ages

Tags: community, politics, redistricting, florida government

This summer, Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Jacksonville on July 11, 2011, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process!

For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

[Event Website](#)

Categories: Community, Civic/Government

Creator: LyndseyCruley

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Sun 10/9 1:00p

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Straight No Chaser
Wed 4/25/11 8:00p

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Summary Full Details [Edit](#) [Print](#)

Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Tuesday, July 12 7:00p
at Flagler College Auditorium, St Augustine, FL

Price: Free
Phone: (850) 921-7747
Age Suitability: All Ages
Tags: *There are no tags.*

This summer, Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the once-in-a-decade redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Northeast Florida and include stops in Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Daytona Beach. Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process!
For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

[Event Website](#)

Categories: Community, Civic/Government
[Add a Performer to this Event](#)


Creator: LyndseyCruley (Manage editors)

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Sat 8/27 7:30p

Selena Gomez & The Scene
Sun 7/31 7:00p

Alison Krauss And Union Station
Fri 8/19 8:00p

Wiz Khalifa
Sun 7/17 6:00p

Further featuring Phil Lesh & Bob Weir
Sat 7/30 6:30p


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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings
Wednesday, July 13 8:00a to 12:00p
at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, Wildwood, FL

Price: Free
Phone: (850) 921-7747
Age Suitability: All Ages
Tags: There are no tags. +

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida’s political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the North Central Florida area and will include stops in The Villages and Gainesville. Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process!
For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

☐ Event Website
Categories: Community, Civic/Government
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Creator: LyndseyCruley (Manage editors)

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ON SALE NOW

2001 Class Reunion
Sat 12/3 8:00p

Love Worth Fighting For Marriage Event
Fri 7/29 7:00p

Released & Unleashed: Girls Gone Wild Bible Style Fall Retreat
Sun 9/25 1:00p

Free Ocala, Florida Class
Thu 7/21 7:00p

Iron Sharpens Iron Conference in Ocala
Sat 10/22 7:30a

W.O.W. Fellowship presents: Inspirations!
Fri 7/8 8:00p


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Location & Nearby Info

Colony Cottage Recreation Center
510 Colony Blvd.
Wildwood, FL 32162

Show nearby:

☒ Bars ☐ Hotels



1

Skunks Nest

0.9 mi

2


Amelia's at The Waterfront Inn

1.5 mi

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings
Wednesday, July 13 6:00p to 9:00p
at Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville, FL

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida’s political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the North Central Florida area and will include stops in The Villages and Gainesville on Wednesday, July 13. [read more](#)

[Event Website](#)


Categories: Community, Civic/Government
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ON SALE NOW


**Florida Football vs. Tennessee**
Sat 9/17 1:00p

**Aaron Neville**
Fri 11/25 7:30p

**Buddy Guy**
Sat 4/21 7:30p

**Monty Python's Spamalot**
Mon 2/20 7:30p

**Stomp**
Fri 3/30 7:30p

**The Miles Davis Experience**
Fri 11/18 7:30p

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings
Jul 13th - Jul 13th
6:00AM - 9:00AM
This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the North Central Florida area and will include stops in The Villages and Gainesville on Wednesday, July 13. Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process! For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.
Cost: Free
Event Type: Neighborhood Event
Santa Fe College (Fine Arts Hall)
3000 Northwest 83rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606
Phone: 850-921-7747

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT | COMMUNITY

Monday, July 11, 2011, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

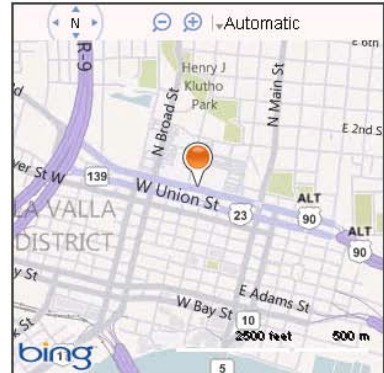
Florida State College at Jacksonville - South Campus in Springfield

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the Northeast Florida area and will include stops in Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Daytona Beach on Monday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 12. Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process! For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

(850) 921-7747

www.floridaredistricting.org

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TALLAHASSEE, FL EVENTS



Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Jul 12, 2011 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Tuesday)

News-Journal Center at Daytona State College
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

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EVENT DETAILS

Description

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the Northeast Florida area and will include stops in Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Daytona Beach on Monday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 12.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

<	July	>				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31

Upcoming Events
7/6 Firearms Safety Class
7/8 Mango Hometown Tour Taste-Off

HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION OBITUARIES FEATURES SPECIAL SECTIONS CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICES

Calendar

Date *Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings* has been created.

Year Month Week Day [Click here to add your event](#)

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July 2011

Next »

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27					1 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS Summer Camp!	2 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS Summer Camp!
28	3 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS GTL soccer academy Patriotic Evening	4 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS JULY 4th MACHINE GUN SHOOT	5 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS Firearms Safety Class	6 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS	7 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS Mango Hometown Tour Taste-Off	8 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS CONCERT: PURE FLORIDA MUSIC JULY 9, 2011 DUNNELLON TRAIN DEPOT
29	10 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS GTL soccer academy	11 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS Citrus County Genealogical Society	12 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS <i>Florida House and Senate to</i>	13 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS	14 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS GTL Family Volleyball	15 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS Firearms Safety Class
30	17 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS GTL soccer academy	18 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS	19 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS			23
31	24 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS	25 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS	26 CITRUS COUNTY INVENTORS			30

Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Submitted by LyndseyC on Tue, 07/05/2011 - 1:43pm

Date:
07/13/2011 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the North Central

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Public Service Announcements - TV

WJXX-TV ABC Jacksonville

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WTLV-TV NBC Jacksonville

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WDSC-TV Jacksonville

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WGFL-TV CBS Gainesville

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WNBW-DT NBC Gainesville

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WMYG-LP CBS Gainesville

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Public Service Announcements – Radio

WAPE 95.1 FM Jacksonville

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WJGL 96.9 FM Jacksonville

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WFYV 104.5 FM Jacksonville

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WOKV 960 AM Jacksonville

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WXXJ 102.9 FM Jacksonville

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Social Media

The House's official **Twitter and Facebook** accounts were used daily in the two weeks leading up to the meetings and during the meetings to increase awareness and participation.

[@MyFLHouse on Twitter](#)

[@FLRedistricting on Twitter](#)

www.facebook.com/MyFLHouse

www.facebook.com/MyDistrictBuilder

The collage displays four social media profiles. The top-left screenshot shows the Twitter profile for MyDistrictBuilder (@FLRedistricting), a Tallahassee, Florida account with 869 tweets, 411 following, 527 followers, and 21 listed. The top-right screenshot shows the Twitter profile for Florida House (@MyFLHouse), also in Tallahassee, Florida, with 416 tweets, 178 following, 1,355 followers, and 80 listed. The bottom-left screenshot shows the Facebook page for MyDistrictBuilder (FloridaRedistricting.Org), a government organization in Tallahassee, Florida, with 374 people liking it. The bottom-right screenshot shows the Facebook page for My Florida House, also a government organization in Tallahassee, Florida, with 1,047 likes. The screenshots are arranged in a slightly overlapping manner, with the Twitter profiles at the top and the Facebook pages at the bottom.

The [Office of Public Information](#) and the [Redistricting Committee](#) used their respective YouTube pages and video content to help prepare Floridians for both what to expect at the public meetings, and also give suggestions on how Florida residents must prepare to offer their feedback on Florida's redistricting.

The image is a collage of four screenshots from YouTube video players, all featuring content from the MyFloridaHouse channel. The top-left screenshot shows a man in a tan suit speaking at a podium during the "2011 Redistricting Tour - Panama City". The top-right screenshot is a channel page for "MyDistrictBuilderFL's Channel" with a playlist of four "2011 Redistricting Tour" videos from Jacksonville, Panama City, Fort Walton, and Pensacola. The bottom-left screenshot shows a group of people at a computer during the "2011 Redistricting Tour - Fort Walton Beach", with a description stating it was the third stop of the tour. The bottom-right screenshot shows a woman, Cecile Scoon, identified as a "Panama City Resident", speaking at a podium during the "2011 Redistricting Tour".

The [House Redistricting Committee's official Blog](#) was used to prepare Florida residents for public meetings, including guidance on meeting logistics, participating via social media, creative ideas for effective public participation, and the many ways in which Floridians can submit their comments to the Florida House. In addition, the House's [Plan Explorer site](#), which is accessible via www.floridaredistriking.org, was used to provide the public with the redistricting maps being offered by Florida residents at the public meetings. Public participation content from the websites was rebroadcast via Twitter, Facebook and www.floridaredistriking.org.

BLOG & RESOURCES

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NEWEROLDER

JUNE 29, 2011 • 6:58 PM (EDIT)

Florida Redistricting Public Meetings: Are you Ready for Round 2?

July 11-13, the Florida House and Senate's public input meetings on redistricting are coming to northeast and northcentral Florida. Meetings will be held in Jacksonville (July 11), St. Augustine (July 12), Daytona Beach (July 12), The Villages (July 13) and Gainesville (July 13).

If you or someone you know would like to attend, below is driving and parking information for each location. Note, the street address for the St. Augustine meeting has been revised. You can keep track of the Meeting Calendar via www.floridaredistriking.org or download the [full public meeting calendar here](#). Also, below you will find Google Maps links for each meeting location.

- July 11: Jacksonville: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps](#)
- July 12: St. Augustine: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps](#)
- July 12: Daytona Beach: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps](#)
- July 13: The Villages: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps](#)
- July 13: Gainesville: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps](#)

If you cannot attend the meetings in person, if you want to watch a video

BLOG & RESOURCES

FRONTPAGE return home	BROWSE by topic	SUBSCRIBE rss feed
--------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------

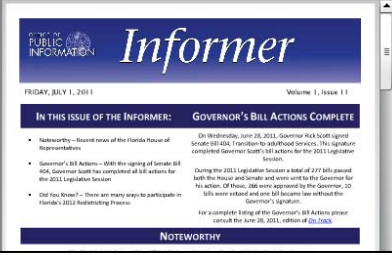
NEWEROLDER

JULY 1, 2011 • 3:37 PM (EDIT)

Many Ways to Participate in Florida's Redistricting!

The Florida House's [Office of Public Information](#) just released their latest "OPI Informer," featuring great suggestions on how to get involved in Florida's redistricting process. If you're looking to get friends, neighbors or your organization involved, this two-page briefing is a great way to introduce them to Florida redistricting.

You can view the latest OPI Informer below or download it by [clicking here](#).



BLOG & RESOURCES

FRONTPAGE return home	BROWSE by topic	SUBSCRIBE rss feed
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NEWEROLDER

JULY 7, 2011 • 7:28 PM (EDIT)

Public Participation: Where to Begin?

So you're thinking about attending a [public meeting on redistricting](#), or maybe submitting your redistricting suggestions via [MyDistrictBuilder](#) or social media, but you're not sure where to begin? How can you express your thoughts about the manner in which your districts should affect the representation of your community in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. for the next decade?

It seems like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it can actually be a fun and creative process, because there are so many ways to tell the story of your community. Hopefully, the examples below will give you some ideas of how to submit your redistricting ideas to the Florida Legislature.

Submit a Social Media Comment:

- Just because you can't make one of the [26 public input meetings](#) in-person does not mean you cannot participate. You can access meeting webcasts live or replay by [clicking here](#). What's more, you can submit your redistricting ideas before, during or after the meetings to our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) sites, or email us at mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov.
- As an example, [click here](#) to see a comment that was submitted via [Facebook](#) during the June 20 Tallahassee public meeting. The comment was a reiteration of a point made by a member of the public who spoke at the meeting, and the comment was actually read aloud at the meeting.

Submit Ideas as a Group:

- No need to work alone in the complicated process of redistricting. Check out the most recent set of redistricting plan suggestions at www.floridaredistriking.org's [Plan Explorer](#) page. A group of Osceola County residents sent a clear message about what they want for their congressional district with a series of personalized

PLAN EXPLORER

FRONTPAGE return home	BROWSE by topic	SUBSCRIBE rss feed
--------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------

NEWEROLDER

JULY 8, 2011 • 6:00 PM (EDIT)

HPUBC0003 - Libby, John

Summary:

- Congressional Redistricting Plan
- 27 Districts
- Complete: YES*
- Contiguous: YES
- Direct Impacts: Statewide
- Submitted to the Florida House of Representatives
- Submitted by John Libby from Duval County

* - Two census blocks, each with zero population, are not assigned.

Open Plan in MyDistrictBuilder or Another Application:

- KMZ File: Save and Open Plan in MyDistrictBuilder
- Block Assignment File: Save and Open Plan U.S. DOJ format

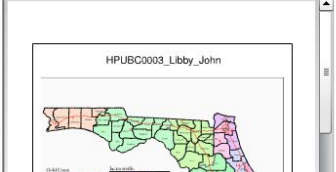
Statistics:

- PDF File: Open Census & ACS Summary Statistics
- CSV Spreadsheet File: Open Census & ACS Summary Statistics
- CSV Spreadsheet File: Open Census & ACS Expanded Statistics

Maps:

- PDF File: Open Complete Map

See Below for a Quick View of the Map and Sharing Features:



FloridaRedistricting.org and MyFloridaHouse.gov were used as hubs of information and access to [Watch Meetings Live](#) (via the [Florida Channel's Redistricting Hearings webcasting](#)), access the [Meeting Calendar](#) and follow other announcements related to the public meetings.



FLORIDA REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

MyDistrictBuilder STAY INFORMED! Do you want to receive email updates or news alerts about MyDistrictBuilder and Redistricting? **SIGNUP**

Redistricting...What? Why? How?
Welcome to FloridaRedistricting.Org. Redistricting is the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines, every ten years, to reflect changes in population. Everyone lives in districts...congressional, legislative, etc. Those districts tell the stories of their communities. The Florida House is inviting Floridians to start the redistricting conversation. To enable that conversation, FloridaRedistricting.Org serves as a hub of public participation opportunities, including access to MyDistrictBuilder™, the online tool for both Floridians and their legislators to suggest new district boundary lines.

Legislative Headlines:
Below are the latest releases of public information, calendar updates, legislative information and more.

- Plan Explorer's New Written Redistricting Plan Submissions (June 26)
- Press Release: Recap Public Participation Meetings in FL's Panhandle (June 22)
- Are You Ready to Participate in Florida's Redistricting? (June 17)
- Redistricting Public Services Announcements (June 16)
- Media Advisory for Redistricting Meetings in Florida's Panhandle (June 13)
- Video Update Regarding Public Meetings (June 12)

Public Participation:
Below are resources to guide your involvement in the many ways Floridians can participate in the 2011-2012 redistricting.

- Participate in Florida's Redistricting
- What is Redistricting and How Can Floridians Participate?
- Tell Us Your Story at a Public Meeting on Redistricting
- Helpful Guidance for Public Participation
- Learn Redistricting Concepts & Terminology
- Timeline for Redistricting in Florida
- Florida Redistricting By The Numbers
- Printable/Emailable Suggestion Form for Vision & Technology Impaired
- Learn to Use MyDistrictBuilder
- Complete Public Participation Toolkit

Legal Concepts:
Below are in-depth resources on Florida and federal redistricting legal requirements.

- Introduction to the Legal Concepts of Redistricting

MyDistrictBuilder
Plan Explorer
Blog & Resources
Current Maps & Data
Press Kit
Meeting Calendar
Meeting Records
Watch Meetings Live!

Access MyDistrictBuilder's Video Tutorials and Updates



FLORIDA REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

Florida Redistricting Streaming Media and Archives
Archived videos are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. Click Video to watch the meeting with documents, or Agenda / Minutes to see just the documents. You can also search the archives by typing keywords into the Search box.

To enable the most effective streaming experience for all browsers and operating systems, please download and install [Silverlight](#) from Microsoft.

The minimum system requirements for watching the Archived video [are available here](#).

Windows Media Player **Get Microsoft Silverlight**

Streaming video support

Upcoming Events

Name	Date
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - St. Augustine	July 12, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Daytona Beach	July 12, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - The Villages	July 13, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Gainesville	July 13, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Lakeland	July 25, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Wauchula	July 25, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Wesley Chapel	July 26, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Melbourne	July 28, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Stuart	August 15, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Boca Raton	August 16, 2011 - 10:00 AM

Wednesday, June 29, 2011



Florida House of Representatives MyFloridaHouse.gov

HOME | BILLS | DOCUMENTS | REPRESENTATIVES | COMMITTEES | CALENDARS | LEADERSHIP | SESSION LIVE | LEGISLATIVE TRACKING | BROADCASTS

FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE | BILL FINDER | SEARCH BILLTEXT | SEARCH STATUTES

NEWS ALERTS Governor Scott Signs Legislation Expanding School Choice

Speaker Dean Cannon
Welcome to the Florida House of Representatives' Official Website.
Here, you can find information about what is happening in the Florida House and the Florida Legislature, including frequent updates on the once-in-a-decade Redistricting process and instant access to bills, bill analyses and amendments.
During the upcoming 2012 Session, legislators will redraw Florida's legislative and congressional districts. The House of Representatives is proud to make this the most open and transparent process of its kind and your input is critical to our mission. This summer, House Members will visit more than two dozen cities across our great state to listen to your thoughts on where the new lines should be drawn.
[Read Full Message](#)

- [Redistricting Schedule](#)
- [MyDistrictBuilder™](#)
- [Legislative Appointments](#)
- [Contact the Speaker](#)

In The News
Governor Scott Signs Legislation to Strengthen, Expand Charter and Virtual Schools | [Read More](#)
Funerals for Fallen Firefighters Scheduled for Friday and Saturday | [Read More](#)
Citizens to have say in new districts | [Read More](#)
Redistricting Tour Stops in Bay County | [Read More](#)
Brave new world of do-it-yourself mapping | [Read More](#)

[Full Listing](#)

MyFloridaHouse Mobile

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING MEETINGS
Watch meetings live or view video archives at:

House Daily Schedule
No Events For Today.
[\[FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE\]](#)

Videos
CS/CS/HB 75 Five Questions with Rep.

Email was also used to increase participation in the public meetings. The House Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee updated their email lists with information about and ways to participate in the public meetings, including Volume 1, Issue 11 of the “OPI Informer,” which was almost entirely devoted to public participation in redistricting.

Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – June 30, 2011

Week 2 of Redistricting Public Input Meetings
July 11-13, the Florida House and Senate’s public input meetings on redistricting are coming to northeast and northcentral Florida. Meetings will be held in Jacksonville (July 11), St. Augustine (July 12), Daytona Beach (July 12), The Villages (July 13) and Gainesville (July 13).

If you or someone you know would like to attend, below is information for each location. Note, the street address for the St. Augustine meeting has been revised. You can keep track of the Meeting Calendar via www.floridaredistricting.org or download the [full public meeting calendar here](#).

- July 11: Jacksonville: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 12: St. Augustine: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 12: Daytona Beach: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 13: The Villages: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 13: Gainesville: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)

If you cannot attend the meetings in-person, if you want to watch a video replay, bookmark <http://www.floridaredistricting.org/media.aspx> to watch the Florida Channel’s webcasting of the redistricting public input meetings.

And also note, Florida residents not-in-attendance can submit record of the meetings. Time permitting, the comments may

- Facebook: Post comments at <http://www.facebook.com/mydistrictbuilder>
- Twitter: Send tweets to @FLRedistricting (<http://twitter.com/FLRedistricting>)
- Email: Send email messages to mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov

Meeting Videos, Podcasts and Post-Meeting Action Packets
Meeting videos, podcasts and post-meeting action packets from at www.floridaredistricting.org. For your convenience, you will find:

- Videos:
 - 2011.06.22 – Panama City Public Input Meeting (Video 1)
 - 2011.06.21 – Fort Walton Beach Public Input Meeting (Video 1)
 - 2011.06.21 – Pensacola Public Input Meeting (Video 2)
 - 2011.06.21 – Pensacola Public Input Meeting (Video 1)
 - 2011.06.20 – Tallahassee 6:00 p.m. Public Input Meeting
 - 2011.06.20 – Tallahassee 1:00 p.m. Public Input Meeting
 - 2011.06.20 – Tallahassee 1:00 p.m. Public Input Meeting
- Podcasts:

From: Office of Public Information
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 11:15 AM
To: IHSE All House
Subject: Northeast and North Central Redistricting Reminder

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Office of Public Information would like to remind you that this week Members of the Florida House and Senate are traveling to the Northeast and North Central Florida communities of Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, Gainesville and The Villages in order to hear more thoughts on how Florida’s legislative and congressional maps should be redrawn. Please feel free to watch the meetings live at the link below. If you are unable to tune in live, be sure to visit www.floridaredistricting.org so you can access social media in order to provide commentary.

- [Redistricting Tour – Watch Live](#)

There are many ways to be a part of this once-in-a-decade process. And remember...

Florida Redistricting: It’s your community, your district, your story... Tell us your story.

Representative John Legg
Speaker pro tempore
Office of Public Information
850.921.7747
PublicInfo@myfloridahouse.gov

From: Office of Public Information
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 1:30 PM
Subject: New Resource from FL House of Representatives

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Greetings!

This summer, Members of the Florida House of Representatives and staff of the House Office of Public Information (OPI) will begin traveling the state in an effort to engage all Floridians in the critical, once-a-decade process known as “redistricting.” As an active member in your North Florida community, we would like to encourage you to participate in this invaluable process and to utilize the House Office of Public Information’s resources.

The mission of OPI is to empower and engage all Florida residents in a timely and consistent manner. The Office records requests, facilitating Speaker’s appointments and public input, and maintains a website, a blog, a Twitter account, a Facebook page and social media outreach.

The next leg of the state’s redistricting tour will take place in the next few days. Dates, times and locations is provided below for your reference and to encourage you to participate as well.

Public Redistricting Meeting – Jacksonville
Monday, July 11, 2011
2 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT & 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
FL State College Jacksonville Downtown
401 W. State Street

Public Redistricting Meeting – St. Augustine
Tuesday, July 12, 2011
8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Flagler College (Auditorium)
14 Granada Street

Public Redistricting Meeting – Daytona Beach
Tuesday, July 12, 2011
6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
News Journal Center at Daytona State College

Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – July 8, 2011

New Submission of a Complete Congressional Redistricting Plan – Breaking News Provided to our Email List First!
Late this afternoon we received a new submission of a statewide congressional redistricting plan. The plan is the second submission of a proposed congressional district map to the Florida House of Representatives. The Florida resident submitting the plan is from Jacksonville. You can view the plan, comment on it, share it, and even load it into MyDistrictBuilder by visiting:

- <http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/08/hpubc0003-lbby-john/>

You can look at all redistricting plans and written submissions to the Florida House by visiting <http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/>.

Reminder About the July 11-13 Redistricting Public Input Meetings
Monday July 11 through Wednesday July 13, the Florida House and Senate redistricting committees will be meeting to take public input in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, The Villages and Gainesville. If you or someone you know would like to attend, below is information for each location. You can keep track of the Meeting Calendar via www.floridaredistricting.org or download the [full public meeting calendar here](#).

- July 11: Jacksonville: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 12: St. Augustine: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 12: Daytona Beach: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 13: The Villages: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 13: Gainesville: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)

Public Participation Tools
Are you getting ready to attend one of the public meetings on redistricting, considering MyDistrictBuilder as a way to create and submit your own redistricting plans, or looking for a fun and creative way to participate in the redistricting process? Remember to visit www.floridaredistricting.org to access our entire universe of public participation tools, including:

- [The Public Participation Toolkit](#)
- [Current Maps & Data](#)
- [The Public Meeting Calendar](#)
- [Access to Live and Archived Meeting Webcasts](#)

Public Participation Options
So maybe you can’t make the upcoming public meetings on redistricting, and creating an entire statewide redistricting plan in MyDistrictBuilder is more than you have time for, there are still a number of fun and creative ways you can participate in Florida’s redistricting:

- <http://mydistrictbuilder.wordpress.com/2011/07/07/public-participation-where-to-begin/>

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Hope to see you next week!

Benjamin M. Fairbrother
House Redistricting Committee

Informer

NOTEWORTHY (cont'd)

MyDistrictBuilder™ Program Used by the Florida House for Redistricting Process Available to the Public

As part of the 2012 Redistricting Process, the Florida House of Representatives has developed a state-of-the-art online application called MyDistrictBuilder™. Using MyDistrictBuilder™, Floridians can try their hand at proposing boundary lines for state House, state Senate or Congressional districts. Follow the steps below to get started:

- 1) Visit the House Redistricting website: www.floridaredistricting.org
- 2) Click on the link for the MyDistrictBuilder™ application
- 3) Check the Help tab for helpful tutorial videos and more to learn all the features of MyDistrictBuilder™

Once a plan is drawn, that file can be saved on a computer's hard drive and then submitted via email to MyDistrictBuilder@myfloridahouse.gov giving members of the public the opportunity to share their redistricting plans with Legislators across the state. All submitted maps will be placed on the Redistricting website for members of the public to review. Should you have any questions about the MyDistrictBuilder™ application, be sure to check out the video tutorials on how to use the MyDistrictBuilder™ program at www.floridaredistricting.org.

The House on YouTube

The Office of Public Information has released several new YouTube videos:

- [CS/CS/HB 75 – Five Questions with Rep. Joseph Abruzzo \(D-Wellington\)](#)



For in-depth background information on the Redistricting process visit:

DID YOU KNOW?

Stay up-to-date on the activities of the House, including the 2012 Redistricting process. For the latest information, follow us on:



From: Office of Public Information
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 1:10 PM
To: IHSE All House
Subject: 2012 Redistricting Information

OFFICE OF
PUBLIC
INFORMATION

Members of the Florida House and Senate recently kicked-off the 2012 Florida Redistricting process with great participation from Panhandle residents. Next week, Members of the Florida House and Senate will be in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, Gainesville and Tallahassee to discuss how the state's legislative and congressional maps should be redrawn. If you or someone you know lives in one of these regions, we encourage you to participate in one or many of these unique forums where your voice will be heard. A full schedule including dates, times and locations is provided below for you.

Public Redistricting Meeting – Jacksonville
Monday, July 11, 2011
2 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT & 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
FL State College Jacksonville Downtown
401 W. State Street

Public Redistricting Meeting – St. Augustine
Tuesday, July 12, 2011
8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Flagler College (Auditorium)
14 Granada Street

From: Weatherford, Will
To: ID HSE All House Districts
Cc: ID HSE Redistricting Committee
Subject: Public Participation Toolkit - Additional Materials for Public Input Meetings on Redistricting

Message: Sample Letter to the Editor (Less than 600 words) - Copy.docx (26 KB) Sample Letter to the Editor (Less than 300 words) - Copy.docx (17 KB) Sample Letter to the Editor (Less than 150 words) - Copy.docx (12 KB) TellusYourStory_PanamaCity.docx (124 KB) TellusYourStory_Tallahassee.docx (124 KB) TellusYourStory_FtWaltorBeach.docx (124 KB)

Dear Members,

As we are just three days away from the start of our public input meetings on redistricting, I wanted to provide you with updated outreach materials for participation of your constituents in this once-in-a-decade redistricting process. An introduction to the materials below will always be available at menu available via our Blog & Resources page at mydistrictbuilder.wordpress.com/participation.

Informational Fliers:

- [Participate in Florida's Redistricting!](#) *New!*
- [What is Redistricting and How Can Floridians Participate?](#)
- [Tell Us Your Story at a Public Meeting on Redistricting](#)
- [Helpful Guidance for Public Participation](#)
- [Learn Redistricting Concepts & Terminology](#)
- [Timeline for Redistricting in Florida](#)
- [Florida Redistricting By The Numbers](#)

Meeting Calendar:

- [Calendar of Public Meetings](#)

Radio Resources:

- [60-second Public Service Announcement](#) *New!*
- [30-second Public Service Announcement](#) *New!*
- [15-second Public Service Announcement](#) *New!*
- [June 9, 2011 – Redistricting Committee Chair Will Weatherford on Tallahassee's 100.7 WFLA with Preston Scott and Eric Eggers](#) *New!*

Video Resources:

- [60-second Public Service Announcement](#) *New!*
- [30-second Public Service Announcement](#) *New!*
- [15-second Public Service Announcement](#) *New!*
- [Complete MyDistrictBuilder at YouTube collection](#) *Updated!*

Direct Contact (via email and phone) with numerous civic organizations, colleges and universities, local governments and other organizations has also been made throughout the process of preparing for the public meetings. The following organizations were contacted prior to these redistricting public input meetings.

County governments and regional planning entities:

- ☐ Northeast and North Central Florida County Supervisors of Election
- ☐ Northeast and North Central Florida County Commissions
- ☐ Northeast and North Central Florida City and Town Commissions and Councils
- ☐ Northeast and North Central Florida County School Boards
- ☐ Northeast and North Central Florida College and University Student Government Associations, Government Coordinators and/or Political Science Departments

2011-2012 Redistricting: Pre-Meeting Outreach Report



July 25 – Lakeland

July 26 – Wauchula

July 26 – Wesley Chapel

July 27 – Orlando

July 28 – Melbourne

The contents herein reflect media and community outreach done by the Florida House of Representatives to increase awareness of and participation in the redistricting public input meetings listed above.

Note, the following does not necessarily reflect contributions to community outreach done by individual Members of the House. Nor does the following represent the totality of all media related to the public meetings.

Rather, the following represents contributions to community outreach made by Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford, the Office of the Speaker, the Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Public Information at (850) 921-7747.

Print (Pg. 5)

Lakeland Ledger	Sunday, July 17, 2011
St. Petersburg Times	Thursday, July 21, 2011
Florida Courier	Friday, July 21, 2011
Lakeland Ledger	Saturday, July 23, 2011
The Suncoast News	Saturday, July 23, 2011
Lakeland Ledger	Saturday, July 23, 2011
Sarasota Herald-Tribune	Monday, July 25, 2011

Published Opinion Editorials* (Pg. 16)

Lakeland Ledger	Friday, July 22, 2011
Florida Today	Friday, July 22, 2011

* - This list only represents those newspapers that printed the opinion editorial. House staff contacted other newspapers to request that they printed the opinion editorial.

Radio & TV (Pg. 19)

WFTV 94.5 FM	Thursday, July 21, 2011
WTSP-TV CBS Tampa	Sunday, July 24, 2011
ABC Action News Tampa	Monday, July 25, 2011
Bay News 9 Tampa	Monday, July 25, 2011
WTSP-TV CBS Tampa	Monday, July 25, 2011
WMNF 88.5 Drive Time News	Tuesday, July 26, 2011
WMFE 90.7 FM	Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Online & Blogs (Pg. 26)

Polk-County.net	Friday, July 15, 2011
MyPolkPolitics.com	Monday, July 18, 2011
InsideTheLinesFLA.com	Tuesday, July 19, 2011
West Orlando News Online	Wednesday, July 20, 2011
InsideTheLinesFLA.com	Thursday, July 21, 2011
News Service of Florida	Friday, July 22, 2011
Lakeland.WTSP.com	Friday, July 22, 2011
Orlando Sentinel	Tuesday, July 26, 2011
Central Florida Political Pulse	Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Paid Advertising (Pg. 38)

East Orlando Sun	Thursday, July 21, 2011
El Sentinel	Saturday, July 23, 2011
Florida Today	Monday, July 25, 2011
Lake Wales News	Wednesday, July 20, 2011
Lakeland Ledger	Thursday, July 21, 2011
Orlando Business Journal	Friday, July 22, 2011
Orlando Sentinel*	Monday, July 25 - Wednesday, July 27
Orlando Times	Thursday, July 21, 2011
Pasco Tribune	Thursday, July 21, 2011
Polk County Democrat	Wednesday, July 20, 2011
Saint Petersburg*	Friday, July 22 – Thursday, September 1
Suncoast News	Thursday, July 21, 2011
Tampa Tribune*	Sunday, July 24 – Tuesday, July 26
Wauchula Herald Advocate	Thursday, July 21, 2011
Winter Haven News Chief	Thursday, July 21, 2011
Winter Park-Maitland Observer	Thursday, July 21, 2011

* - Indicates online advertising

Community Calendar Postings (Pg. 54)

Zvents.com (Lakeland Events)	Wednesday, July 13 – Monday, July 25
Winter Haven News Chief	Wednesday, July 13 – Monday, July 25
Tampa Tribune	Wednesday, July 13 – Monday, July 25
Leesburg Daily Commercial	Wednesday, July 13 – Wednesday, July 27
Lakeland Ledger	Monday, July 18 – Monday, July 25
The Orlando Times	Monday, July 18 – Wednesday, July 27
Orlando Sentinel	Monday, July 18 – Wednesday, July 27

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – TV* (Pg. 61)

WOTF-DT Telefutara Orlando	Tuesday, July 19 – Thursday, July 28
WVEN-TV Univision Orlando	Tuesday, July 19 – Thursday, July 28

* - This list only represents those television stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – Radio* (Pg. 62)

WONQ AM 1030 Orlando	Tuesday, July 19 – Thursday, July 28
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WUCF 89.9 FM Orlando	Tuesday, July 19 – Thursday, July 28
WPRK 95.1 FM Orlando	Friday, July 22 – Thursday, July 28

* - This list only represents those radio stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Social Media (Pg. 64)

Twitter	Thursday, June 23 – Wednesday, July 13
Facebook	
YouTube	
Blogging	
MyFloridaHouse.gov	
FloridaRedistricting.org	
Florida Channel	
Email & Direct Contact	

Print

Redistrict Meeting Coming To Polk

The Lakeland Ledger
July 17, 2011

By: Bill Rufty

Better hurry. Grab your spread sheets, data from the supervisor of elections and the U.S. Census Bureau.

You have one week to prepare your presentation on what you want Florida's congressional, state Senate and House districts to look like.

The Florida Senate and House Redistricting Committees will hold a public hearing on redistricting at Polk State College's Lakeland campus from 2 to 5 p.m. July 25. It is one of the first of 25 such public hearings.

And the committees want to hear from you. Honest. They said that.

Three members of the Polk County legislative delegation are on the committees or subcommittees.

Rep. Kelli Stargel, R-Lakeland, sits on the Senate redistricting subcommittee for the House; probably a good thing since she is running for the Senate in 2012, though there are many members on the committee.

Rep. Mike Horner, R-Kissimmee, whose district includes the southeast portion of Polk County, serves on the House's Redistricting Committee and its House subcommittee.

State Sen. Ronda Storms, R-Valrico, whose district includes a small portion of western Polk, is on the Senate's Redistricting Committee.

The Legislature, which normally convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, will instead begin its 60-day session Jan. 10 to complete redistricting by March. And there is no guarantee that will be the end of it, since the U.S. Department of Justice still has review control over five counties going back to civil rights suits and one-man, one-vote decades ago.

Also, the Legislature could still face suits from Fair Districts if those officials believe lawmakers did not act in good faith, according to the three amendments it sponsored and which voters approved last November.

For years and years, many civic-minded voters, along with whatever party was out of power at the time, have fought for a more even-handed way of creating elected district boundaries.

This is not a situation just for Florida. It has continued through much of the nation's history. If you were awake in American history in high school (at least I hope they still teach American history along with the FCAT math and sciences) then you are familiar with gerrymandering.

The term refers to weirdly distorted congressional and legislative districts designed not to put together those of like needs or even geographic locations, but to keep a political party or a powerful incumbent in control.

Several of the most notable statesmen in Florida tried for years to get an amendment passed that would create a bipartisan or nonpartisan redistricting committee, but the constitution gives that job to lawmakers.

Fair Districts submitted amendments requiring that the districts that are drawn be compact and not drawn to benefit any party or incumbent.

Legislative leaders tried to submit their own amendments, but had their hands slapped. The amendments were removed from the ballot by the Florida Supreme Court, which noted that the wording wasn't exactly honest or straightforward with the voters.

There are still two sides to the issue when redistricting begins under the new amendments. No doubt there will be arguments over just what is fair and what is compact.

Maybe that is why the committee members will not comment during the hearings but sit and smile and thank folks for coming, and make mention of what a great exercise in democracy this is.

Still, it is a great exercise and everyone has a chance to present their ideas or to witness this hearing, and everyone should either in person or over the Internet.

You can watch the meetings live over the Florida Channel at www.MyFloridaHouse.gov and even submit your comments over Facebook and Twitter at www.floridaredistricting.org or www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting.

And while you are at the redistricting URL you can actually draw your own district boundaries. Committee members said they don't just want to hear from groups and local governments, but individuals as well.

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Read More:

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20110717/COLUMNISTS0502/110719484/1108/news00?p=1&tc=pg>

Town meeting is a chance to be heard about redistricting in Florida

St. Petersburg Times

July 21, 2011

By: John Legg

During this summer, the Florida Redistricting Committee will travel across the state to fulfill our constitutional responsibility of redistricting. We are honored and excited to host one of these meetings in our very own Pasco County. This meeting will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in the Wiregrass Ranch High School gymnasium in Wesley Chapel. Pasco County residents will have opportunity to comment and provide their views about redistricting, as well as share directly with Florida legislators how you would like your district to be shaped.

As chair of the congressional redistricting committee and lifelong resident of the area, it's my hope to see a strong Pasco representation at the upcoming Wesley Chapel hearing. Please join us in helping to represent our communities and shape our district map for the next 10 years.

Pasco County has seen its population swell from 344,765 during the 2000 Census year to 464,697 based on the 2010 Census. This hearing is a unique opportunity for Pasco County to better shape its own political landscape in the central Florida region because of this growth.

I highly encourage Pasco residents to speak at the town hall meeting by registering in advance through the redistricting website at www.floriaredistricting.org. Also on the website, Pasco residents can utilize the House's MyDistrictBuilder, a free application for the public and their legislators to actually draw new district boundary lines. You can create a complete or partial redistricting plan for the state House, state Senate or Congress, and submit your ideas for legislative consideration.

In addition, Pasco residents can voice their concerns via some of the MyDistrictBuilder's social media tools. Redistricting advocates can utilize the MyDistrictBuilder's Facebook and Twitter sites to learn about events as they happen, ask questions and share your thoughts. Residents can visit MyDistrictBuilder's YouTube page to watch tutorial videos on how to use the MyDistrictBuilder application.

For more information on the redistricting website tools or the Wesley Chapel public forum, please contact my office at (727) 869-8600 or via e-mail at John.Legg@myfloridahouse.gov.

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Read More: <http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/letters/article1181463.ece>

Florida's redistricting meetings move to I-4 corridor next week

Florida Courier

July 21, 2011

By: David Royse

Lawmakers next week take the discussion of how to redesign the state's political map to one of the areas most in need of updating to account for demographic change - and the area probably most closely watched because of its current political competitiveness. In almost any discussion of how to be successful in statewide politics in Florida, the words "I-4 corridor" come up, so much so that it's become a political buzz phrase, even on the lips of national pundits who wouldn't know Winter Haven from Winter Park.

Next week, the Legislature takes its redistricting committee meetings to that closely contested, make-or-break region stretching from Tampa Bay to Daytona Beach.

Lawmakers will start Monday with a meeting in Lakeland, - in the heart of the I-4 corridor. On Tuesday, they'll meet in Wauchula, in the rural and agricultural area of Hardee County, south of Lakeland, and in Wesley Chapel, a suburb of Tampa. Later in the week the meetings move to the middle and the other end of the I-4 corridor, in Orlando on Wednesday and Melbourne on Thursday.

The I-4 corridor includes parts of 10 congressional districts, some heavily and solidly Democratic like Tampa Bay's District 11, represented by U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor and the sliver of the heavily African-American District 3 that snakes through part of Orlando and is represented by U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown. Some districts in the area are solidly Republican, like District 9, represented by Rep. Gus Bilirakis. But most are swing districts, leaning one way or the other, but actually in play.

That might seem like a good thing and something lawmakers wouldn't want to change much - after all, voters approved two constitutional amendments last year that essentially said they want more competitive districts, and don't want parties to monkey around with boundaries to hold on to or to increase their power - or to guarantee a seat for a certain politician.

But the area's boundaries have to change because it's also one of the areas that has grown the most in the last decade, and it has seen some major demographic changes.

"We continue to be one of the fastest growing regions of the state, and a lot of that growth has been non-Cuban Hispanic, particularly Puerto Rican," said Aubrey Jewett, a political science professor at the University of Central Florida.

That, along with a surge in African-American voter registration in 2008, have contributed heavily to some parts of the area becoming more likely to vote Democratic than they were 10 years ago.

Most of the Hispanic population growth in the region has played to the favor of the Democratic party, though it's not a given - Puerto Ricans vote for members of both parties. Witness a state House district in central Florida that is thought of as a "Puerto Rican seat" because of its make-up: it's held by state Rep. Darren Soto, D-Kissimmee, who is of Puerto Rican heritage, but in the past was represented by another Puerto Rican, John Quinones, a Republican now on the Osceola County commission.

Other areas have in the last decade come to vote more for Republicans, part of the ongoing national shift of some conservative, rural Southern voters who used to be Democrats but now register and vote Republican, and partly because of an influx of Midwestern retirees who often bring Republican voting habits with them.

Those people moving in are the reason the legislative and congressional districts in central Florida will be among the those most changed in the process that lawmakers are starting on now, and will finish before next year's election. Legislative districts, whether those for the state House, state Senate, or in Congress, must be as near as possible to equal in population when they're created. That's one-person, one-vote. But as the decade goes on, people move and that changes.

Take U.S. House District 12, which includes Lakeland and most of Polk County, and includes parts of Hillsborough and Osceola counties. The district, represented now by U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, is one of three Florida congressional districts with a population deviation above 20 percent, meaning it is that much bigger than it is supposed to be. The most overpopulated congressional district in the state, District 5, represented by Rep. Richard Nugent, R-Brooksville, also dips into the I-4 corridor at its southern tip. That district is 33 percent larger than it should be in terms of population.

Those two districts, then, will have to change.

Winter Haven lawyer and former state Sen. Rick Dantzler lives in Ross' District 12. He'd like to see the district compacted to focus on the heavily agricultural inland area centered on citrus-growing Polk County. That would mean pulling back the district from representing areas at the eastern, coastal end of the district and the western part of the district that is largely an Orlando suburban area, and increasingly heavily Hispanic.

"I think a great congressional district would be one that was carved out of the "Heartland," said Dantzler. "Polk County and areas to the south. That would be coalescing a lot of like-minded people."

Such a district would likely stretch into Wauchula, in Hardee County, where lawmakers will meet on Tuesday.

Drawing it that way would allow, for example, a congressman from the area to focus on the desires of the agriculture community. Dantzler, a Democrat, acknowledges that would probably be a GOP district.

"It probably would be considered a Republican congressional district," Dantzler said.

But making that district more solidly Republican might make other districts more Democratic, Dantzler noted. "Especially whoever picks up that Osceola (County) slice - that's Puerto Ricans, and they tend to be Democrats."

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Read More: <http://www.flcourier.com/flflorida/5803-floridas-redistricting-meetings-move-to-i-4-corridor-next-week>

Redistricting Committees to Hold Hearings

Lakeland Ledger
July 23, 2011

The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees will hold a public hearing Monday in the main auditorium at Polk State College's Lakeland campus.

Committee members encouraged the public to attend the hearing from 2 to 5 at the campus at 3425 Winter Lake Road.

Members of the public will be able to make comments.

In December, at the end of 25 such hearings across the state, the committees will submit redistricting plans and maps for Florida's 27 congressional districts, 120 House districts and 40 Senate districts.

The Legislature will meet two months early, beginning Jan. 10, to redraw the districts.

For more information, contact the Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee at 850-488-3928.

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Read More: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20110723/NEWS/110729795?Title=Redistricting-Committees-to-Hold-Hearings->

Battle over redistricting in Florida looming

The Suncoast News
July 23, 2011

By: Carl Orth

WESLEY CHAPEL - Redistricting happens every 10 years, following the decennial U.S. census, and Pasco Democratic and Republican leaders are already locking horns and vying to mold public opinion on the process.

A town hall meeting on the process of redrawing boundary lines for the Florida Legislature and the state's U.S. House seats will be held 6 - 9 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, in the gymnasium of Wiregrass Ranch High School, 2909 Mansfield Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

"It is imperative your voice is heard in Pasco" because the county's population has grown by nearly 35 percent since 2000, to 464,697 from 344,765, said State Rep. John Legg, R-Port Richey, who helped set up the event.

Legg is encouraging people to visit the website www.floridaredistricting.org, where they can draw their own suggested boundaries to guide lawmakers. The districts will begin to get locked down by January, when the Legislature starts its 2012 session early to handle the redistricting process.

Republicans once again are trying to tilt districts in favor of GOP candidates, according to Alison Morano, vice chair of the Florida Democratic Party and a long-time Pasco County Democratic Party leader.

This time could be different, though, Moreno said. In 2010, Florida voters approved two Fair District amendments to the state constitution, which their backers say will discourage gerrymandering, Morano said.

When they controlled the Legislature and the governor's mansion, Democrats were guilty of drawing districts that resemble a jigsaw puzzle to favor their candidates, said Bill Bunting, Pasco County Republican state committeeman. The courts ultimately could decide where to draw boundaries because of likely legal challenges to whatever plans emerge from the redistricting process, he said.

For the most part, Morano and Bunting agree the landscape in Pasco likely will shift quite a bit for the districts now held by state Rep. Richard Corcoran, R-New Port Richey; state Sen. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey; and U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla.

"The point of the public hearings is to listen to what the citizens want for their area," Corcoran wrote in an email. "When we have all the input from around the state, we'll be well equipped to draw districts that are fair and follow the law."

Corcoran plans to be at Tuesday's town hall meeting "listening to what Pasco wants," he wrote.

Fasano largely is on the sidelines since resigning his position on the redistricting committee. The senator wanted to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest, his chief legislative assistant, Greg Giordano, said. Redistricting could affect Fasano, who might run for another public office in 2012 because term limits will keep him from seeking re-election to the Senate.

Nevertheless, Fasano is encouraging the public to participate in the July 26 meeting, Giordano said.

Morano, however, objects to lawmakers not presenting their own tentative boundaries during the public hearings. The public needs some reference point before they can comment, she said.

"There's a public gag order on this committee's agenda," Morano said about the Florida Redistricting Committee. Final district maps, she said, come due only a few weeks before the 2012 primary election, on Aug. 4 of next year.

"I think they're doing the public a huge disservice," Morano said. "What are they hiding? Why won't they show us what they're planning?"

Morano predicts lots of lawsuits, thanks to the Fair District amendments, which call for compact and contiguous districts.

Right now, Morano said, Fasano represents the coastal areas of four counties: Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando and Citrus. Bilirakis represents parts of Plant City, New Tampa and Pasco and Pinellas counties in the U.S. House, which "makes absolutely no sense," she said.

Bunting defended the current districts, supervised by Pinellas County Republican Jack Latvala. Latvala, a political consultant, served in the Florida Senate from 1994 to 2002 and was elected senator from District 16 in 2010.

Back in 1992, the U.S. House District then held by Democrat Karen Thurman stretched roughly from Gainesville to New Port Richey, Bunting said.

If state lawmakers put out their tentative redistricting maps this early, lawyers would have a chance to sharpen their knives for more and more lawsuits, Bunting said. Federal mandates also require time-consuming reviews.

Changes are likely because Florida is gaining two U.S. House seats, to 27 from the 25 it has had since the last census, Bunting said.

The U.S. House District Bilirakis holds might be reshaped to take in more of central and eastern Pasco, according to Bunting.

Pinellas County, which has lost population, likely will no longer be in the Florida Senate district now represented by Fasano, Bunting said. Corcoran's district, which now extends to Dunedin, could shift more into Central Pasco.

In the meantime, Legg urges people who want to speak at the July 26 hearing to register in advance at www.floridaredistricting.org. The MyDistrictBuilder site permits comments through Facebook and Twitter sites, as well as a YouTube tutorial video on how to use the MyDistrictBuilder application.

For more information telephone Legg at (727) 869-8600 or email to John.Legg@myfloridahouse.gov.

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Polk Delegation to Attend Redistricting Meeting

Lakeland Ledger
July 23, 2011

By: Bill Rufty

LAKELAND | Polk County's Legislative delegation will be well represented when the joint Florida House and Senate redistricting committees at the Polk State College Lakeland campus Monday.

Four of the eight members serve on either subcommittees or full committees charged with redrawing legislative and congressional districts that will remain in effect for the next 10 years.

While final maps and designs are months away, the 25 hearings scheduled across the state until September are crucial to those who want to closely follow what this Legislature does with redrawing the congressional and legislative district early next year.

The House and Senate redistricting committees and their attendant subcommittees will meet from 2 to 5 p.m. Monday in the main auditorium on the Lakeland campus, 3425 Winter Lake Road.

Committee members will listen and take notes, but their decisions on the final shapes of districts will take place in the fall after they wrap up the hearings and begin their subcommittee and committee meetings in Tallahassee.

"It is a listening tour," said Rep. Kelli Stargel, R-Lakeland, a member of the House subcommittee on Senate redistricting. "We can't begin to draw the districts until we hear from the people living in the different areas of the state, and it has been very interesting."

Some members of the public have come forward with ideas, such as keeping coastal area together or the northern Florida areas together, she said.

"For example, people in The Villages said they want to be in a single district even though their community cuts across several counties," Stargel said. "Now I don't know if that will be possible, but that is something that we learned from public hearings."

Maps with boundaries will then be designed in December and presented to the Legislature when it convenes Jan. 10.

But by observing and participating in the hearings, the public can see what is going on and determine if the Fair Districts amendments are being followed in the process.

Those are the amendments passed by Florida voters last year mandating that districts be compact and not be drawn just to favor a political party or an incumbent lawmaker.

Rep. Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, said he is personally interested in learning about communities of interest — areas of similar interests or geographies — and not only because it is required in the Fair District amendments.

"During the first four hearings, I listened very closely to discussions on those communities of interest," Albritton said. "In the Panhandle, there was discussion of whether coastal communities and the northern agricultural areas should be combined in districts that run north to south, or whether agriculture and coastal communities should be in their own districts.

"This also applies to minority communities and in Polk County, where you have the North (with) the major municipalities and the South that is more rural," he said.

All of those factors will be carefully studied and the testimonies of those at the hearings considered before maps are drawn, he said.

It is not an easy task because the Legislature is required to design 27 congressional districts. That's two more than the state currently has because the 2010 census revealed that Florida's population increased by that much.

Several states, however, lost enough population over the last decade to lose congressional districts.

Florida lawmakers also will redraw 120 House districts and 40 state Senate districts.

The Legislature normally begins in March, but the 2012 Florida Legislature will convene in January to put the new districts together.

From the Polk delegation, Stargel and Albritton sit on the House Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee, and Rep. Mike Horner, R-Kissimmee, sits on the full House Redistricting Committee as well as the subcommittee on Congressional Redistricting.

State Sen. Ronda Storms, R-Valrico, sits on the Senate Reapportionment Committee. Her district includes a small part of Lakeland.

Once an initial decision is made on the new districts, the process will not be over.

Five counties (Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe counties) are "covered jurisdictions" under Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act.

That means that any redistricting change to their legislative or congressional districts has to be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice.

So just passing the redistricting bills is not enough when it comes to getting new districts.

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Read More: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20110723/NEWS/110729760/1338/sitemaps>

Shrouded in mystery, the Legislature's redistricting tour continues

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
July 25, 2011

By: Lloyd Dunkelberger

State lawmakers haven't produced any maps yet, but they will continue this week to hold public hearings on the redrawing of congressional and legislative district lines for the 2012 elections.

The Legislature will meet in its once-in-every-decade redistricting session in January and redraw the lines _ based on population gains in the last U.S. Census _ for the 120 state House seats, 40 state Senate seats and 27 congressional seats, including two new seats Florida will gain.

Beginning with a 2 p.m. hearing today in Lakeland, members of the House and Senate redistricting committees will hold hearings throughout the week in the so-called I-4 corridor, which is generally the most critical political region in statewide elections.

On Tuesday, lawmakers will begin with an 8 a.m. hearing Wauchula in Hardee County, moving on to a 6 p.m. hearing in Wesley Chapel. On Wednesday, the panel will be in Orlando for afternoon and evening hearings, finishing on Thursday in Brevard County.

A House press release says the hearings "give the public an opportunity to start the conversation about redistricting and share their ideas directly with Florida legislators." Critics, including many Democrats, say the hearings are largely pointless without any maps to comment on.

More information on the redistricting process is available at floridaredistricting.org.

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Read More: <http://htpolitics.com/2011/07/25/shrouded-in-mystery-the-legislatures-redistricting-tour-continues/>

Published Opinion Editorials

Redistricting Meetings Next Week

Lakeland Ledger
July 22, 2011

Lawmakers from across the state have begun the process of redrawing Florida's boundary lines for equal representation. This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the United States Constitution. In keeping with our state's strong commitment to transparency, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools and resources that you need to impact the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, Florida's legislators are hosting a series of 26 public input meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

We travel next to an area of particular importance to this process — Central Florida. This leg of our tour takes us along the Interstate 4 corridor, an area that saw significant population growth over the last decade, and to the Space Coast. Along the way we will visit one of Florida's Section 5 jurisdictions, Hardee County.

The meetings in your area begin Monday in Lakeland from 2 to 5 p.m. at Polk State College. On Tuesday, meetings will be at the Hardee County Civic Center in Wauchula, from 8 to 11 a.m., and at the gym at Wiregrass Ranch High School in Wesley Chapel from 6 to 9 p.m.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you. Legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community. While legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you, Floridians will have numerous opportunities to ask questions throughout the process.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live Web stream via the Florida Channel at www.thefloridachannel.org. If you cannot attend or tune-in to the web stream there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the webpages launched by both the Florida House of Representatives at www.floridaredistricting.org and the Florida Senate at www.flsenate.gov/redistricting. They are filled with information about redistricting. Both sites even include options to create and submit your own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

The online computer programs that we will use to build districts were created with you in mind. There are training resources that will help you get started drawing your own plan.

Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting.

House and Senate staff will be available to talk to those in attendance about using the applications to build districts and how the redistricting process works.

In addition to drawing districts, you may go online now to submit comments, access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply keep up with the latest information on the process. Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help inform their redistricting proposals.

Redistricting happens only once a decade. It is your opportunity to help shape the districts that are the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington. We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings so that your voice can be heard.

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Read More: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20110722/COLUMNISTS03/110729891/-1/entertainment02?p=1&tc=pg>

Drawing the lines

Florida Today
July 22, 2011

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We will host a meeting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday at the Brevard County Government Center in Viera. We invite you to join us.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you. Legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community.

While legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you, Floridians will have many opportunities to ask questions during the process.

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Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help inform their redistricting proposals.

Redistricting is your opportunity to help shape the districts that are the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings so that your voice can be heard.

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Radio & TV

State Redistricting Hearings

WFTV 94.5 FM
July 21, 2011

Where:

Bob Carr Performing Arts Center
401 West Livingston Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Upcoming:

2:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Joint Public Hearings of FL Senate and House of Representatives

The changing face of Florida raises questions about equality as it relates to politics. Residents of Orange County and the Metro Orlando Area are encouraged to attend the Joint Public Hearings of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives to have a voice in how these changes will impact voters' choices.

Hearings are scheduled to take place @ 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

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Read More: <http://www.star94fm.com/events/detail/386763/>

Redistricting meetings come to Tampa Bay, Polk County

WTSP-TV CBS Tampa
July 24, 2011

By: Ashley Porter

TAMPA BAY, Florida -- This week is your chance to speak out about Florida's redistricting process, with state lawmakers holding public meetings in our area on Monday and Tuesday.

The process happens just once every ten years, and how districts are drawn impacts the way you're represented at the state level and in Congress.

Included in redistricting this time are two new congressional seats, which Florida has gained as a result of its growing population.

Also, Florida voters approved two redistricting amendments last year. They require state and congressional districts to be drawn in a way that doesn't favor a politician or political party, doesn't disenfranchise minorities or minority candidates, and considers already existing geographic boundaries when possible.

But how it could impact minority candidates is the reason two U.S. representatives filed a lawsuit last year, hoping to strike down the amendment that addresses congressional districts.

There are two meetings this week where you can give your feedback on how state lawmakers choose to redistrict next year:

Monday, July 25

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Polk State College, Main Auditorium
3425 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland

Tuesday, July 26

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wiregrass Ranch High School Gym
2909 Mansfield Boulevard, Wesley Chapel

You can also tweet your feedback, or provide it through Facebook.

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Read More: <http://www.wtsp.com/news/article/202564/250/Redistricting-meetings-come-to-Tampa-Bay-Polk-County>

5 Things you Need to Know Happening in Florida on Monday, July 25

ABC Action News Tampa
Monday, July 25, 2011

TAMPA BAY, Fla. - Here are five things you need to know happening in Florida on Monday, July 25.

(2) Florida redistricting meeting

The Florida House and Senate redistricting committee will hold five joint public meetings throughout Central Florida this week beginning on Monday.

The meetings will give the public to share their ideas on redistricting with Florida legislators.

With an additional 2,818,932 people living in Florida in 2010 compared to 2000, the state will gain two seats for a total of 27 in the House of Representatives.

Lawmakers are redistricting the state so there are 27 separate Congressional districts each containing approximately 696,345 people. Redistricting occurs after the U.S. Census Bureau completed their constitutionally-mandated census every ten years.

Today's meeting takes place in Lakeland from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Polk State College's Main Auditorium.

Meetings also occur Tuesday from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Hardee County Civic Center in Wauchula and from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Wiregrass Ranch High School gymnasium in Wesley Chapel.

Lawmakers will be in Orlando for two redistricting meetings on Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center.

The four days of meetings concludes with a meeting at the Brevard County Commission Chamber in Melbourne on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For more information about redistricting in Florida, visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

Bay News 9

Date: Monday, July 25, 2011
Time: 10:30 a.m EDT
Duration: 10 mins
Station: Bay News 9 Tampa
Topic: Public Redistricting meetings

Polk County residents express concern at redistricting input session

WTSP-TV CBS Tampa
July 25, 2011

By: Laura Kadechka

Lakeland, Florida -- Over and over, state legislators working to redraw Florida's political boundary lines are hearing the same question.

"I have to ask, where are the maps?" asked Paula Mimms, co-president of the Polk County League of Women Voters as she stood before House and Senate members Monday afternoon.

The panel of legislators stopped in Lakeland for a three hour input session with the people of Florida, which they've dubbed the "listening tour." There are 26 stops in all.

Mimm's co-president, Mary Jo Jarrett, asked the lawmakers, "We are puzzled and question why won't the legislature prepare the maps earlier?"

There are no proposed redistricting maps. In fact, as part of this tech savvy public input tour, you can even draw up your own map online on how you'd like to see Florida's 120 House, 40 Senate, and now 27 congressional districts look. Florida gained two Congressional seats after adding 2.8 million people over the last ten years.

The Florida and U.S. Constitutions require the political boundaries be redrawn every ten years to keep up with population changes.

Chairman of the House Redistricting Committee Rep. Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) explains, "Our thought is to seek public input first, spend time going across the entire state, get a real understanding and perspective of the different interest of the state, then go forward drawing maps."

Some called the tour a waste of time and told the lawmakers to do their job and draw up the maps now.

But some Floridians, including the League of Women Voters, are not only concerned that there are no proposed maps, but they are concerned about the time line.

The Legislature has until the end of the 2012 session on March 9 to approve the new districts.

"It's not fair to Florida voters. Florida's maps will end up being approved later than most every state in the union and may not be finalized until August," said Jarrett. "The legislature's own lawyer says this will cause massive voter confusion."

Once the Legislature approves the new maps, they will have to send it on to the State attorney general, State Supreme Court, and the Department of Justice for approval, which many point out will take up a lot of time.

There's concern the current timeline will cut it so close that candidates won't know which district they are in when filing to qualify in June.

"We don't want to see Florida's election process become the target of late night comedy again," pointed out Jarrett.

Others are also criticizing the statewide input tour as a delay, a process some feel will not put an end to the gerrymandering that benefited political parties and incumbents in the past.

You may recall, voters approved to end this behavior by passing the the Fair District Amendments 5 and 6 in November.

One of which is in the midst of a legal battle with some lawmakers claiming to want clarification. The state House joined in on a lawsuit against the amendment after two Florida Congress members cried foul.

But, Rep. Weatherford says he is standing by the law as it is now, and wants to hear from the people.

"It's impossible to please everyone, but we have legal standards we have to follow."

Even though Florida gained 2.8 million people (18.8 million total) over the last ten years, many districts have lost people.

In the Bay area, parts of Pinellas is underpopulated while parts of Hillsborough are overpopulated.

"Some areas have had tremendous growth," explained Rep. Weatherford. "My district, for example, which is House district 61, has 100,000 too many, so it's what they call overpopulation. So as we redraw my seat, I'll have to find a way to put 100,000 people in someone else's district." There are a number of ways Floridians can participate in the redistricting process, including drawing up their own version of what the next ten years should look like.

Florida Redistricting is on Facebook, Twitter, and online. You can also attend one of the upcoming input sessions in our area:

Wesley Chapel: July 26, Tuesday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Wiregrass Ranch High School

Tampa: August 29, Monday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Hillsborough County Commission Chambers

Largo: August 30, Tuesday 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Epi Center at St. Pete College

Sarasota: August 30, Tuesday 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at New College, Harry Sudakoff Conference Center

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Read More: <http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/article/202695/8/Polk-County-residents-express-concern-at-redistricting-input-session>

Florida Redistricting Committee Hits Lakeland; Wesley Chapel is Next

WMNF 88.5 Drive Time News
July 26, 2011

A group of state legislators charged with mapping out Florida's voting districts is facing criticism and praise as they make their way across the state. A public hearing in Polk County drew out voters of every stripe to weigh in on the state's politically-charged redistricting process.

More than one hundred people attended the hearing at Polk State College's Lakeland campus, and dozens addressed the redistricting committee directly. Some praised the thirty or so

lawmakers for taking on the task of redrawing the boundaries for each of Florida's legislative and Congressional districts. Others, like Polk County Democratic Party head Karen Welzel, were critical of the predominantly Republican committee.

She said it's pretty obvious that the committee isn't interested in drawing districts in a way that might not benefit the GOP, and that millions of state dollars set aside for litigation stemming from redistricting is a case in point. Republican Senator Don Gaetz wondered aloud why she bothered if she's so cynical about the process.

Lori Edwards, Polk County Supervisor of Elections, said she's skeptical of the legislature's timeline for drawing new congressional and legislative districts. She said there wouldn't be much of window between the adoption of the new maps and the onslaught of next year's election season.

The list went on. Mid-Florida ACLU Director Joyce Hamilton Henry said the tight timeline will be real headache for anyone running for a seat in Congress or the State Legislature next year.

Many critics say the committee should have drawn up sample maps for the public to weigh in on, and say once the final product comes out, there will be little time for public input. Dena DeCamp of the Republican Women's Club of Lakeland said if lawmakers had brought maps with them, they would have faces the same amount of criticism.

Committee members repeatedly said they were not there to do political battle, but to hear comment on issues specific to Central Florida. Lakeland resident Janelle Hendrin said legislators need to look at the nuances of Polk County and draw the area's legislative districts in a way that doesn't favor one competing interest over another.

The redistricting process, which happens every ten years following the Census, has long drawn fire from critics who say it's way too easy for the party in power to draw boundaries in a self-serving manner. Last November, voters adopted two state Constitutional amendments that are supposed to require that the districts be drawn in a way that's compact and contiguous. Two Florida lawmakers – a Republican legislator and a Democratic US Representative – immediately filed suit, and the Florida House joined the lawsuit. But Republican State Senator Ronda Storms said critics are wrong in assuming that the 26 hearings the redistricting committee is holding across the state are only for show.

But ACLU's Joyce Hamilton Henry had a more cynical explanation.

Representative Will Weatherford is House Speaker Designate for the 2012 session, and is chair of the redistricting committee. The Wesley Chapel Republican didn't want to comment on that point and said the public hearing process is a little too involved to be all for show.

As to the question of the timeliness of the redistricting process, Weatherford said it's the committee's job to make good time on the process.

The committee will continue to hold hearings throughout the state through September. The lawmakers head to Wesley Chapel Tuesday, Orlando on Wednesday, and Melbourne Thursday, then on to South Florida. They'll be back in the Tampa Bay Area in late August.

http://www.wmfe.org/news_stories/florida-redistricting-committee-hits-lakeland-wesley-chapel-is-next

Redistricting Hearings Come to Central Florida

WMFE 90.7 FM
July 27, 2011

By: Tom Parkinson

July 27, 2011 | WMFE -The debate over redistricting comes to Orlando today. A committee of state lawmakers is holding two public hearings on how Congressional and legislative districts should be drawn. The hearings are the latest in a series of more than 2 dozen being held around the state. Lawmakers will hold another hearing tomorrow in Melbourne.

On the local level, Orange County's redistricting committee is holding a public hearing this evening in Maitland on potential changes to county commission districts.

Ann Helmuth is on that county panel and she's also the president of Orange County's League of Women Voters.

90.7's Tom Parkinson spoke with her about redistricting on the county and state levels.

The state legislature's redistricting committee schedule is available here:

www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Hearings

The dates and locations of hearings for Orange County's redistricting panel can be found at this website: www.ocfl.net/rac

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Read More:

http://www.wmfe.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=11769&news_iv_ctrl=1041

Online & Blogs

Florida Redistricting Workshop Coming to Polk State College

Polk-County.Net
July 15, 2011

Florida Redistricting workshop coming to Polk State College

Bartow, FL (July 15, 2011) – The Florida House and Senate will bring its statewide public input tour to Lakeland July 25 at Polk State College.

Legislators serving on the House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees will conduct the public workshop at PSC from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 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.”

Polk County residents who are unable to attend the 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).”

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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<http://www.polk-county.net/newsdetail.aspx?id=28336>

Florida Redistricting Workshop Coming To Polk State College

MyPolkPolitics.com
July 18, 2011

Lakeland, Florida – The Florida House and Senate will bring its statewide public input tour to Lakeland July 25 at Polk State College.

Legislators serving on the House and Senate redistricting committees and subcommittees will conduct the public workshop at PSC from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 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.

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Read More: <http://mypolkpolitics.com/2011/07/18/florida-redistricting-workshop-coming-to-polk-state-college/>

Looking Ahead: Redistricting Hearings in Central Florida

InsideTheLinesFLA.com

July 19, 2011

For the upcoming July 25-28 public input meetings on redistricting in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne, below are links to parking and driving directions, Google Maps for each location, and the RSVP page for each location. You do not have to RSVP, but it is helpful to ensure that we have adequate resources for those Florida residents who plan to attend.

- July 25: Lakeland: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 26: Wauchula: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 26: Wesley Chapel: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 27: Orlando: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 28: Melbourne: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)

Note, there are a growing number of resources available via the House Redistricting website, www.floridaredistricting.org, that you can use to get your community involved in Florida's redistricting process, including the upcoming public meetings.

[Public Participation Toolkit](#) – To learn about redistricting, ways to provide your input, and ways to help others get involved.

[Plan Explorer](#) – To view the dozen complete or partial proposed maps already submitted by Florida residents via MyDistrictBuilder.

[Maps and Data](#) – To study the data and maps, before coming to a public meeting or using MyDistrictBuilder.

[Social Media: Facebook, Twitter and mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov Email](#) – To follow the Florida House's redistricting related activities, and even provide written comment during the public meetings if you cannot attend in person.

Thompson Urges Minorities to Speak Up

West Orlando News Online

July 20, 2011

A State appointed Redistricting Committee will meet in Orlando on July 27, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Bob Carr Auditorium, to discuss redistricting based on the new Census data.

State Rep. Geraldine Thompson (D-Orlando) is urging Orange County and Metro Orlando area residents to attend the upcoming Redistricting Committee Meeting on July 27, to make sure that your voices are heard regarding how minority communities should be represented as the lines are drawn to determine Legislative and Congressional districts for the next decade. (See basics on what is redistricting below)

“Our community will not have this opportunity for another ten years,” Thompson said in a statement. “We cannot afford to have others make redistricting decisions that affect us without our input.”

DATE: Wednesday, July 27th, 2011
TIME: 2 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: The Bob Carr Performing Arts Center
401 West Livingston Street
Orlando, Florida 32801
Free Parking will be available in PARKING LOT 1. See you there!

Redistricting 101 from Rep. Geraldine Thompson

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

Redistricting is the process of redrawing legislative lines, defining the districts from which people are elected to public office – from cities and school boards to state officials and congressional representatives. Redistricting takes place after the census is completed every 10 years.

IS REDISTRICTING DIFFERENT FROM REAPPORTIONMENT?

Technically yes; but as a practical matter no. Reapportionment in its most narrow, technical sense refers to the allocation of representatives to previously established voting areas, as when Congress allocates, or “apportions,” seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. But the terms reapportionment and redistricting are generally used interchangeably and refer to the entire process.

WHY DO DISTRICT LINES NEED TO BE REDRAWN?

The U.S. Constitution and the federal courts require it. It’s also the fair and equitable thing to do. Historically, many states did not redistrict to reflect shifts and growth in their populations. As a consequence, the voting power of residents of heavily populated areas was often significantly diluted. In Georgia statewide contests, for example, a vote in 45 sparsely populated rural counties had 45 times the weight of a vote in urban Fulton County. The voters from the 103

smallest counties in the state, which had only 22 percent of the population, also elected a majority of the members of the house.

WHO DRAWS THE LINES?

In most states, the state legislature is responsible for drawing district lines. However, 13 states (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington) use special redistricting commissions to draw state legislative districts. Six of these states (Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Jersey, Washington) also use a board or commission to draw congressional plans, while seven states (Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas) use an advisory or remedial commission in the event the legislature is unable to pass new plans. Iowa is different from all other states in that district plans are developed by nonpartisan legislative staff with limited criteria for developing plans.

In some states, Georgia, for example, historic problems with drawing maps that fairly represented the current population have placed them under a judicial watch, which many times has required a court intervention for map drawing.

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Read More: <http://westorlandonews.com/2011/07/18/thompson-urges-minorities-to-speak-up/>

Redistricting Meetings Move to I-4 Corridor Next Week

InsideTheLinesFLA.com
July 21, 2011

Lawmakers next week take the discussion of how to redesign the state's political map to one of the areas most in need of updating to account for demographic change – and the area probably most closely watched because of its current political competitiveness, writes David Royse of the News Service of Florida.

In almost any discussion of how to be successful in statewide politics in Florida, the words “I-4 corridor” come up, so much so that it's become a political buzz phrase, even on the lips of national pundits who wouldn't know Winter Haven from Winter Park.

Next week, the Legislature takes its redistricting committee meetings to that closely contested, make-or-break region stretching from Tampa Bay to Daytona Beach.

Lawmakers will start Monday with a meeting in Lakeland,– in the heart of the I-4 corridor. On Tuesday, they'll meet in Wauchula, in the rural and agricultural area of Hardee County, south of Lakeland, and in Wesley Chapel, a suburb of Tampa. Later in the week the meetings move to the middle and the other end of the I-4 corridor, in Orlando on Wednesday and Melbourne on Thursday.

The I-4 corridor includes parts of 10 congressional districts, some heavily and solidly Democratic like Tampa Bay's District 11, represented by U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor and the sliver of the heavily African-American District 3 that snakes through part of Orlando and is represented by U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown. Some districts in the area are solidly Republican, like District 9, represented by Rep. Gus Bilirakis. But most are swing districts, leaning one way or the other, but actually in play.

That might seem like a good thing and something lawmakers wouldn't want to change much – after all, voters approved two constitutional amendments last year that essentially said they want more competitive districts, and don't want parties to monkey around with boundaries to hold on to or to increase their power – or to guarantee a seat for a certain politician.

But the area's boundaries have to change because it's also one of the areas that has grown the most in the last decade, and it has seen some major demographic changes.

"We continue to be one of the fastest growing regions of the state, and a lot of that growth has been non-Cuban Hispanic, particularly Puerto Rican," said Aubrey Jewett, a political science professor at the University of Central Florida.

That, along with a surge in African-American voter registration in 2008, have contributed heavily to some parts of the area becoming more likely to vote Democratic than they were 10 years ago.

Most of the Hispanic population growth in the region has played to the favor of the Democratic party, though it's not a given – Puerto Ricans vote for members of both parties. Witness a state House district in central Florida that is thought of as a "Puerto Rican seat" because of its make-up: it's held by state Rep. Darren Soto, D-Kissimmee, who is of Puerto Rican heritage, but in the past was represented by another Puerto Rican, John Quinones, a Republican now on the Osceola County commission.

Other areas have in the last decade come to vote more for Republicans, part of the ongoing national shift of some conservative, rural Southern voters who used to be Democrats but now register and vote Republican, and partly because of an influx of Midwestern retirees who often bring Republican voting habits with them.

Those people moving in are the reason the legislative and congressional districts in central Florida will be among the those most changed in the process that lawmakers are starting on now, and will finish before next year's election. Legislative districts, whether those for the state House, state Senate, or in Congress, must be as near as possible to equal in population when they're created. That's one-person, one-vote. But as the decade goes on, people move and that changes.

Take U.S. House District 12, which includes Lakeland and most of Polk County, and includes parts of Hillsborough and Osceola counties. The district, represented now by U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Lakeland, is one of three Florida congressional districts with a population deviation

above 20 percent, meaning it is that much bigger than it is supposed to be. The most overpopulated congressional district in the state, District 5, represented by Rep. Richard Nugent, R-Brooksville, also dips into the I-4 corridor at its southern tip. That district is 33 percent larger than it should be in terms of population.

Those two districts, then, will have to change.

Winter Haven lawyer and former state Sen. Rick Dantzler lives in Ross' District 12. He'd like to see the district compacted to focus on the heavily agricultural inland area centered on citrus-growing Polk County. That would mean pulling back the district from representing areas at the eastern, coastal end of the district and the western part of the district that is largely an Orlando suburban area, and increasingly heavily Hispanic.

"I think a great congressional district would be one that was carved out of the "Heartland," said Dantzler. "Polk County and areas to the south."

Florida's redistricting meetings move to I-4 corridor next week

News Service of Florida
July 22, 2011

By: David Royse

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see the district compacted to focus on the heavily agricultural inland area centered on citrus-growing Polk County. That would mean pulling back the district from representing areas at the eastern, coastal end of the district and the western part of the district that is largely an Orlando suburban area, and increasingly heavily Hispanic.

"I think a great congressional district would be one that was carved out of the "Heartland," said Dantzler. "Polk County and areas to the south. That would be coalescing a lot of like-minded people."

Such a district would likely stretch into Wauchula, in Hardee County, where lawmakers will meet on Tuesday.

Drawing it that way would allow, for example, a congressman from the area to focus on the desires of the agriculture community. Dantzler, a Democrat, acknowledges that would probably be a GOP district.

"It probably would be considered a Republican congressional district," Dantzler said.

But making that district more solidly Republican might make other districts more Democratic, Dantzler noted. "Especially whoever picks up that Osceola (County) slice - that's Puerto Ricans, and they tend to be Democrats."

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Read More: <http://www.flcourier.com/flflorida/5803-floridas-redistricting-meetings-move-to-i-4-corridor-next-week>

Florida Redistricting Workshop coming to Polk State College

Lakeland.WTSP.com
July 26, 2011

By: Kristin Weber

Polk County, FL -- The Florida House and Senate will bring its statewide public input tour to Lakeland on July 25 at Polk State College.

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Read More: <http://lakeland.wtsp.com/news/events/florida-redistricting-workshop-coming-polk-state-college/70491>

A primer for Wednesday’s redistricting hearing in Orlando

Orlando Sentinel
July 26, 2011

By: Aaron DeSlatte

With 2.8 million more people to spread around, Florida lawmakers will bring their redistricting tour to the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center in Orlando on Wednesday. There’s lots to talk about.

Here are some basics.

The Legislature’s House and Senate redistricting committees will take public testimony Wednesday and Thursday at two Central Florida locations.

Wednesday: 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Bob Carr Performing Arts Center, 401 W. Livingston St., Orlando.

Thursday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Brevard County Commission chamber, 2775 Fran Jamieson Way, Viera.

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Read More: http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news_politics/2011/07/a-primer-for-wednesdays-redistricting-hearing-in-orlando.html

Orlando redistricting hearing packs the house — with the House

Central Florida Political Pulse (Orlando Sentinel)
July 27, 2011

By: Aaron DeSlatte

The Florida Legislature's redistricting whistle-stop tour is in Orlando this afternoon and has drawn a crowded house, and that's just counting the House members present.

By our less-than-scientific tally, there appear to be at least 39 40 House and Senate members on stage at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center, where an audience of more than 150 people have signed up to speak during the two-hour session. Lawmakers will hold a second hearing for public input at 6 p.m.

Local lawmakers present include Reps. Chris Dorworth, R-Lake Mary, Eric Eisnagle, R-Orlando, Mike Horner, R-Kissimmee, Jason Brodeur, R-Sanford, Geraldine Thompson, D-Orlando, Bryan Nelson, R-Apopka, Ritch Workman, R-Melbourne, Scott Plakon, R-Longwood, Scott Randolph, D-Orlando, and Steve Crisifulli, R-Merritt Island. Senators present include Majority Leader Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, Thad Altman, R-Viera, David Simmons, R-Maitland, and Gary Siplin, D-Orlando.

The MC for the day, Rep. Steve Precourt, R-Orlando, tried unsuccessfully to get the audience to stop cheering after the first few speakers complained that lawmakers' summer tour was a farce "designed to look like lawmakers are listening" because they haven't drawn maps yet. The crowd jeered Precourt when he suggested they pipe down.

So far, the testimony is equal parts criticism of the process, and appeals for creating a Hispanic congressional district that would reflect that Orange County is now made up of a majority of minority groups. Florida will land two new congressional districts — boosting its number of U.S. House members from 25 to 27 next year — and due to Central Florida's huge Puerto Rican growth, one of those seats is expected to wind up here.

The Central Florida counties of Orange, Osceola, Volusia, Lake and Seminole led the state in population growth over the last decade, largely thanks to Hispanics. Of the 541,000 additional people in Central Florida, 267,000 were Hispanics.

But it will likely be early next year before lawmakers produce proposed maps of the new districts to show how those people will be divvied up.

“As it is now, this exercise is a total waste of time and money,” said Michele Levy, with the Orange County League of Women Voters.

Emilio Perez, chairman of the Central Florida Redistricting Council Inc. in Orlando, said it would be a slap in the face for the Latino community if lawmakers don’t draw an Hispanic access congressional district.

“It will be like penalizing us for the growth that landed this state two new congressional districts.”

But pastor Randolph Bracy, Jr. told lawmakers the seat should be drawn to elect an African-American lawmaker instead.

Another retired pastor, Canon Nelson W. Pinder, then implored lawmakers not to play “race against race,” and give the region both an African-American and Hispanic district.

“Don’t fence me out, fence me in,” he said.

Copyright © 2011, Orlando Sentinel.

Read More: http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news_politics/2011/07/orlando-redistricting-hearing-packs-the-house-with-the-house.html

Paid Advertising

East Orlando Sun



Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

ORLANDO

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. &

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Bob Carr Performing

Arts Center

401 W Livingston St

Orlando, FL 32801

Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.



This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the East Orlando Sun on Thursday, July 20, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistribución de distritos en el 2012:

**Cuéntenos su historia
Asista a una reunión abierta
al público
¡Próximamente en una ciudad
cerca de usted!**

Miércoles, 27 de julio, 2011

Orlando

2 p.m. – 4 p.m. y

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Bob Carr Performing Arts Center

401 W. Livingston St

Orlando, FL 32801

Las personas que necesiten acomodación especial deben llamar al Comité de Redistribución de Distritos de la Cámara de Representantes de Florida al (850) 488-3928 o enviar un e-mail a mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov al menos cinco días laborales antes de la reunión, para poder satisfacer dicha acomodación.

FLORIDA ES SU COMUNIDAD, SU DISTRITO,
REDISTRICTING SU HISTORIA... CUÉNTENOS SU HISTORIA

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the El Sentinel on Saturday, July 23, 2011.

**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story**

**Attend the Redistricting
Public Meeting
Coming to Melbourne!**

**Thursday, July 28, 2011
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Brevard County
Commission Chamber
2725 Fran Jamleson Way
Viera, FL 32940**

**Check out other Central Florida
meeting times and locations at:**

www.floridaredistricting.org

**For special accommodations, contact the Florida
House at (850) 488-3928**



This appeared as a 1/8 page black and white ad in the El Sentinel on Monday, July 25, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Monday, July 25, 2011

LAKELAND
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Polk State College
Main Auditorium
3425 Winter Lake Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

WAUCHULA
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hardee County
Civic Center
515 Civic Center Dr
Wauchula, FL 33873

WESLEY CHAPEL
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wiregrass Ranch
High School Gym
2909 Mansfield Blvd
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543

Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page color ad in the Lake Wales News on Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

Monday, July 25, 2011

**LAKELAND
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Polk State College
Main Auditorium
3425 Winter Lake Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803**

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

**WAUCHULA
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hardee County
Civic Center
515 Civic Center Dr
Wauchula, FL 33873**

**WESLEY CHAPEL
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wiregrass Ranch
High School Gym
2909 Mansfield Blvd
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543**

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This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Lakeland Ledger on Thursday, July 21, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

ORLANDO

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. &

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Bob Carr Performing

Arts Center

401 W Livingston St

Orlando, FL 32801

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in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Orlando Business Journal on Friday, July 22, 2011.

Orlando Sentinel



These online advertisements appeared on the Orlando Sentinel website from Monday, July 25, 2011 to Wednesday, July 27, 2011.



www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, July 27, 2011
ORLANDO
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. &
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Bob Carr Performing
Arts Center
401 W Livingston St
Orlando, FL 32801

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in order that accommodations may be satisfied.



FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Orlando Times on Thursday, July 21, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

Monday, July 25, 2011

**LAKELAND
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Polk State College
Main Auditorium
3425 Winter Lake Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803**

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

**WAUCHULA
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hardee County
Civic Center
515 Civic Center Dr
Wauchula, FL 33873**

**WESLEY CHAPEL
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wiregrass Ranch
High School Gym
2909 Mansfield Blvd
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543**

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Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
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FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

**IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This appeared as a ¼ page color ad in the Pasco Tribune on Thursday, July 21, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

Monday, July 25, 2011

**LAKELAND
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Polk State College
Main Auditorium
3425 Winter Lake Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803**

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

**WAUCHULA
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hardee County
Civic Center
515 Civic Center Dr
Wauchula, FL 33873**

**WESLEY CHAPEL
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wiregrass Ranch
High School Gym
2909 Mansfield Blvd
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543**


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FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page color ad in the Polk County Democrat on Wednesday, July 20, 2011.



This online advertisement appeared on the St. Petersburg website from Friday, July 22, 2011-Thursday, September 1, 2011.



www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:

Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Monday, July 25, 2011

LAKELAND
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Polk State College
Main Auditorium
3425 Winter Lake Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

WAUCHULA 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Hardee County Civic Center 515 Civic Center Dr Wauchula, FL 33873	WESLEY CHAPEL 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Wiregrass Ranch High School Gym 2909 Mansfield Blvd Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
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Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
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FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

**IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This appeared as a ¼ page color ad in the Suncoast News on Thursday, July 21, 2011.



This online advertisement appeared on the Tampa Tribune website from Sunday, July 24, 2011 – Tuesday, July 26, 2011.



**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

Monday, July 25, 2011

**LAKELAND
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Polk State College
Main Auditorium
3425 Winter Lake Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803**

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

**WAUCHULA
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hardee County
Civic Center
515 Civic Center Dr
Wauchula, FL 33873**

**WESLEY CHAPEL
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
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High School Gym
2909 Mansfield Blvd
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543**

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at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.



This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Wauchula Herald Advocate on Thursday, July 21, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Monday, July 25, 2011

LAKELAND
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Polk State College
Main Auditorium
3425 Winter Lake Rd
Lakeland, FL 33803

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

WAUCHULA 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Hardee County Civic Center 515 Civic Center Dr Wauchula, FL 33873	WESLEY CHAPEL 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Wiregrass Ranch High School Gym 2909 Mansfield Blvd Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
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Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Winter Haven News-Chief on Thursday, July 21, 2011.



www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, July 27, 2011
ORLANDO
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. &
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Bob Carr Performing
Arts Center
401 W Livingston St
Orlando, FL 32801

Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.




FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Winter Park/ Maitland Observer on Thursday, July 21, 2011.

Community Calendar Postings

Zvents (Lakeland Events)



NOW ENJOY A *welcome credit* WORTH UP TO \$150 FROM HY
Make your getaway even better with activities, amenities and more on us.

Lakeland Events

CHANGE LOCATION ▼

Search for (e.g., events, venues)

Near (city, address, ...)

Lakeland, FL

HOME MUSIC MOVIES FESTIVALS SPORTS THEATER + ARTS FAMILY + KIDS RESTAURANTS NIGHTLIFE MO

Florida House and Senate Holds Public Redistricting Meetings

Jul

25

2011

Monday, 2:00pm

Polk State College

Lakeland, FL (map)


Add to calendar

I'm Attending

Maybe

Follow

Invite a Friend

 Like

overview

Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Central Florida from July 25-28, and includes stops in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne.

Members of the Florida legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this important process!

For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

For more information, visit [the website for Florida House and Senate Holds Public Redistricting Meetings](#).

event details

Event Phone:

(850) 921-7747

Event Website:

[Florida House and Senate Holds Public Redistricting Meetings website](#)

Venue Phone:

(863) 297-1000

Venue Website:

[Polk State College website](#)

Categories:

Community, Civic/Government

Price:

Free

Age Suitability:

All Ages

Creator:

SarahStuckey

Winter Haven News Chief

News Chief

The Ledger

Polk Shopper


Polk Voice

The Reporter

Polk Moms

East Polk Lifestyles

Polk...


 **NEWSCHIEF.com**

Grand 10 Winter Haven, Florida
920 Springlake Square NW Winter Haven, FL 33881
(863) 292-0527, Movie times: (863) 292-2466

Lakeside 18 Lakeland, Florida
1650 Town Center Drive Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 937-0416, Movie Times: (863) 937-0555

Grand 10 Winter Haven, Florida

Lakeside 18 Lakeland, Florida

Welcome


HOME DELIVERY | NEWSPAPER ADS | MOBILE | **PLACE AN AD**

Home News Sports Entertainment Living Opinion Obituaries Classifieds


what when near

Address, Neighborhood, City

events movies venues restaurants performers

Home > Lakeland Events > Lakeland Community Events > Florida House and Senate Holds Public Redistricting Meetings


Summary Full Details




Florida House and Senate Holds Public Redistricting Meetings


Monday, July 25 2:00p to 5:00p
at [Polk State College](#), Lakeland, FL


Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida’s political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Central Florida from July 25-28, and includes stops in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne. [read more](#)


 [Event Website](#)

Categories: Community, Civic/Government
Creator: SarahStuckey

 Like

 Tweet this


 Invite Friends

 Add to Calendar

Location & Nearby Info

Polk State College
3425 Winter Lake Road
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 297-1000

Show Nearby:
☒ Restaurants ☐ Hotels
☐ Bars




1 Garden Deli

0.1 Mi

On Sa
Rome
Thu 1
On Sa
Serv
Sun 8

Tampa Tribune



TBO EXTRA

HOME VIDEO MOVIES MUSIC TV DINING ARTS NIGHTLIFE CELEBRITIES ETC

Wednesday, July 13, 2011 Tampa 86.0° Partly Cloudy

Search

what when near

Address, [Neighborhood](#), City & State,

events **movies** venues restaurants

Home > Lakeland Events > Lakeland Community Events > Florida House and Senate Holds Public Redistricting Meetings

Summary **Full Details**

Edit Print

Florida House and Senate Holds Public Redistricting Meetings

Monday, July 25 2:00p to 5:00p
at Polk State College, Lakeland, FL

Price: Free
Phone: (850) 921-7747
Age Suitability: All Ages
Tags: [community](#), [politics](#), [redistricting](#), [florida government](#) +

Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida’s political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Central Florida from July 25-28, and includes stops in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne.

Members of the Florida legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this important process!

For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

[Event Website](#)

Categories: [Community](#), [Civic/Government](#)
Creator: [SarahStuckey](#) ([Manage editors](#))


Like

Tweet this

Invite Friends

Add to Calendar

Don't Miss



Hot Ticket




[Sug Mac Thu](#)
[Mai Wei](#)

Location & Nearby Info

Polk State College
3425 Winter Lake Road

Garden Deli
Deli

by:
rants 

WEBXTRAS
ONLINE FEATURE

dailycommercial.com

Wednesday, July 27
All Combined Calendar

[Sunday](#)
[Monday](#)
[Tuesday](#)
[Wednesday](#)
[Thursday](#)
[Friday](#)
[Saturday](#)

Wed, Jul 27

Legend:
[Printer Friendly](#)

Jump to

View...

All Combined

2011

July 2011

7:00 AM

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

12:00 PM

1:00 PM

2:00 PM

3:00 PM

4:00 PM

5:00 PM

http://calendar.dailycommercial.com/calendar_event.php?evt_id=953&evt_date=2011-07-27

Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings
Wednesday, July 27, 2011 (2:00 PM - 8:00 PM)

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event — the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Central Florida from July 2

Done

 Internet
 100%

DRIVE4COPD
Pit Stop

2:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

July 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Lakeland Ledger

The Ledger

News Chief

TIMEOUT


Polk Voice

The Reporter

Polk Moms

Inside Polk

PolkMD

 TheLedger.com

Grand 10 Winter Haven, Florida
920 Springlake Square NW Winter Haven, FL 33881
(863) 292-0527, Movie times: (863) 292-2466

Lakeside 18 Lakeland, Florida
1650 Town Center Drive Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 937-0416, Movie Times: (863) 937- 0555

Grand 10
Winter Haven, Florida

Lakeside 18
Lakeland, Florida

Welcome
Coca-Cola

Home News Business Sports Entertainment Life Opinion Obituaries Blogs Cla


what when near

Address, Neighborhood, City & State


events **movies** venues restaurants performers

Home > Lakeland Events > Lakeland Community Events > Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Summary **Full Details**


 Print

Hot Ticket




Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings
Monday, July 25 2:00p to 5:00p
at Polk State College, Lakeland, FL


This summer, Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Central Florida from July 25-28, and includes stops in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne. [read more](#)


 [Event Website](#)


Categories: Community, Civic/Government


Creator: LyndseyCruley


 Like


 Tweet this


 Invite Friends

 Add to Calendar


Romeo and Juliet
Thu 1/11


LIVE



Disney
Fri 9/2



Disney
Sat 9/1

Location & Nearby Info

Polk State College
3425 Winter Lake Road
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 297-1000

Show Nearby:
☒ Restaurants ☐ Hotels
☐ Bars


North ↑

 Garden Deli

0.1 Mi

The Orlando Times

Title: Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings
Date: Wednesday, July 27
Time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Location: Bob Carr Performing Arts Center
401 W Livingston St.
Orlando, FL 32801
Price: Free
Website: www.floridaredistricting.org
Phone: (850) 921-7747

Description: This summer, Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Central Florida from July 25-28, and includes stops in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne.

Members of the Florida legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this important process!

For more information on public meetings and The dates and times of these public meetings, as well as other information can be found by visiting www.floridaredistricting.org.

Orlando Sentinel

Title: Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings
Date: Wednesday, July 27
Time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Location: Bob Carr Performing Arts Center
401 W Livingston St.
Orlando, FL 32801
Price: Free
Website: www.floridaredistricting.org
Phone: (850) 921-7747

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Public Service Announcements - TV

WOTF-DT Telefutura Orlando

(English version of the advertisement that was broadcast in Spanish-language) THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW.DOT-FLORIDA.REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WVEN-TV Univision Orlando

(English version of the advertisement that was broadcast in Spanish-language) THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW.DOT-FLORIDA.REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

[Click Here to Watch 60-second Spanish-Language Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Watch 60-second Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Watch 30-second Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Watch 15-second Public Service Announcement](#)

Public Service Announcements – Radio

WONQ AM 1030 Orlando

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WUCF 89.9 FM Orlando

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT

PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WPRK 95.1 FM Orlando

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

[Click Here to Listen to 60-second Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 30-second Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 15-second Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 60-second Spanish-Language Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 30-second Spanish-Language Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 15-second Spanish-Language Public Service Announcement](#)

Social Media

The House's official **Twitter and Facebook** accounts were used daily in the two weeks leading up to the meetings and during the meetings to increase awareness and participation.

[@MyFLHouse on Twitter](#)

[@FLRedistricting on Twitter](#)

www.facebook.com/MyFLHouse

www.facebook.com/MyDistrictBuilder

The collage consists of several screenshots of social media profiles and posts:

- Twitter - MyDistrictBuilder:** Profile page for @FLRedistricting, Tallahassee, Florida. Bio: "Official MyDistrictBuilder Twitter account. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the FL House of Reps. Contact: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov http://www.floridaredistricting.org/". Stats: 869 Tweets, 411 Following, 527 Followers, 21 Listed.
- Twitter - Florida House (@MyFLHouse):** Profile page for @MyFLHouse, Tallahassee, FL. Bio: "Official Florida House Twitter account. Messages and comments received are subject to FL's public records law. Email us: publicinfo@myfloridahouse.gov http://www.myfloridahouse.gov". Stats: 416 Tweets, 178 Following, 1,355 Followers, 80 Listed.
- Facebook - MyDistrictBuilder (FloridaRedistricting.Org):** Profile page for a government organization in Tallahassee, Florida. It features a "Wall" section with posts about redistricting meetings and a "Like" button.
- Facebook - My Florida House:** Profile page for a government organization in Tallahassee, Florida. It features a "Wall" section with posts about the "OPI: On Track" status of bills presented to Governor Scott.

The [Office of Public Information](#) and the [Redistricting Committee](#) used their respective YouTube pages and video content to help prepare Floridians for both what to expect at the public meetings, and also give suggestions on how Florida residents must prepare to offer their feedback on Florida's redistricting.

The image is a screenshot of two YouTube channel pages. The top page is for 'MyDistrictBuilder' (MyDistrictBuilderFL's Channel). It features a video player showing a man in a blue shirt speaking in a living room. Below the video, the title is 'Eustis resident discusses using MyDistrictBuilder' by MyFloridaHouse. To the right of the video is a 'Playlists' section with a list of videos titled '2011 Redistricting Tour' for various locations: Gainesville, Daytona Beach, The Villages, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville. The bottom page is for 'MyFloridaHouse's Channel'. It shows a video player with a group of people seated at a long table. The title is '2011 Redistricting Tour - Daytona Beach'. To the left of the video player is a sidebar with four video thumbnails: 'Redistricting PSA' (1:04), 'Spanish Redistricting PSA' (1:05), 'Redistricting PSA - 30 seconds' (0:35), and 'Redistricting PSA - 15 seconds' (0:19). To the right of the video player is a 'Recent Activity' section showing a list of videos with their titles, view counts, and upload dates. The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of the Florida House of Representatives seal and the website address 'www.floridaredistricting.org'.

MyDistrictBuilder
MyDistrictBuilderFL's Channel

Playlists

Arrange Playlists

Back to Playlists

Edit My Playlist

More Info

Eustis resident discusses using MyFlorida... 162 views

2011 Redistricting Tour - Gainesville MyFlorida... 1:20

2011 Redistricting Tour - Daytona Beach MyFlorida... 1:35

2011 Redistricting Tour - The Villages MyFlorida... 1:33

2011 Redistricting Tour - St. Augustine MyFlorida... 1:44

2011 Redistricting Tour - Jacksonville MyFlorida... 1:41

2011 Redistricting Tour - Orlando MyFlorida... 1:41

MyFloridaHouse's Channel ☒ Subscribed

All Uploads Favorites

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Date Added | Most Viewed | Top Rated

51 views - 2 weeks ago

2011 Redistricting Tour - Daytona Beach 68 views - 2 weeks ago

2011 Redistricting Tour - St. Augustine 88 views - 2 weeks ago

2011 Redistricting Tour - Jacksonville 152 views - 3 weeks ago

Spanish Redistricting PSA 76 views - 3 weeks ago

2011 Redistricting Tour - Panama City 99 views - 1 month ago

2011 Redistricting Tour - Fort Walton 186 views - 1 month ago

Redistricting PSA
MyFlorida... 1:04

Spanish Redistricting PSA
MyFlorida... 1:05

Redistricting PSA - 30 seconds
MyDistric... 0:35

Redistricting PSA - 15 seconds
MyDistric... 0:19

2011 Redistricting Tour - Daytona Beach
From: MyFloridaHouse | Jul 21, 2011 | 68 views

This video captures the Daytona Beach meeting during the 2011 Redistricting Tour. More than 200 hundred people attended the event in order to discuss the Redistricting process with House members and Senators.

View comments, related videos, and more

MyFloridaHouse ☒ Subscribed

Add as Friend | Block User | Send Message

Recent Activity

MyFloridaHouse uploaded a new video (16 hours ago)

2011 Redistricting Tour - Orlando

The [House Redistricting Committee's official Blog](#) was used to prepare Florida residents for public meetings, including updates on maps and suggestions submitted by Florida residents, meeting logistics and public participation tools, and marketing of redistricting meeting videos and public service advertisements that can be used to educate and prepare Florida residents for effective ways to participate in the redistricting process. Public participation content from the blog was rebroadcast via Twitter, Facebook and www.floridaredistricting.org.

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JULY 19, 2011 • 3:31 PM (EDIT)

Looking Ahead: Florida Redistricting Meetings in Central Florida

For the upcoming July 25-28 public input meetings on redistricting in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne, below are links to parking and driving directions, Google Maps for each location, and the RSVP page for each location. You do not have to RSVP, but it is helpful to ensure that we have adequate resources for those Florida residents who plan to attend.

- July 25: Lakeland: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 26: Wauchula: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 26: Wesley Chapel: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 27: Orlando: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 28: Melbourne: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)

Note, there are a growing number of resources available via the House Redistricting website, www.floridaredistricting.org, that you can use to get your community involved in Florida's redistricting process, including the upcoming public meetings.

Public Participation Toolkit – To learn about redistricting, ways to provide your input, and ways to help others get involved.

Plan Explorer – To view the dozen complete or partial proposed maps already submitted by Florida residents via **MyDistrictBuilder**.

Maps and Data – To study the data and maps, before coming to a public meeting or using **MyDistrictBuilder**.

Social Media: Facebook, Twitter and mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov Email – To follow the Florida House's redistricting related activities, and even provide written comment during the public meetings if you cannot attend in person.

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JULY 21, 2011 • 3:14 PM (EDIT)

Redistricting Outreach Made Simple Via Video

The Florida House of Representatives is using video as a way to market the public input meetings and provide Floridians with a preview of what to expect at these meetings. Recently, the House even created a new Spanish-language Public Service Advertisement (PSA) for the upcoming meetings in Central Florida.

You are welcome to use the video links below to include these videos in your redistricting educational and outreach efforts. Additional video summaries from the remainder of public meetings (July 25-September 1) will be made available via the Public Participation Toolkit at www.floridaredistricting.org and www.youtube.com/MyDistrictBuilder.

- 60-second Spanish-Language PSA
- 30-second PSA
- 30-second PSA
- 15-second PSA
- Video Summary: Gainesville Meeting
- Video Summary: The Villages Meeting
- Video Summary: Daytona Beach Meeting
- Video Summary: St. Augustine Meeting
- Video Summary: Jacksonville Meeting
- Video Summary: Panama City Meeting
- Video Summary: Fort Walton Beach Meeting
- Video Summary: Pensacola Meeting
- Video Summary: Tallahassee Meeting

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JULY 18, 2011 • 3:01 PM (EDIT)

Redistricting Maps and Suggestions Submitted By Florida Residents To-Date

Below you will find links to the complete and partial redistricting plans submitted to the Florida House of Representatives by Florida residents:

Complete Congressional Plans:

- HPUB0001 – by Nicholas A Ortiz from St. Johns County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/06/27/hpub0001-nicholas-a/>
- HPUB0003 – by John Libby from Duval County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/08/hpub0003-john/>
- HPUB0004 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpub0004-jkelly-henry/>
- HPUB0005 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpub0005-jkelly-henry/>
- HPUB0008 – by Justin Hornburg: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpub0008-justin/>

Partial Congressional Plans:

- HPAR0008 – by Tom Eshenbom from Lake County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/15/hpar0008-tom/>
- HPAR0009 – by Patricia Sullivan from Lake County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/15/hpar0009-patricia/>

Partial State House Plans:

- HPAR0002 – by John Alvarez from Brevard County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/06/27/hpar0002-john/>
- HPAR0011 – by Patricia Sullivan from Lake County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/15/hpar0011-patricia/>

Complete State Senate Plan:

- HPUB0007 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpub0007-henry/>

Partial State Senate Plan:

BLOG & RESOURCES

A website of the Florida House of Representatives' Redistricting Committee and www.floridaredistricting.org

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Redistricting Outreach Made Simple Via Video

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You are welcome to use the video links below to include these videos in your redistricting educational and outreach efforts. Additional video summaries from the remainder of public meetings (July 25-September 1) will be made available via the Public Participation Toolkit at www.floridaredistricting.org and www.youtube.com/MyDistrictBuilder.

- 60-second Spanish-Language PSA
- 30-second PSA
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- 15-second PSA
- Video Summary: Gainesville Meeting
- Video Summary: The Villages Meeting
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- Video Summary: Jacksonville Meeting
- Video Summary: Panama City Meeting
- Video Summary: Fort Walton Beach Meeting
- Video Summary: Pensacola Meeting
- Video Summary: Tallahassee Meeting

BLOG & RESOURCES

A website of the Florida House of Representatives' Redistricting Committee and www.floridaredistricting.org

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JULY 18, 2011 • 3:01 PM (EDIT)

Redistricting Maps and Suggestions Submitted By Florida Residents To-Date

Below you will find links to the complete and partial redistricting plans submitted to the Florida House of Representatives by Florida residents:

Complete Congressional Plans:

- HPUB0001 – by Nicholas A Ortiz from St. Johns County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/06/27/hpub0001-nicholas-a/>
- HPUB0003 – by John Libby from Duval County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/08/hpub0003-john/>
- HPUB0004 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpub0004-jkelly-henry/>
- HPUB0005 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpub0005-jkelly-henry/>
- HPUB0008 – by Justin Hornburg: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpub0008-justin/>

Partial Congressional Plans:

- HPAR0008 – by Tom Eshenbom from Lake County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/15/hpar0008-tom/>
- HPAR0009 – by Patricia Sullivan from Lake County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/15/hpar0009-patricia/>

Partial State House Plans:

- HPAR0002 – by John Alvarez from Brevard County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/06/27/hpar0002-john/>
- HPAR0011 – by Patricia Sullivan from Lake County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/15/hpar0011-patricia/>

Complete State Senate Plan:

- HPUB0007 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: <http://mydistrictbuilderplaneexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpub0007-henry/>

Partial State Senate Plan:

FloridaRedistricting.org and MyFloridaHouse.gov were used as hubs of information and access to [Watch Meetings Live](#) (via the [Florida Channel's Redistricting Hearings webcasting](#)), access the [Meeting Calendar](#) and follow other announcements related to the public meetings.



FLORIDA REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

MyDistrictBuilder

STAY INFORMED!
Do you want to receive email updates or news alerts about MyDistrictBuilder and Redistricting?
SIGNUP

Redistricting...What? Why? How?
Welcome to FloridaRedistricting.Org. Redistricting is the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines, every ten years, to reflect changes in population. Everyone lives in districts...congressional, legislative, etc. Those districts tell the stories of their communities. The Florida House is inviting Floridians to start the redistricting conversation. To enable that conversation, FloridaRedistricting.Org serves as a hub of public participation opportunities, including access to MyDistrictBuilder™, the online tool for both Floridians and their legislators to suggest new district boundary lines.

Legislative Headlines:
Below are the latest releases of public information, calendar updates, legislative information and more.

- Plan Explorer's New Written Redistricting Plan Submissions (June 26)
- Press Release: Recap Public Participation Meetings in FL's Panhandle (June 22)
- Are You Ready to Participate in Florida's Redistricting? (June 17)
- Redistricting Public Services Announcements (June 16)
- Media Advisory for Redistricting Meetings in Florida's Panhandle (June 13)
- Video Update Regarding Public Meetings (June 12)

Public Participation:
Below are resources to guide your involvement in the many ways Floridians can participate in the 2011-2012 redistricting.

- Participate in Florida's Redistricting
- What is Redistricting and How Can Floridians Participate?
- Tell Us Your Story at a Public Meeting on Redistricting
- Helpful Guidance for Public Participation
- Learn Redistricting Concepts & Terminology
- Timeline for Redistricting in Florida
- Florida Redistricting By The Numbers
- Printable/Emailable Suggestion Form for Vision & Technology Impaired
- Learn to Use MyDistrictBuilder
- Complete Public Participation Toolkit

Legal Concepts:
Below are in-depth resources on Florida and federal redistricting legal requirements.

- Introduction to the Legal Concepts of Redistricting

MyDistrictBuilder
Plan Explorer
Blog & Resources
Current Maps & Data
Press Kit
Meeting Calendar
Meeting Records
Watch Meetings Live!

Access MyDistrictBuilder's Video Tutorials and Updates



FLORIDA REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

Florida Redistricting Streaming Media and Archives

Archived videos are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. Click [Video](#) to watch the meeting with documents, or [Agenda / Minutes](#) to see just the documents. You can also search the archives by typing keywords into the Search box.

To enable the most effective streaming experience for all browsers and operating systems, please download and install [Silverlight](#) from Microsoft.

The minimum system requirements for watching the Archived video [are available here](#).

Windows Media Player
[Download Now](#)

Get Microsoft Silverlight
[Download Now](#)

Streaming video support

Upcoming Events

Name	Date
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - St. Augustine	July 12, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Daytona Beach	July 12, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - The Villages	July 13, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Gainesville	July 13, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Lakeland	July 25, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Wauchula	July 25, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Wesley Chapel	July 26, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Melbourne	July 28, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Stuart	August 15, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Boca Raton	August 16, 2011 - 10:00 AM

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

Florida House of Representatives MyFloridaHouse.gov

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FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE | BILL FINDER | SEARCH BILLTEXT | SEARCH STATUTES

NEWS ALERTS Governor Scott Signs Legislation Expanding School Choice

Speaker Dean Cannon

Welcome to the Florida House of Representatives' Official Website.

Here, you can find information about what is happening in the Florida House and the Florida Legislature, including frequent updates on the once-in-a-decade Redistricting process and instant access to bills, bill analyses and amendments.

During the upcoming 2012 Session, legislators will redraw Florida's legislative and congressional districts. The House of Representatives is proud to make this the most open and transparent process of its kind and your input is critical to our mission. This summer, House Members will visit more than two dozen cities across our great state to listen to your thoughts on where the new lines should be drawn.

[Read Full Message](#)

- [Redistricting Schedule](#)
- [MyDistrictBuilder™](#)
- [Legislative Appointments](#)
- [Contact the Speaker](#)

In The News

Governor Scott Signs Legislation to Strengthen, Expand Charter and Virtual Schools
[Read More](#)

Funerals for Fallen Firefighters Scheduled for Friday and Saturday
[Read More](#)

Citizens to have say in new districts
[Read More](#)

Redistricting Tour Stops in Bay County
[Read More](#)

Brave new world of do-it-yourself mapping
[Read More](#)

[Full Listing](#)

MyFloridaHouse Mobile

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING MEETINGS
Watch meetings live or view video archives at:

House Daily Schedule

No Events For Today.

[\[FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE\]](#)

Videos

CS/CS/HB 75 Five Questions with Rep.

Email was also used to increase participation in the public meetings. Redistricting Committee Chair Will Weatherford provided all 120 Members of the House with updates on public outreach video resources, upcoming meeting information, and updates regarding public participation resources. The House Redistricting Committee updated its email list on the submission of redistricting plans and upcoming meeting information. Furthermore, the House Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee updated their email lists with information about and ways to participate in the public meetings.


From: Weatherford, Will

To: IHSE All House Districts

Cc: IHSE Redistricting Committee

Subject: FW: Redistricting: July 25-28 Meetings and Public Participation

Sent: Tue 7/19/2011 3:18 PM



Message

Public_Meeting_Schedule.pdf (447 KB)

WauchulaParkingandDriving.pdf (223 KB)

LakelandParkingandDriving.pdf (85 KB)

MelbourneParkingandDriving.pdf (84 KB)

OrlandoParkingandDriving.pdf (65 KB)

WesleyChapelParkingandDriving.pdf (14 KB)

Dear Members,

For the upcoming July 25-28 [public input meetings on redistricting](#) in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne, attached is an updated "Public Meeting Schedule," and driving and parking information for each location. Also, below you will find Google Maps links for each meeting location.

- Monday, July 25 – [Lakeland](#)
- Tuesday, July 26 – [Wauchula](#)
- Tuesday, July 26 – [Wesley Chapel](#)
- Wednesday, July 27 – [Orlando](#)
- Thursday, July 28 – [Melbourne](#)

Prior to the meetings, I want to reiterate that there are a growing number of resources available via the House Redistricting website, www.floridaredistricting.org, that you can use to get your community involved in Florida's redistricting process, including the upcoming public meetings.

- Public Participation** – There are several resources available at www.floridaredistricting.org help your constituents learn about and get involved in the redistricting process. The entire Public Participation Toolkit can be found on our blog site at <http://mydistrictbuilder.wordpress.com/participation/>.
- Plan Explorer** – Via [MyDistrictBuilder](#), we have already received 12 complete or partial proposed maps from Florida residents. You and your constituents can explore and share all of those submissions via the [Plan Explorer](#) button at www.floridaredistricting.org. The Plan Explorer also includes written redistricting submissions from Florida residents.
- Maps and Data** – If your constituents want to study available data and maps before coming to a public meeting or using MyDistrictBuilder, they can visit the [Current Maps and Data](#) button at www.floridaredistricting.org.
- Press Kit** – If your local media are looking for background information and resources, you can direct them to the [Press Kit](#) button at www.floridaredistricting.org.
- Social Media** – To follow the Florida House's redistricting related activities, your constituents can request to be added to our email list by sending an email to mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov, or they can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MyDistrictBuilder or Twitter at twitter.com/FLRedistricting.

I look forward to seeing each of you as we continue with the public input meetings on redistricting throughout Florida. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or the staff of our Redistricting Committee.

Sincerely,

Will Weatherford

You replied on 7/21/2011 3:53 PM.


From: Weatherford, Will

To: IHSE All House Districts

Cc: IHSE Redistricting Committee

Subject: Redistricting: Follow-up to July 11-13 Meetings and Outreach Videos

Sent: Thu 7/21/2011 3:21 PM



Message

2012 Redistricting NE & NC FL Media Report.pdf (4 MB)

Dear Members,

Below and attached is follow-up information from the July 11-13 redistricting public input meetings in Northeast and North Central Florida and also information and resources regarding the House's redistricting outreach. I hope you find the information helpful. However, please feel free to let our committee staff know if you need information in addition to what is included below.

Outreach Videos:

The House Office of Public Information (OPI) is using video as a way to market the public input meetings, provide Floridians with a preview of what to expect at these meetings, and to offer guidance to those Florida residents who wish to participate at the meetings. Recently, OPI even created a new Spanish-language Public Service Advertisement (PSA) for the upcoming meetings in Central Florida. You are welcome to use the video links below to include these videos in your redistricting outreach efforts. Additional video summaries from last week's meetings will be available soon via www.myfloridahouse.gov, www.floridaredistricting.org and www.youtube.com/MyDistrictBuilder.

- [60-second Spanish-Language PSA](#)
- [60-second PSA](#)
- [30-second PSA](#)
- [15-second PSA](#)
- [Video Summary: St. Augustine Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Jacksonville Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Panama City Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Fort Walton Beach Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Pensacola Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Tallahassee Meeting](#)

You forwarded this message on 8/1/2011 10:19 AM.

From: MyDistrictBuilder
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Cc:
Subject: Email Update - Florida House Redistricting - July 21, 2011

Sent: Thu 7/21/2011 2:19 PM

**Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – July 21, 2011**

July 25-28 Central Florida Public Input Meetings on Redistricting

For the upcoming July 25-28 [public input meetings on redistricting](#) in Lakeland, Wauchula, Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne, below are links to parking and driving directions, Google Maps for each location, and the RSVP page for each location. You do not have to RSVP, but it is helpful to ensure that we have adequate resources for those Florida residents who plan to attend.

- July 25: Lakeland: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 26: Wauchula: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 26: Wesley Chapel: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 27: Orlando: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- July 28: Melbourne: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)

Outreach Videos

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- [60-second Spanish-Language PSA](#)
- [60-second PSA](#)
- [30-second PSA](#)
- [15-second PSA](#)
- [Video Summary: St. Augustine Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Jacksonville Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Panama City Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Fort Walton Beach Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Pensacola Meeting](#)
- [Video Summary: Tallahassee Meeting](#)

Meeting Videos, Podcasts and Action Packets

Meeting videos, podcasts and action packets from July 11-13 meeting your convenience, you will find links to them below.

- **Videos** at [http://mydistrictbuilder4therecord.wordpress.com/v](#)
- **Podcasts** at [http://mydistrictbuilder4therecord.wordpress.com](#)
- **Post-Meeting Action Packets** at [http://mydistrictbuilder4therecord.wordpress.com](#)

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information

Sincerely,

From: Office of Public Information
To: **HOUSE ALL HOUSE**
Cc:
Subject: 2012 Redistricting Information



Members of the Florida House and Senate recently kicked-off the 2 area residents. Next week, Members will be traveling to the Central Florida's legislative and congressional maps should be redrawn. If you where your opinions regarding Florida's redistricting will be heard. A

Public Redistricting Meeting – Lakeland
Monday, July 25, 2011
2 p.m. – 5 p.m. EDT
Polk State College (Main Auditorium)
3425 Winter Lake Road

Public Redistricting Meeting – Wauchula
Tuesday, July 26, 2011
8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Hardee County Civic Center
515 Civic Center Drive

Public Redistricting Meeting – Wesley Chapel
Tuesday, July 26, 2011
6 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
Wiregrass Ranch High School (Gym)
2909 Mansfield Boulevard

Public Redistricting Meeting – Orlando
Wednesday, July 27, 2011
2 p.m. – 4 p.m., & 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
Bob Carr Performing Arts Center
401 W. Livingston Street

Public Redistricting Meeting – Melbourne
Thursday, July 28, 2011
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. EDT
Brevard County Commission Chamber
2725 Fran Jamieson Way

You forwarded this message on 7/21/2011 2:04 PM.

From: MyDistrictBuilder
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Cc:
Subject: Email Update - Florida House Redistricting - July 16, 2011

Sent: Sat 7/16/2011 2:04 PM

**Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – July 16, 2011**

Redistricting Maps and Suggestions Submitted by Florida Residents To-Date:

Below you will find links to the complete and partial redistricting plans submitted to the Florida House of Representatives by Florida residents:

Complete Congressional Plans:

- HPUBC0001 – by Nicholas A Ortiz from St. Johns County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/05/27/hpubc0001-ortiz-nicholas-a/](#)
- HPUBC0003 – by John Libby from Duval County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/08/hpubc0003-libby-john/](#)
- HPUBC0004 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpubc0004-kelley-henry/](#)
- HPUBC0005 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpubc0005-kelley-henry/](#)
- HPUBC0006 – by Justin Homburg: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpubc0006-homburg-justin/](#)

Partial Congressional Plans:

- HPARC0008 – by Tom Edmonston from Lake County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/13/hparc0008-edmonston-tom/](#)
- HPARC0009 – by Patricia Sullivan from Lake County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/13/hparc0009-sullivan-patricia/](#)

Partial State House Plans:

- HPARH0002 – by John Alvarez from Brevard County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/05/27/hparh0002-j-a/](#)
- HPARH0011 – by Patricia Sullivan from Lake County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/13/hparh0011-sullivan-patricia/](#)

Complete State Senate Plan:

- HPUBS0007 – by Henry Kelley from Okaloosa County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/12/hpubs0007-kelley-henry/](#)

Partial State Senate Plan:

- HPARS0010 – by Patricia Sullivan from Lake County: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/2011/07/13/hpars0010-sullivan-patricia/](#)

Written Redistricting Plan Submissions:

- Congress: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/congress-2/](#)
- State House: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/statehouse/](#)
- State Senate: [http://mydistrictbuilderplanexplorer.wordpress.com/stateseate/](#)

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Benjamin M. Fairbrother
House Redistricting Committee
Florida House of Representatives
400 House Office Building
Or: (850) 921-8831

From: Office of Public Information
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 10:40 AM
Subject: New Resource from FL House of Representatives



Greetings!

This summer, Members of the Florida House of Representatives and staff of the House Office of Public Information (OPI) are traveling the State in an effort to engage all Floridians in the critical, once-a-decade process known as "redistricting." As an active member in your Central Florida community, we would like to encourage you to participate in this invaluable process and to utilize the House Office of Public Information for continuous updates on this and many other legislative topics.

The mission of OPI is to empower and engage all Floridians with our state's Legislature by providing clear, concise and understandable explanations of legislation and legislative processes in a timely and consistent manner. The Office of Public Information is responsible for creating plain language explanations of legislative issues, fulfilling House public records requests, facilitating Speaker's appointments and providing all Floridians with worthwhile legislative content in a variety of formats including publications, video and audio files and social media outreach.

The next leg of the state's redistricting tour will take place July 25-26 in several communities throughout beautiful Central Florida. A full schedule including dates, times and locations is provided below for your reference. We are hopeful you will be able to attend one or many of these meetings and that you will also encourage members of your community to participate as well.

Public Redistricting Meeting – Lakeland
Monday, July 25, 2011
2 p.m. – 5 p.m. EDT
Polk State College (Main Auditorium)
3425 Winter Lake Road

Public Redistricting Meeting – Wauchula
Tuesday, July 26, 2011
8 a.m. – 11 a.m. EDT
Hardee County Civic Center
515 Civic Center Drive

If you cannot attend in person, there are many other ways to explore redistricting and share your feedback. By visiting [www.floridaredistricting.org](#) users can access social media in order to provide commentary, watch Redistricting meetings as they happen live on the web, or access the state-of-the-art MyDistrictBuilder™ application, which allows users to draw their very own district maps for submission to the Florida Legislature for consideration. All public comments and suggestions can also be submitted via email to [MyDistrictBuilder@myfloridahouse.gov](#).

Direct Contact (via email and phone) with numerous civic organizations, colleges and universities, local governments and other organizations has also been made throughout the process of preparing for the public meetings. The following organizations were contacted prior to these redistricting public input meetings.

County governments and regional planning entities:

- ☐ Central Florida County Supervisors of Election
- ☐ Central Florida County Commissions
- ☐ Central Florida City and Town Commissions and Councils
- ☐ Central Florida County School Boards
- ☐ Central Florida College and University Student Government Associations, Government Coordinators and/or Political Science Departments

2011-2012 Redistricting: Pre-Meeting Outreach Report



August 15 – Stuart

August 16 – Boca Raton

August 16 – Davie

August 17 – Miami

August 18 – South Miami

August 18 – Key West

The contents herein reflect media and community outreach done by the Florida House of Representatives to increase awareness of and participation in the redistricting public input meetings listed above.

Note, the following does not necessarily reflect contributions to community outreach done by individual Members of the House. Nor does the following represent the totality of all media related to the public meetings.

Rather, the following represents contributions to community outreach made by Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford, the Office of the Speaker, the Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Public Information at (850) 921-7747.

[Print \(Pg. 5\)](#)

Treasure Coast News	Friday, August 12, 2011
Miami Herald	Monday, August 15, 2011
South Florida Caribbean News	Monday, August 15, 2011
Palm Beach Post	Tuesday, August 16, 2011
Palm Beach Post	Tuesday, August 16, 2011

[Published Opinion Editorials* \(Pg. 12\)](#)

South Florida Sun-Sentinel	Wednesday, August 10, 2011
Miami Herald	Wednesday, August 10, 2011
Treasure Coast News	Friday, August 12, 2011

* - This list only represents those newspapers that printed the opinion editorial. House staff contacted other newspapers to request that they printed the opinion editorial.

[Radio & TV \(Pg. 16\)](#)

WJNO 1290 AM West Palm Beach	Friday, August 12, 2011
WPEC-TV CBS West Palm Beach	Tuesday, August 16, 2011
WPBF-TV ABC Palm Bay	Tuesday, August 16, 2011
WPLG-TV ABC Miami	Wednesday, August 17, 2011

[Online & Blogs \(Pg. 19\)](#)

Wellington Town-Crier	Friday, August 12, 2011
Winter Haven News-Chief	Friday, August 12, 2011
South Florida Caribbean News	Sunday, August 12, 2011
South Florida Sun-Sentinel	Saturday, August 13, 2011
Florida Keys Keynoter	Wednesday, August 17, 2011

[Paid Advertising \(Pg. 24\)](#)

Diario Las Americas	Friday, August 12, 2011
Miami Herald	Friday, August 12, 2011
El Nuevo Herald	Friday, August 12, 2011
The Miami New Times	Wednesday, August 10, 2011
South Florida Sun Times	Thursday, August 11, 2011
The Key West Keynoter	Saturday, August 13, 2011
Key West Citizen	Friday, August 12, 2011

South Florida Sun-Sentinel*	Saturday, August 13- Monday, August 15
Treasure Coast News*	Saturday, August 13- Monday, August 15
Hometown News	Friday, August 12, 2011
The Miami New Times	Monday, August 15, 2011
Diario Las Americas	Saturday, August 12- Wednesday, August 17
El Nuevo Herald	Tuesday, August 16, 2011

* - Indicates online advertising

Community Calendar Postings (Pg. 38)

South Florida Sun-Sentinel	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
Miami Herald (Miami)	Wednesday, August 3– Thursday, August 18
Miami Herald (S. Miami)	Wednesday, August 3– Thursday, August 18
The Key West Keynoter	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
Treasure Coast News (Stuart)	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
Treasure Coast News (Boca Raton)	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
Treasure Coast News (Davie)	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
Miami New Times	Wednesday, August 3– Thursday, August 18
Hollywood Gazette (Davie)	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
Hollywood Gazette (Miami)	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
Palm Beach Post	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – TV* (Pg. 49)

WPLG-TV ABC Miami	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WPEC-TV CBS West Palm Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WPTV-TV NBC West Palm Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WFLX-TV FOX West Palm Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18

* - This list only represents those television stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – Radio* (Pg. 51)

WEAT 104.3 FM West Palm Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WIRK 107.9 FM West Palm Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WFL 1400 AM Fort Lauderdale	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WHSR 980 AM Pompano Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WBZT 1230 AM West Palm Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WJNO 1290 AM West Palm Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WIOD 610 AM Miami	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18

WLRN 93.1 FM Miami	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WSBR 740 AM Boca Raton	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WWNN 1470 AM Pompano Beach	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WSKZ 106.5 FM Key West	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WACC 830 AM Miami	Thursday, August 4– Thursday, August 18
WWFE 670 AM Miami	Friday, August 12– Thursday, August 18
WAQI 710 AM Miami	Friday, August 12– Thursday, August 18
WQBA 1140 AM Miami	Friday, August 12– Thursday, August 18
WRTO 98.3 FM Miami	Friday, August 12– Thursday, August 18

* - This list only represents those radio stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

[Social Media \(Pg. 57\)](#)

Twitter	Thursday, July 28– Thursday, August 18
Facebook	
Blogging	
MyFloridaHouse.gov	
FloridaRedistricting.org	
Florida Channel	
YouTube	
Email & Direct Contact	

Print

Editorial: Want to end gerrymandering in Florida? Opportunity now at hand for Treasure Coast residents to speak out on redistricting

Treasure Coast News
August 12, 2011

Change — in the form of new Florida House and Senate, and congressional, districts — is coming soon to the Treasure Coast.

It happens every 10 years. And it has the potential to impact our lives in multiple ways.

In "A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting, 2010 Edition," published by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, authors Justin Levitt and Erika Wood write: "Why does redistricting matter? Our representatives in local, state and federal government set the rules by which we live. In ways large and small, they affect the taxes we pay, the food we eat, the air we breathe, the ways in which we make each other safer and more secure. ... The way that voters are grouped into districts ... has an enormous influence on who our representatives are, and what policies they fight for."

Each resident of the Treasure Coast has a stake in the state and congressional districts that ultimately will be redrawn by the Florida Legislature in 2012. Consequently, public participation in the redistricting process is vital.

The ideal number of residents in a congressional district, based on 2010 Census figures, will increase from 639,295 to 696,354. Census results show that the populations in District 15, represented by Bill Posey, R-Rockledge, and District 16, represented by Tom Rooney, R-Tequesta, far exceed that number, and the population of District 23, represented by Alcee Hastings, D-Miramar, is slightly less than the ideal.

Change is coming. If you desire to help shape our political boundaries, mark your calendar for Aug. 15.

Florida lawmakers have been holding public hearings throughout the state to solicit input from citizens. Key legislators will be making a lone stop on the Treasure Coast during their redistricting tour — from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 15, at the Blake Library in Stuart. And Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, chair of the Senate Reapportionment Committee, and Rep. Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, chair of the House Redistricting Committee, have promised to listen to what you have to say.

In a guest column in today's paper, Gaetz and Weatherford write: "The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you, not for politicians to stand on their soapboxes. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community."

Of course, this statement needs to be put in proper context. Gaetz and Weatherford are members of the same Florida Legislature fighting a legal battle to defeat the Fair Districts constitutional amendments approved by 63 percent of voters in the fall. Among other things, these amendments are designed to restrict political gerrymandering of state legislative and congressional districts, make districts follow natural boundaries wherever possible, and ensure districts do not favor or disfavor a political party or incumbent.

Gaetz and Weatherford say they will be listening. Were they — and their colleagues — not listening when voters spoke loudly in November?

Among the many messages the public needs to communicate to lawmakers at the Aug. 15 meeting are these: 1) Don't gerrymander districts; and 2) Drop your legal challenge to the Fair Districts amendments.

Come 2012, we'll find out if state lawmakers actually were listening during their 26-stop redistricting tour — or simply going through the motions.

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Read More: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2011/aug/12/editorial-want-to-end-gerrymandering-in-florida/>

Fla. public hearings on redistricting to begin

Miami Herald
August 15, 2011

By: The Associated Press

MIAMI -- Public hearings that will allow South Floridians a chance to weigh in on the future of their state and congressional districts are gearing up.

The hearings begin Monday in Stuart and end Thursday in the Keys.

Attendees may find lawmakers short on specifics. Officials have yet to draw up proposed maps. Still residents can go to <http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting> and design their own map for the meetings.

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, Florida must carve out two new congressional districts. Voters last year also approved amendments prohibiting state and federal districts from being drawn to favor incumbents or any political party, which will likely affect existing districts.

The GOP-led legislature tried to block the amendments, and the State House and three Florida members of Congress are still challenging them in court.

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Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/08/15/2359696/fla-public-hearings-on-redistricting.html>

Florida's Redistricting Process: The Power and Diversity of One Person, One Vote

South Florida Caribbean News

August 15, 2011

By: Atty. Marlon Hill

MIAMI - Every ten years, the Florida Legislature reshapes the districts of political boundary lines of every state legislative and congressional district in the State. This process is critical to your single vote and your expected representation at the state and federal levels.

The Legislature has already begun the redistricting process by holding legislative committee hearings and developing map-drawing software that will be available to the public.

Public hearings around the state are planned for July-November, 2011. The House and Senate redistricting committees will meet in the Fall and the final maps will be voted on during the sixty day 2012 legislative session which starts on January 10, 2012.

This summer, as the Florida House of Representatives survey the state for public input, all citizens are encouraged to participate in the upcoming redistricting process. These hearings are intended to provide an opportunity for you to submit ideas for these new state legislative and congressional districts.

The Florida House of Representatives is emphasizing that redistricting must occur with a focus on adherence to federal law, the standards of the newly adopted constitutional Amendments 5 and 6, and traditional principles that are consistent with those standards.

To follow the process closely, all citizens are encourage to monitor all developments at www.floridaredistricting.org.

Over 62% of Floridians overwhelmingly approved Amendments 5 and 6 to ensure that the redistricting process is fair to all Floridians, including minority voters:

Amendment 5: Legislative districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their

choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

Amendment 6: Congressional districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

Please note that there will be a debate within many communities, including those among minorities, as to the implications of this process. It is well documented that Florida has a long, unfortunate history of discrimination against minorities, and this has played out in our elections and our politics. We had discriminatory election policies, like poll taxes on minority voters, and all-white primaries.

For a very long time, Florida's minority voters could not effectively participate in the political process. Until in recent decades, there was no Hispanic member of our state senate. And until the 1992 elections, no African American had represented Florida in Congress for over 100 years. Only after a bitter lawsuit aimed at protecting Florida's minority voters by enforcing the federal Voting Rights Act did Florida actually elect an African-American member to Congress.

But we still face discrimination in our politics, and it has to do with the way that our congressional and legislative districts are currently drawn. Some of our districts waste minority votes. These districts are overwhelmingly populated with minority voters, and it means that legislators strategically drew districts that limited minority influence to only a few districts. This wasting of minority votes dilutes the influence of minority voters over our representatives. In some circumstances, a district does not need to be majority-minority for minority voters to elect their preferred candidate. Presently, our 17th, and 23rd congressional districts, for example, are roughly 58% and 54% African-American and our 18th, 21st, and 25th congressional districts are roughly 67%, 77% and 72% Hispanic.

Districts can still be effective for minority voters at levels lower than the minority percentages in these districts. By concentrating all minority voters into a few districts, the line drawers were able to corral minorities into a few districts and keep minorities out of certain adjoining districts. In so doing, the process gives a stronger voice to non-minority voters in those other districts. This is wrong. Amendments 5 and 6 endeavored to end these practices.

Concurrently, we live in a State that is growing increasingly diverse and complex in multiple

demographics. For example, the Caribbean-American population is transforming the make-up of Black and Asian populations in counties such as Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Collier, Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Duval, and other pockets, especially from the English and Creole-speaking Caribbean nations (e.g., Haiti, Jamaica, Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, and Guyana). Likewise, the Hispanic community is experiencing similar growth and diversity with migrants spanning the Caribbean, Central and South America (e.g., Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Brazil). In this regard, the redistricting process must recognize and ensure that these new Floridians and their representation are not marginalized or diluted. The Legislature must remain diligent in assessing these growing trends around the State.

To this end, it is important that you present your recommendations and ideas to our legislators to ensure that no district shall 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. Likewise, you should also urge legislators to ensure that no redistricting map violates your federal rights under the Voting Rights Act, the federal Constitution, or any other federal law.

Amendments 5 and 6 and federal law can co-exist. There is no choice of which to follow, one or the other. The Voting Rights Act doesn't require that minorities be squeezed into a few districts and kept out of others, and now the Florida Constitution prohibits this unfair practice as well.

This week in South Florida, you will have an opportunity to make your voices be heard. Legislators should hear the following key points:

- We are watching this redistricting process closely to ensure that you preserve our democracy and one person-one vote;
- Voice your mandate of “one person, one-vote”, ensure the implementation of the language of minority protections in Amendments 5 and 6 to the Florida Constitution, consistent the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and urge legislators from sequestering minority voters into only a few districts and thereby wasting and diluting our votes;
- To be cognizant of the growing diversity in the demographics of minority populations, especially among Black, Asian, and Hispanic communities and how they are transforming neighborhoods and communities;
- Please ensure that districts are compact, contiguous and to provide proposed maps at the earliest possible date to solicit more public input.

If anyone wants to know who represents them on the State and federal level in Florida – go to

this link and simply enter their address, city, and zip code: <http://tinyurl.com/4gphgxe>

Please RSVP to make any public comments at www.floridaredistricting.org or by contacting the office of your respective State Representative:

Tuesday, August 16, 2011, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM*
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton

Tuesday, August 16, 2011, 6:00 - 9:00 PM*
Broward College, Central Campus, Davie

Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM*
Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus, Miami

Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 6:00 - 9:00 PM*
Florida International University College of Law, West Miami-Dade

Once-in-a-decade redistricting process comes to Palm Beach County this morning

Palm Beach Post
August 16, 2011

By: George Bennett

Florida's decennial redistricting road show comes to Palm Beach County today.

A joint committee of state House and Senate members will hold a hearing at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton at 10 a.m. today to get public input on the once-in-a-decade process of drawing new congressional and legislative districts to reflect population shifts.

The hearing, which runs until 1 p.m., is at FAU's Barry & Florence Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center off Broward Avenue in building 31C.

Today's hearing is the 16th of 26 redistricting hearings scheduled for various cities around the state. The hearings began June 20 and end Sept. 1

Before the 2012 elections, the legislature must draw a new congressional map with 27 U.S. House districts instead of the current 25. Florida's population growth between 2000 and 2010 will bring more representation in Congress and in the electoral college for the 2012 presidential election.

Legislators also must redraw the 120 state House districts and 40 state Senate districts to make populations more even.

Under a pair of state constitutional amendments approved by voters last year, legislators cannot draw districts to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. The new law also requires that districts be contiguous and compact and follow existing city and county boundaries "where feasible." The law also says districts cannot be drawn to deny minorities the opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.

The constitutional amendment dealing with congressional districts is being challenged in court by black U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Jacksonville, and Hispanic U.S. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Miami, who say the law will make it more difficult for minority voters to elect their preferred candidates.

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Read More: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/state/once-in-a-decade-redistricting-process-comes-to-1749515.html>

Schedule for South Florida redistricting meetings

Palm Beach Post
August 16, 2011

Upcoming redistricting meetings:

Tuesday

6-9 p.m., Broward College Gym, 3501 S.W. Davie Road, Davie

Wednesday

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Miami Dade College, 300 N.E. 2nd Ave., Miami

6-9 p.m., Florida International University College of Law, 11200 S.W. 8th St., Miami

Thursday

4-7 p.m., Florida Key Community College, 5901 College Road, Key West

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Read More: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/state/schedule-for-south-florida-redistricting-meetings-1751209.html>

Published Opinion Editorials

Lawmakers seek to draw voters into Florida redistricting process

South Florida Sun-Sentinel
August 10, 2011

During the regular session that starts Jan. 10, the Legislature must redraw Florida's legislative and congressional district boundaries based on the 2010 Census. In keeping with the Sunshine State's strong commitment to transparency in government, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools and resources that you need to impact the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, this summer we are hosting a series of 26 public meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

The next leg of our trip goes from the Treasure Coast through Palm Beach and Broward counties. Stops include Florida Atlantic University's campus in Boca Raton from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Aug. 16, and from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Davie campus of Broward College.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community. We have heard some incredibly helpful testimony from residents from the Panhandle, Northeast and Central Florida. We hope that you will share your thoughts on how your communities have changed in the last 10 years.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live web stream provided by the Florida Channel at <http://www.thefloridachannel.org>. If you cannot attend or tune in to the web stream, there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the Web pages hosted by the Florida House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting). Both sites are filled with information about redistricting and allow users to create and submit your own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

The online district building applications were created with you in mind, and include training resources that can help you get started drawing your own plan. Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting, and everyone will have a chance to ask House and Senate staff about the applications and the redistricting process in general.

Floridians can also go online to submit comments, to access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply to keep up with the latest information on the process. Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help construct their redistricting proposals.

This is your opportunity to help shape the districts that form the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings to make your voice heard.

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Read More: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/opinion/fl-redistricting-public-meetings-081020110810,0,2510948.story>

Your chance to be heard on redistricting

Miami Herald
August 10, 2011

During the regular session that starts Jan. 10, the State Legislature must redraw Florida's legislative and congressional district boundaries based on the 2010 Census. This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the U.S. and Florida constitutions.

In keeping with the Sunshine State's strong commitment to transparency in government, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools and resources that you need to participate in the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, this summer we are hosting a series of 26 public meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

We head to Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17. Later that day, we will go to Florida International University's Law School Auditorium on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in western Miami-Dade County from 6-9 p.m. The week of public hearings concludes with a stop in Key West on Thursday, Aug. 18, at Florida Keys Community College from 4-7 p.m.

The meeting in Key West will also give residents of Monroe County, a jurisdiction covered under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act, the opportunity to comment on how redistricting uniquely affects their communities.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to constituents. Miami-Dade County has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community. We will provide opportunities for an open dialogue between legislators and the public throughout the process; however, legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you.

Those who cannot attend but who would like to listen to the meeting can access a live web stream provided by the Florida Channel at www.thefloridachannel.org. If you cannot attend or

tune-in to the web stream there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the web pages hosted by the Florida House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting). Both sites are filled with information about redistricting and allow users to create and submit their own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

The online district-building applications were created with you in mind, and include training resources that can help you get started drawing your own plan. Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting, and everyone will have a chance to ask House and Senate staff about the applications and the redistricting process in general.

Floridians can also go online to submit comments, to access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply to keep up with the latest information on the process. Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help construct their redistricting proposals. This is your opportunity to help shape the districts that form the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings to make your voice heard.

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Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/08/10/2353737/your-chance-to-be-heard-on-redistricting.html>

Legislators looking forward to Florida residents' ideas on redistricting

Treasure Coast News
August 12, 2011

During the regular session that starts Jan. 10, the state Legislature must redraw Florida's legislative and congressional district boundaries based on the 2010 Census. This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the U.S. and Florida Constitutions.

In keeping with the Sunshine State's strong commitment to transparency in government, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools, and resources that you need to impact the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, this summer we are hosting a series of 26 public meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

The next leg of our trip goes from the Treasure Coast through the Palm Beaches, Broward, and Miami-Dade down to the Keys.

Stops include the Blake Library in Stuart (6-9 p.m. Aug. 15); Florida Atlantic University's campus in Boca Raton (10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 16), and the Davie campus of Broward College (6-9 p.m. Aug. 16). We head south after that through Aug. 18, when we will meet in Key West.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you, not for politicians to stand on their soapboxes. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community. We have heard some incredibly helpful testimony from residents from the Panhandle, Northeast and Central Florida. We hope that you will share your thoughts on how your communities have changed in the last 10 years.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live Web stream provided by the Florida Channel at thefloridachannel.org. If you cannot attend or tune-in to the stream there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the Web pages hosted by the Florida House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Florida Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting). Both sites are filled with information about redistricting and allow users to create and submit your own redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

The online district building applications were created with you in mind, and include training resources that can help you get started drawing your own plan. Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting, and everyone will have a chance to ask House and Senate staff about the applications and the redistricting process in general.

Floridians can also go online to submit comments, to access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply to keep up with the latest information on the process. Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help construct their redistricting proposals.

This is your opportunity to help shape the districts that form the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings to make your voice heard.

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Read More: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2011/aug/12/will-weatherford-don-gaetz-legislators-looking/>

Radio & TV

WJNO 1290 AM West Palm Beach

Date: Friday, August 12, 2011

Duration: 15 mins

Host: Joel Malkin

Station: WJNO 1290 AM West Palm Beach

Call-in: (561) 616-6758

Topic: Public Redistricting Meetings

Voters weigh in on redistricting process in Stuart

WPEC-TV CBS West Palm Beach

August 16, 2011

STUART, Fla. -- Local voters turned out in big numbers for the first of several public hearings on re-drawing state and congressional districts. While it is something voters wanted, as always, politics come into play.

Monday night's public meeting in Stuart with South Florida representatives is the first of the week. They end Thursday in the Keys.

Tonight speakers were almost unanimous that they don't want a repeat of seemingly crazy district cut-outs that don't make geographical sense.

"The people here tonight are pretty clear, they want us to follow amendments five and six. They want their districts to make sense. They want their districts to follow community lines," said Rep. William Snyder, District 82 (R).

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, Florida must carve out two new congressional districts. Last year voters approved amendments prohibiting state and federal districts from being drawn to favor incumbents or any political party.

"I'm asking you to find a way like the corporations of the U.S. and around the world now are doing what they can to put aside their advocacies, to put aside their advocacies and work together for the good of the people," said one resident.

Another challenge will be doing the voter's will for fair districts that make sense and balancing the Federal voters Act, which requires that minorities are adequately represented.

The State House and three Florida congressmen are challenging the amendments in court, claiming they need clarification on how to proceed.

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Read more: <http://www.cbs12.com/news/numbers-4734476-first-voters.html>

Hundreds Attend Redistricting Public Meeting

WPBF-TV ABC Palm Bay
August 16, 2011

By: Angela Rozier

BOCA RATON, Fla. -- Members of the Florida House and Senate are in Palm Beach County to gather public input on redistricting.

Legislators want to hear what the public has to say before beginning on work of drawing new state House, state Senate and congressional district boundaries.

"Reapportionment on the congressional side is extremely important. We pick up two extra congressional seats in the state of Florida, which means we will be better served in Washington, D.C. We will have more influences in the state and what goes on in national politics," said state Rep. Joseph Abruzzo, D-Wellington.

Hundreds of residents attended a public meeting Tuesday at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Peter Feaman runs his own law firm in Boynton Beach. He is concerned about the coastal communities.

"Our economy is driven a lot by tourism. If we don't have beaches, it hurts our economy. The folks out in the western communities don't care about that sort of stuff because their economies are driven differently," Feaman said.

Today's meeting was one in 26 taking place in Florida.

Redistricting must be finalized during the 2012 legislative session.

Copyright 2011 by WPBF.com.

Read More: <http://www.wpbfl.com/politics/28884986/detail.html>

Lawmakers Hear Citizens' Opinions On Redistricting

WPLG-TV ABC Miami

August 17, 2011

By: Michael Putney

MIAMI -- A panel of Florida state lawmakers charged with redrawing legislative and congressional district lines held a hearing in Miami on Wednesday and heard a cross-section of citizens say whatever lines are drawn must better reflect the common interests of neighborhoods, communities, cities and counties.

"I am here to implore you to please let me elect someone of my choosing," said Gepsie Metellus, a Haitian-American community activist.

That sentiment was echoed by more than two dozen speakers who appeared before the panel, co-chaired by Sen. Don Gaetz, a Republican from Fort Walton Beach, and Rep. Will Weatherford of Tampa, a Republican who is the House Speaker-designate.

"I learned a lot today hearing about Dade County and the Haitian community and the Cuban community," Weatherford said as the hearing ended. "It was an eye-opening experience for me." State legislatures are required to redraw legislative and congressional district lines every decade after the census. Traditionally, those lines are drawn to favor the party in power. However, Florida voters last November approved Amendments 5 and 6, which require lawmakers to draw lines without regard to political party and so as not to adversely affect minorities. The lines must also be compact and contiguous.

The Legislature is expected to consider new maps with the redrawn lines in January 2012.

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Read More: <http://www.local10.com/news/28896686/detail.html>

Online & Blogs

Redistricting Forums In Stuart Aug. 15 And Boca Raton Aug. 16

Wellington Town-Crier Online
August 12, 2011

By: Ron Bukley

Palm Beach County residents will have their chance to comment on the state's redistricting process next week.

The redistricting committee started meeting a month ago in the Panhandle and is working its way south, according to State Rep. Joseph Abruzzo (D-District 85), who is one of two representatives from Palm Beach County participating in the hearings.

Meetings are scheduled in Stuart on Monday, Aug. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Boca Raton on Tuesday, Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We have had public input from all different areas and communities, and it has been very helpful to the committee to hear concerns and things that the residents would like to see remain intact," Abruzzo said. "There are often some conflicting views. Some want more representation in a specific area, and others would like singular representation so it's a one-stop shop so they know where to go."

Every 10 years, the state legislature redraws district boundaries for Florida's state house, state senate and congressional delegations based on newly released U.S. Census data. This is the first time the process will be governed by newly enacted state constitutional amendments that require more compact and contiguous district lines.

At the hearings thus far, some residents have complained that their area has three different representatives, and they don't know which one to go to. Others say they like having three different representatives because it gives them more people to support their issues in Tallahassee, Abruzzo said.

"It's great to hear this type of public input because it varies by community," he said. "We're going to be drawing the lines for the entire state. For me to understand what the different viewpoints are geographically has been a benefit, and it was a very good idea to have the public meetings. We have ours coming up in Palm Beach County, and I encourage as much input as possible."

Abruzzo noted that individuals interested in participating even have the chance to draw exactly the district maps they desire. Map templates are available at www.floridaredistricting.org. "If the residents have the time to draw a map, it will be put into the public record and it will be something the committee will have to take into consideration once we start drawing the lines

during committee weeks,” he said. “It would be a very beneficial tool for individuals or groups to draw maps.”

Abruzzo said that so far, the hearings have been open and transparent.

“The voters overwhelmingly passed Amendments 5 and 6 and made it clear that they want fair districts, and I am going to be fighting as hard as I can to ensure that we have fair districts that do not benefit any political party or incumbent.”

Abruzzo said that the majority party has indicated that it intends to make the process open and transparent every step of the way, including when it goes to committee, although there are more Republicans than Democrats on the committee.

“Speaker [Dean] Cannon has been very stern from day one that he wants the process to be fair and nobody to be playing games, and everything thus far has indicated an honest and honorable process,” he said.

When public comment ends, the members will go into committee meetings. The house and senate redistricting committees will meet in the fall, and the final maps will be voted on during the 2012 legislative session.

There are actually three redistricting committees, one for each set of lines that need to be drawn. “I serve on the Congressional Redistricting Committee, where I will be helping shape the look of the U.S. congressional districts in the State of Florida,” Abruzzo said.

After the committees meet, full votes will be taken in both chambers, and the maps that pass will be sent to the governor.

Abruzzo said there are two state representatives from Palm Beach County participating in the process, himself and State Rep. Mack Bernard (D-District 84). He said he has gained insight as to how people want their districts to look after decades of gerrymandering in the past.

“Not being part of the process in the past, it’s hard for me to compare,” Abruzzo said. “However, all I can say at this point is everything has been open and transparent and the Republican leadership has been willing to let Democrats engage every step of the way.”

However, it is hard to interject partisanship into public hearings. He does not know if partisanship will kick in later in the process.

“We haven’t got into the committees where we have truly started to draw the lines yet,” he said. “So we’re not at the point where we’re fighting over what we think is a fair district and what the majority party thinks is a good or bad district line.”

At that point, Abruzzo hopes the legislature will think of the public good.

“Do I think there will be some disagreements?” he asked. “Absolutely. Do I think that we will make every attempt to work in a bipartisan way and do what’s best for all of Florida to include everybody? I sure hope so.”

Local public input sessions will be held Monday, Aug. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Blake Library (2351 SE Monterrey Road, Stuart) and Tuesday, Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Florida Atlantic University (777 Glades Road, Boca Raton). Visit www.floridaredistricting.org for more info.

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Read More: <http://gotowncrier.com/redistricting-forums-in-stuart-aug-and-boca-raton-aug-p25263-86.htm>

Fla officials talk redistricting with residents

Winter Haven News-Chief
August 12, 2011

By: The Associated Press

MIAMI - South Floridians will get a chance to weigh in on the future of their state and congressional districts.

But they may find lawmakers short on specifics. Officials have yet to draw up proposed maps.

Still residents can go to <http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting> and design their own for the meetings.

The series of public hearings begin Monday in Stuart and end Thursday in the Keys.

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, Florida must carve out two new congressional districts. Voters last year also approved amendments prohibiting state and federal districts from being drawn to favor incumbents or any political party, which will likely affect existing districts.

The GOP-led legislature tried to block the amendments, and the State House and three Florida members of Congress are still challenging them in court.

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Read More: <http://www.newschief.com/article/20110812/APN/1108120546?tc=ar>

Florida Haitians Calling For Fair Redistricting As State Setting To Draw New Lines

SouthFloridaCaribbeanNews.com

August 12, 2011

MIAMI - Local, state and federal governments have all set in place commissions or committees to help their citizens draw new district lines for themselves based on population shifts. This is a process that occurs every decade after the publication of the census results.

Learning from the past, major Haitian-American Civil Society organizations including: the Haitian-American Forum, Sant La, the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition (HAGC) and other groups have consolidated their resources in order to serve as the collective voice designed to help guide the community's interests. Serving under the umbrella of the Haitian-American Task-Force on Redistricting, this group is organized "to inform and engage the Haitian community through participation in all public hearings in order to protect our collective interest", said Gepsie Metellus, Task-Force Member and long time community advocate. "I am reminded of the damage caused by some policymakers a decade ago, as our community was emerging and attempted to seek fair representation", said Carmeleau Monestime, a co-Chair of the Task-Force.

The State of Florida Redistricting Commission is holding hearings to hear the public regarding congressional and state redistricting. These hearings will be held this Wednesday, August 17, 2011. The first hearing will be held at the Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus Downtown 300 NE 2 Avenue, Miami, Building 1000, Second Floor 10:00 am-2:00 pm; the second hearing will be held at the Florida International University South Campus at 8 Street SW and 16 Street.

© 2011 SouthFloridaCaribbeanNews.com.

Read More: <http://sflcn.com/story.php?id=10666>

Hearings focus on legislative, congressional districts

SouthFloridaSunSentinel.com

August 13, 2011

By: Anthony Man

The Florida Senate and House hearings on legislative and congressional redistricting come to Boca Raton and Davie on Tuesday.

Every 10 years, congressional and legislative districts are redrawn to reflect population shifts uncovered by the decennial Census. Redistricting for 2012 is complicated by legal challenges to the voter-approved fair districts amendments to the Florida Constitution, which are supposed to minimize political considerations.

Boca Raton: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center off Broward Avenue on the Florida Atlantic University campus, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton.

Davie: 6 to 9 p.m., Broward College Gymnasium, 3501 Southwest Davie Road, Davie.

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Read More: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/fl-redistricting-hearings-brf-20110813,0,1753472.story>

Keys redistricting meeting called a 'dog-and-pony' show

KeysNet.com

August 17, 2011

By: Kevin Wadlow

Florida Keys residents can voice their thoughts on the state's redistricting process at a Thursday hearing expected to draw a big contingent of Florida lawmakers.

"There probably will be at least 20 legislators there," said state Rep. Ron Saunders, House Democratic leaders from Key West. "Having it in Key West probably will help the attendance" by legislators.

Whether the Thursday session, 4 to 7 p.m. at Florida Keys Community College on Stock Island's College Road, will affect the once-a-decade legislative and congressional redistricting process is an open question.

"I don't expect a whole lot to come out of it," Saunders said. "The only reason I'm going because it's in my district. But there are no maps to comment on."

The hearing is one of 26 sessions, a process that started in June and ends Sept. 1 in Clewiston.

"We have the most open, transparent and interactive redistricting process in Florida's history," said state Senate President Mike Haridopolos, Republican from Merritt Island.

Dan Gelber, a former Democratic state senator now working as a counsel with the Fair Districts Florida group, dismissed the redistricting hearings as "one of the great rope-a-dopes of all time ... a dog-and-pony show that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars but doesn't accomplish anything."

By law, Florida legislators must draw new districts for congressional and legislative seats based on the national census conducted every 10 years.

Florida's population increase from 2000 to 2010 will allocate two more congressional House seats to the state, from the current 25 to 27. The number of state legislative seats is fixed but boundaries change according to population shifts.

Now a state senator will represent about 470,000 people, and a state representative will be elected from a district with a population around 156,700.

Florida voters in November approved two amendments to the state Constitution that seek to reduce gerrymandering to accommodate a particular politician or party.

The Florida Legislature has created online District Builder Web sites that invite state residents to submit their proposed district boundaries. Gelber doubts the submissions will carry much weight. "Legislators are telling people to draw maps but they haven't," he said Tuesday. "The only group that can constitutionally draw and pass district maps is the Legislature. Those are the only maps that matter."

Previous redistricting workshops have largely drawn speakers who urge legislators to follow the new constitutional amendments and ask why no draft maps have been proffered. Because of an ongoing lawsuit challenging the amendments, legislators have been told by their leadership to limit their remarks at the sessions.

"They're stalling," Gelber said. "For all this traveling road show, the maps they ultimately present will be unveiled in Tallahassee with a few days notice."

The Legislature will launch its annual session several weeks early this coming year, on Jan. 10, 2012, instead of in March, to work on redistricting. The new boundaries must be established in time to undergo court and federal review before next year's primary season begins.

Gelber said he expects legislators to delay approval for as long as possible.

"It helps the incumbents," Gelber said. "It's very hard for a citizen to run for a state seat if he doesn't know what district he's in. You can't knock on doors or raise money if you don't know where you're running for office."

Saunders said his District 120 House seat will add about 22,000 residents but Monroe County will not be split. "It's all about what part of Miami-Dade will be attached to the Keys," he said. The boundaries for Florida Senate District 39, held by Larcenia Bullard, are less certain.

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Read More: <http://www.keysnet.com/2011/08/17/369063/keys-redistricting-meeting-called.html>

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Diario Las Americas



www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistribución de distritos electorales en el 2012:

**Cuéntenos su historia
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próximamente en una ciudad cerca de usted!**

Miércoles, 17 de agosto, 2011

MIAMI
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Miami Dade College
Wolfson Campus Auditorium, Edif. 1000
300 NE 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33132

SOUTH MIAMI
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
FIU College of Law
Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall
11200 SW 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199

Las personas que necesitan acomodación especial deben llamar al Comité de Redistribución de
Distritos Electorales de la Cámara de Representantes de Florida al (850) 488-3928 o enviar un e-mail a
mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov al menos cinco días laborales antes de la reunión,
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This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Diario Las Americas on Friday, August 12, 2011.

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**Wednesday
August 17, 2011**

Check out local meeting
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This appeared as a 1/8 page black and white ad in the Miami Herald on Friday, August 12, 2011.

**Redistribución de distritos
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**¡Asista a una reunión
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próximamente en Miami!**

**Miércoles
17 de agosto de 2011**

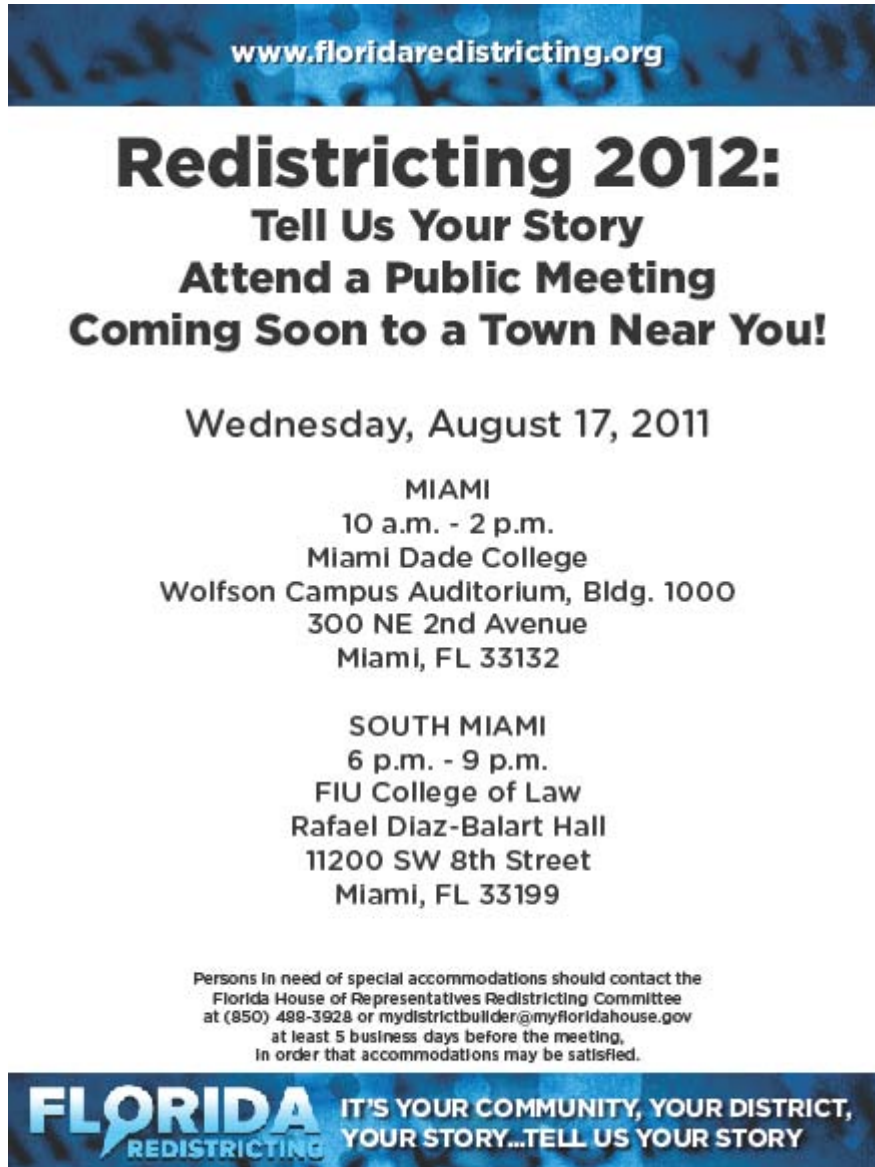
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Representantes de Florida al (850) 488-3928



This appeared as a 1/8 page black and white ad in the El Nuevo Herald on Friday, August 12, 2011.

The poster features a blue background with a faint map of Florida. At the top, a dark blue banner contains the website address. The main text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts. The dates and locations are clearly listed. A small block of text at the bottom provides contact information for accommodations. The bottom of the poster has a dark blue banner with the Florida Redistricting logo and slogan.

www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
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Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, August 17, 2011


MIAMI
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Miami Dade College
Wolfson Campus Auditorium, Bldg. 1000
300 NE 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33132

SOUTH MIAMI
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
FIU College of Law
Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall
11200 SW 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199

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at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in The Miami Times on Wednesday, August 10, 2011.



www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!


Tuesday, August 16, 2011

DAVIE
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Broward College Gym
3501 Southwest Davie Road
Davie, FL 33312

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

MIAMI 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus Auditorium 300 NE 2nd Avenue Miami, FL 33132	SOUTH MIAMI 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. FIU College of Law Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall 11200 SW 8th Street Miami, FL 33199
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FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the South Florida Sun Times on Thursday, August 11, 2011.

www.floridareddistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Thursday, August 18, 2011

KEY WEST
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Florida Keys Community College
5901 College Road
Key West, FL 33040

Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
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This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in The Key West Keynoter on Saturday, August 13, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

Thursday, August 18, 2011

**KEY WEST
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Florida Keys Community College
5901 College Road
Key West, FL 33040**

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at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
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This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Key West Citizen on Friday, August 12, 2011.

South Florida Sun-Sentinel



These online advertisements appeared in Palm Beach Section of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel website from Saturday, August 13 through Monday, August 15, 2011.



This online advertisement appeared on the Treasure Coast News website from Saturday, August 13 through Monday, August 15, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

**Redistricting 2012:
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Monday, August 15, 2011

**STUART
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Blake Library
2351 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996**

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

**BOCA RATON
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
FAU
Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431**

Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
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This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Hometown News on Friday, August 12, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
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Wednesday, August 17, 2011

MIAMI

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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Miami, FL 33132

SOUTH MIAMI

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

FIU College of Law
Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall
11200 SW 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199

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at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

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YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This appeared as an insert in the Miami Times Email Newsletter on Monday, August 15, 2011.



These online advertisements appeared on the Diario Las Americas website from Saturday, August 13 through Wednesday, August 17, 2011.






This appeared as an insert in the El Nuevo Herald Email Newsletter on Tuesday, August 18, 2011.

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Home > Florida House and Senate to hold public redistricting meetings

Florida House and Senate to hold public redistricting meetings


Categories: **Community**

When: August 16th : 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Price: Free

Venue: [FAU](#)
Track and Field Complex
777 Glades Road , Boca Raton , FL , 33431

Phone: 850-921-7747 (Phone)
[View Website](#)

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Events Calendar

Friday, 08.12.11

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Wednesday, Aug 17 10:00a to 2:00p
at Miami Dade College, Miami, FL

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the South Florida area and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West on Monday, August 15, to Thursday, August 18. [read more](#)

[Event Website](#)

Category: [Civic/Government](#)

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Location & Nearby Info

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Events Calendar

Friday, 08.12.11

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Wednesday, Aug 17 6:00p to 9:00p
at Fiu Law School, Miami, FL

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida’s political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the South Florida area and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West on Monday, August 15, to Thursday, August 18. [read more](#)

[Event Website](#)

Category: Civic/Government
Creator: publicinfo ([Manage editors](#))

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Don't Miss



Hot Ticket

Location & Nearby Info

Fiu Law School
11200 SW Eighth St.
Miami, FL 33199



Show nearby:

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☐ Bars

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1 Subway | 0.3 mi |
| 2 Subway | 0.6 mi |



Key West Keynoter

the living history of the program in the Immersion Theater series at the museum at 6255 Overseas Highway. The program is free. Enjoy extended museum hours and tour the exhibits before the program. Call 664-9737 or visit www.divingmuseum.org.

Aug. 18

- 4 to 7 p.m. -- There's a public meeting to discuss the upcoming redistricting at Florida Keys Community College, 5901 College Road, Stock Island. For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

Aug. 19

- 3 to 4:30 p.m. --The new Rugose Spiraling Whitefly is the topic of a workshop in the Gato Building, 1100 Simonton St., first-floor conference room, by Kim Gabel, environmental horticulture agent with the University of

TCPALM

FLORIDA'S TREASURE COAST AND PALM BEACHES

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Events »

Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

2351 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart

<http://www.library.martin.fl.us>

Event Rating: 

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AUG

15

MONDAY

Description

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the South Florida area and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West on Aug. 15-18.

Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process!

For more information, visit floridaredistricting.org.

Location



Event details

- Place: [Blake Library](#)
- Date: Monday, August 15, 2011
- Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Cost: Free
- Age Limit: All ages
- Categories: [Clubs/Civic Organizations](#), [Community](#), [Politics](#)

Tools

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Events » **Florida House and Senate to conduct Public Redistricting Meetings**

777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL

Event Rating: 

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Florida House and Senate to conduct Public Redistricting Meetings

AUG

16

TUESDAY

Description

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the South Florida area and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West on Aug. 15-18.

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For more information, visit floridaredistricting.org.

Event details

- **Place:** [Florida Atlantic University](#)
- **Date:** Tuesday, August 16, 2011
- **Time:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free
- **Age Limit:** All ages
- **Categories:** [Clubs/Civic Organizations](#), [Community](#), [Politics](#)

Tools

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Florida House and Senate to conduct Public Redistricting Meetings

Treasure Coast, FL

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Florida House and Senate to conduct Public Redistricting Meetings

AUG

16

TUESDAY

Description

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For more information, visit floridaredistricting.org.

Event details

- Place: Broward College Gym
- Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2011
- Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Cost: Free
- Age Limit: All ages
- Categories: [Clubs/Civic Organizations](#), [Community](#), [Politics](#)

Tools

- [Email this event to a friend](#)
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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Posted: August 3, 2011, 03:17 PM

Reply: [click here](#)

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300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL, 33132 [google map](#) | [yahoo map](#)

- Location: Miami Dade College
- Post ID: 14295910 miaminewtimes

Hollywood Gazette

Monday, August 15, 2011

✕

Event: 'Florida House And Senate To Hold Public Redistricting Meetings' 

General This is the default category	Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 - 6:00 pm Duration: 3 Hours
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Contact Info: Redistricting Committee Phone: (850) 488-3928	Email: URL: http://www.floridaredistricting.org
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This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida’s political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the South Florida area and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West on Monday, August 15, to Thursday, August 18. Members of the Florida Legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process! For more information, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

Hollywood Gazette

Monday, August 15, 2011

Event: 'Florida House And Senate To Hold Public Redistricting Meetings'



General This is the default category	Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 - 10:00 am Duration: 4 Hours
Contact Info: Redistricting Committee Phone: (850) 488-3928	Email: URL: http://www.floridaredistricting.org

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida’s political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the South Florida area and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West on Monday, August 15, to Thursday, August 18.

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Home > Stuart Events > Stuart Health Events > Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Summary

Full Details

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Monday, Aug 15 6:00p to 9:00p
at Blake Public Library, Stuart, FL

This summer, Floridians across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation of the redistricting process, public meetings will take place in the South Florida area and will include stops in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West on Monday, August 15, to Thursday, August 18. [read more](#)

Event Website

Category: Health

[Add a Performer to this Event](#)

Creator: housepublicinfo (Manage editors)

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Location & Nearby Info

Blake Public Library
2351 SE Monterey Rd.

Show nearby:

Public Service Announcements - TV

WPLG-TV ABC Miami

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA-REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WPEC-TV CBS West Palm Beach

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA-REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WPTV-TV NBC West Palm Beach

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WFLX-TV FOX West Palm Beach

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Public Service Announcements – Radio

WEAT 104.3 FM West Palm Beach

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WIRK 107.9 FM West Palm Beach

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WFL 1400 AM Fort Lauderdale

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA-REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WHSR 980 AM Pompano Beach

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WBZT 1230 AM West Palm Beach

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WJNO 1290 AM West Palm Beach

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WIOD 610 AM Miami

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REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY...
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WLRN 93.1 FM Miami

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WSBR 740 AM Boca Raton

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WWNN 1470 AM Pompano Beach

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WSKZ 106.5 FM Key West

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA-REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WACC 830 AM Miami

La Florida es hogar de una población diversa y es el 4to estado más populoso de los Estados Unidos. En el Estado del Sol, hay más de 18 millones de personas, cada una con una historia única. Nuestros legisladores pronto modificarán los distritos electorales federales y estatales en un proceso que ocurre solamente una vez cada diez años, y tú tendrás la oportunidad de participar en este dialogo. Representantes y Senadores viajarán a más de una docena de comunidades a través del estado para conversar directamente contigo y escuchar tu opinión acerca de cómo quieres que tu comunidad sea representada. Visita a www.puntoFLORIDAREDISTRICTING.puntoORG para conocer más acerca de las audiencias públicas en tu área, para saber cómo seguarnos a través de Facebook y Twitter, y para encontrar información acerca de My District Builder, un portal donde podrás valerte de la tecnología que te permitirá dibujar directamente propuestas para la modificación de los distritos electorales.

!Redistribución distrital en la Florida...es tu comunidad...cuéntanos tu historia!

WWFE 670 AM Miami

La Florida es hogar de una población diversa y es el 4to estado más populoso de los Estados Unidos. En el Estado del Sol, hay más de 18 millones de personas, cada una con una historia única. Nuestros legisladores pronto modificarán los distritos electorales federales y estatales en un proceso que ocurre solamente una vez cada diez años, y tú tendrás la oportunidad de participar en este dialogo. Representantes y Senadores viajarán a más de una docena de comunidades a través del estado para conversar directamente contigo y escuchar tu opinión acerca de cómo quieres que tu comunidad sea representada. Visita a [www punto FLORIDAREDISTRICTING punto ORG](http://www.puntoFLORIDAREDISTRICTING.puntoORG) para conocer más acerca de las audiencias públicas en tu área, para saber cómo seguirnos a través de Facebook y Twitter, y para encontrar información acerca de My District Builder, un portal donde podrás valerte de la tecnología que te permitirá dibujar directamente propuestas para la modificación de los distritos electorales.

!Redistribución distrital en la Florida...es tu comunidad...cuéntanos tu historia!

WAQI 710 AM Miami

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!Redistribución distrital en la Florida...es tu comunidad...cuéntanos tu historia!

WQBA 1140 AM Miami

La Florida es hogar de una población diversa y es el 4to estado más populoso de los Estados Unidos. En el Estado del Sol, hay más de 18 millones de personas, cada una con una historia única. Nuestros legisladores pronto modificarán los distritos electorales federales y estatales en un proceso que ocurre solamente una vez cada diez años, y tú tendrás la oportunidad de participar en este dialogo. Representantes y Senadores viajarán a más de una docena de comunidades a través del estado para conversar directamente contigo y escuchar tu opinión acerca de cómo quieres que tu comunidad sea representada. Visita a [www punto FLORIDAREDISTRICTING punto ORG](http://www.puntoFLORIDAREDISTRICTING.puntoORG) para conocer más acerca de las audiencias públicas en tu área, para saber cómo seguirnos a través de Facebook y Twitter, y para encontrar información acerca de My District Builder, un portal donde podrás valerte de la tecnología que te permitirá dibujar directamente propuestas para la modificación de los distritos electorales.

!Redistribución distrital en la Florida...es tu comunidad...cuéntanos tu historia!

WRTO 98.3 FM Miami

La Florida es hogar de una población diversa y es el 4to estado más populoso de los Estados Unidos. En el Estado del Sol, hay más de 18 millones de personas, cada una con una historia única. Nuestros legisladores pronto modificarán los distritos electorales federales y estatales en un proceso que ocurre solamente una vez cada diez años, y tú tendrás la oportunidad de participar en este dialogo. Representantes y Senadores viajarán a más de una docena de comunidades a través del estado para conversar directamente contigo y escuchar tu opinión acerca de cómo quieres que tu comunidad sea representada. Visita a [www punto FLORIDAREDISTRICTING punto ORG](http://www.puntoFLORIDAREDISTRICTING.punto.ORG) para conocer más acerca de las audiencias públicas en tu área, para saber cómo seguimos a través de Facebook y Twitter, y para encontrar información acerca de My District Builder, un portal donde podrás valerte de la tecnología que te permitirá dibujar directamente propuestas para la modificación de los distritos electorales.

!Redistribución distrital en la Florida...es tu comunidad...cuéntanos tu historia!

[Click Here to Listen to 60-second Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 30-second Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 15-second Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 60-second Spanish-Language Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 30-second Spanish-Language Public Service Announcement](#)

[Click Here to Listen to 15-second Spanish-Language Public Service Announcement](#)

Social Media

The House's official **Twitter and Facebook** accounts were used daily in the two weeks leading up to the meetings and during the meetings to increase awareness and participation.

[@MyFLHouse on Twitter](#)

[@FLRedistricting on Twitter](#)

www.facebook.com/MyFLHouse

www.facebook.com/MyDistrictBuilder

The collage consists of several screenshots of social media profiles and posts. The top row features three Twitter profiles: **MyDistrictBuilder** (@FLRedistricting), **FLRedistricting** (@FLRedistricting), and the **Florida House** (@MyFLHouse). The bottom row shows two Facebook pages: **MyDistrictBuilder (FloridaRedistricting.Org)** and **My Florida House**. The screenshots include profile pictures, bios, follower counts, and recent tweets or posts. For example, the Florida House tweet mentions the release of the 'Final On Track' and the signing of bills. The Facebook posts discuss the 'OPI: On Track' document and the 'Current Maps & Legislative Update'.

The [House Redistricting Committee's official Blog](#) was used to prepare Florida residents for public meetings, including links to maps and the RSVP system for the meetings, educational resources on redistricting, and information on how to maximize the use of public participation resources being made available to the public. Public participation content from the blog was already rebroadcast via Twitter, Facebook and www.floridaredistricting.org.

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Get Ready for Florida Redistricting in Southeast Florida

AUGUST 8, 2011 • 3:07 PM (EDIT)

For the upcoming August 15-18 [public input meetings on redistricting](#) in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West, below are links to parking and driving directions, Google Maps for each location, and the RSVP page for each location. You do not have to RSVP, but if you wish to speak it is recommended that you RSVP and that you arrive prior to the start time of the meeting.

- August 15 in Stuart: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps](#) - [RSVP](#)
- August 16 in Boca Raton: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps](#) - [RSVP](#)
- August 16 in Davie: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps](#) - [RSVP](#)
- August 17 in Miami: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps](#) - [RSVP](#)
- August 17 in South Miami: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps](#) - [RSVP](#)
- August 18 in Key West: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps](#) - [RSVP](#)

Looking for some guidance about the format of the redistricting public input meetings and how you might get involved? Check out the videos below from a couple of our recent meetings in Lakeland and Gainesville for insight and ideas.



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What's New with Redistricting Meetings and Submitted Plans?

AUGUST 5, 2011 • 10:10 AM (EDIT)

The Florida House of Representatives' Office of Public Information (OPI) just published their latest OPI Informer, which you can check out below.

It's almost entirely devoted to the latest information on the Florida redistricting public input meetings, how to get involved, and the submission of redistricting proposals by Florida residents. This two page document is a great way to quickly learn and spread the word about Florida's redistricting process.

To get more updates like this, you can join OPI's email list at <http://www.myfloridaredistricting.gov/>



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Video Highlights from Public Input Meetings 1-14

AUGUST 13, 2011 • 10:09 AM (EDIT)

Trying to get caught up on what's happened with the redistricting meetings so far? Check out our updated lineup of video meeting highlights, including new uploads from the Wesley Chapel, Orlando and Melbourne (Viera) meetings.

- July 28, 2011 – [Melbourne Public Meeting Highlights](#)
- July 27, 2011 – [Orlando Public Meeting Highlights](#)
- July 26, 2011 – [Wesley Chapel Public Meeting Highlights](#)
- July 26, 2011 – [Wauchula Public Meeting Highlights](#)
- July 25, 2011 – [Lakeland Public Meeting Highlights](#)
- July 13, 2011 – [Gainesville Public Meeting Highlights](#)
- July 13, 2011 – [The Villages Public Meeting Highlights](#)
- July 12, 2011 – [Daytona Beach Public Meeting Highlights](#)
- July 12, 2011 – [St. Augustine Public Meeting Highlights](#)

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Southeast Florida Redistricting Factoids: 2000 to 2010

AUGUST 15, 2011 • 7:41 AM (EDIT)

Some [redistricting factoids](#) for the August 15-18 [public input meetings](#) in Stuart (15th), Boca Raton (16th), Davie (16th), Miami (17th), South Miami (17th) and Key West (18th):

- Did you know that Congressional Districts 16 and 25 have to lose more than 100,000 residents in Florida's redistricting?
- Did you know State House District 112's population grew by nearly 60% from 2000 to 2010?
- Did you know St. Lucie County led the Southeast Florida region with 44.2% population growth from 2000 to 2010?
- Did you know Monroe County actually had a population decline of -8.2% from 2000 to 2010?
- Did you know Martin County leads the Southeast Florida region with a median income of over \$50,000?
- Did you know that Homestead had nearly 90% population growth from 2000 to 2010?

You can download excel sheets with this data and more at <http://bit.ly/otlJul>.

District	2000 POP	2010 POP	POP Change	% POP Change	2010 deviation	% 2010 deviation
CD 15	430,295	483,370	53,075	12.33%	-11,220	-14.40%
CD 16	430,295	397,713	-32,582	-7.57%	103,300	14.43%
CD 17	430,295	505,340	75,045	17.44%	-11,100	-14.30%
CD 18	430,295	732,790	302,495	70.30%	51,441	6.91%
CD 19	430,295	736,419	306,124	71.14%	13,394	1.83%
CD 20	430,295	493,727	63,432	14.74%	-5,910	-7.92%
CD 21	430,295	475,501	45,206	10.50%	-2,440	-3.28%
CD 22	430,295	104,250	-326,045	-75.75%	7,000	0.93%
CD 23	430,295	464,107	33,812	7.86%	-2,700	-3.60%
CD 25	430,295	607,176	176,881	41.10%	110,611	14.55%

District	2000 POP	2010 POP	POP Change	% POP Change	2010 deviation	% 2010 deviation
SD 17	399,577	456,369	56,792	14.21%	-13,073	-3.29%
SD 25	399,580	438,198	38,618	9.66%	-11,100	-2.80%
SD 16	399,517	483,801	84,284	21.09%	11,610	2.93%
SD 27	399,558	553,555	153,997	38.54%	61,513	15.41%
SD 18	399,517	545,001	145,484	36.42%	75,011	18.80%

FloridaRedistricting.org and MyFloridaHouse.gov were used as hubs of information and access to [Watch Meetings Live](#) (via the [Florida Channel's Redistricting Hearings webcasting](#)), access the [Meeting Calendar](#) and follow other announcements related to the public meetings.



FLORIDA REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

MyDistrictBuilder STAY INFORMED! Do you want to receive email updates or news alerts about MyDistrictBuilder and Redistricting? [SIGNUP](#)

Redistricting...What? Why? How?
Welcome to FloridaRedistricting.Org. Redistricting is the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines, every ten years, to reflect changes in population. Everyone lives in districts...congressional, legislative, etc. Those districts tell the stories of their communities. The Florida House is inviting Floridians to start the redistricting conversation. To enable that conversation, FloridaRedistricting.Org serves as a hub of public participation opportunities, including access to MyDistrictBuilder™, the online tool for both Floridians and their legislators to suggest new district boundary lines.

Legislative Headlines:
Below are the latest releases of public information, calendar updates, legislative information and more.

- Plan Explorer's New Written Redistricting Plan Submissions (June 26)
- Press Release: Recap Public Participation Meetings in FL's Panhandle (June 22)
- Are You Ready to Participate in Florida's Redistricting? (June 17)
- Redistricting Public Services Announcements (June 16)
- Media Advisory for Redistricting Meetings in Florida's Panhandle (June 13)
- Video Update Regarding Public Meetings (June 12)

Public Participation:
Below are resources to guide your involvement in the many ways Floridians can participate in the 2011-2012 redistricting.

- Participate in Florida's Redistricting
- What is Redistricting and How Can Floridians Participate?
- Tell Us Your Story at a Public Meeting on Redistricting
- Helpful Guidance for Public Participation
- Learn Redistricting Concepts & Terminology
- Timeline for Redistricting in Florida
- Florida Redistricting By The Numbers
- Printable/Emailable Suggestion Form for Vision & Technology Impaired
- Learn to Use MyDistrictBuilder
- Complete Public Participation Toolkit

Legal Concepts:
Below are in-depth resources on Florida and federal redistricting legal requirements.

MyDistrictBuilder
Plan Explorer
Blog & Resources
Current Maps & Data
Press Kit
Meeting Calendar
Meeting Records
Watch Meetings Live!

Access MyDistrictBuilder's Video Tutorials and Updates



FLORIDA REDISTRICTING IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

Florida Redistricting Streaming Media and Archives
Archived videos are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. Click Video to watch the meeting with documents, or Agenda / Minutes to see just the documents. You can also search the archives by typing keywords into the Search box.

To enable the most effective streaming experience for all browsers and operating systems, please download and install [Silverlight](#) from Microsoft.

The minimum system requirements for watching the Archived video [are available here](#).

Windows Media Player Get Microsoft Silverlight

Streaming video support

Upcoming Events

Name	Date
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - St. Augustine	July 12, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Daytona Beach	July 12, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - The Villages	July 13, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Gainesville	July 13, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Lakeland	July 25, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Wauchula	July 26, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Wesley Chapel	July 26, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Melbourne	July 28, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Stuart	August 15, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Boca Raton	August 16, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Constitutional Hearings - Tallahassee	August 16, 2011 - 6:00 PM



THE FLORIDA CHANNEL

Redistricting Hearings

This summer, Senators and State Representatives are hosting joint hearings at locations throughout the state to hear citizens' views on the redistricting process. Every ten years after the U.S. Census, Florida's Legislature redraws the boundaries for state House, state Senate, and Congressional districts to comply with federal and state law. The purpose of redistricting is to ensure that each district has equal representation at all levels of government. The redistricting process must be completed by November 1, 2012.

All hearings and other redistricting events scheduled on this page will be streamed through WFLA, which can be accessed on this page. Under the "Upcoming Events" section, click on the event name at the scheduled start time to view the stream. For the most effective streaming experience for all browsers and operating systems, please download and install [Silverlight](#) from Microsoft.

Subscribe via RSS Feeds:
Subscribe to our Podcast feed
Subscribe to our Video Podcast feed

Upcoming Events

Event Name	Date
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	Mon. July 11, 2011 2:00 pm
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	Mon. July 11, 2011 6:00 pm
Redistricting Hearing - St. Augustine	Tue. July 12, 2011 8:00 am
Redistricting Hearing - Daytona Beach	Tue. July 12, 2011 6:00 pm
Redistricting Hearing - The Villages	Wed. July 13, 2011 8:00 am



Florida House of Representatives MyFloridaHouse.gov

HOME BILLS DOCUMENTS REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEES CALENDARS LEADERSHIP SESSION LIVE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING BROADCASTS

FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE BILL FINDER SEARCH BILLTEXT SEARCH STATUTES

NEWS ALERTS Governor Scott Signs Legislation Expanding School Choice

Speaker Dean Cannon

Welcome to the Florida House of Representatives' Official Website.

Here, you can find information about what is happening in the Florida House and the Florida Legislature, including frequent updates on the once-in-a-decade Redistricting process and instant access to bills, bill analyses and amendments.

During the upcoming 2012 Session, legislators will redraw Florida's legislative and congressional districts. The House of Representatives is proud to make this the most open and transparent process of its kind and your input is critical to our mission. This summer, House Members will visit more than two dozen cities across our great state to listen to your thoughts on where the new lines should be drawn.

[Read Full Message](#)

- [Redistricting Schedule](#)
- [MyDistrictBuilder™](#)
- [Legislative Appointments](#)
- [Contact the Speaker](#)

In The News

Governor Scott Signs Legislation to Strengthen, Expand Charter and Virtual Schools
[I Read More](#)

Funerals for Fallen Firefighters Scheduled for Friday and Saturday
[I Read More](#)

Citizens to have say in new districts
[I Read More](#)

Redistricting Tour Stops In Bay County
[I Read More](#)

Brave new world of do-it-yourself mapping
[I Read More](#)

[Full Listing](#)

MyFloridaHouse Mobile

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING
Watch meetings live or view video archives at:

House Daily Schedule
No Events For Today.
[\[FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE\]](#)

Videos
CS/CS/HB 75 Five Questions with Ben

Email was also used to increase participation in the public meetings. Redistricting Committee Chair Will Weatherford provided all 120 Members of the House with meeting logistics and updates regarding publicly submitted redistricting plans for both the Members and their constituents to utilize. Furthermore, the House Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee updated their email lists with information about and ways to participate in the public meetings.

You forwarded this message on 8/23/2011 3:27 PM.

From: Weatherford, Will
To: ☒ IHSE All House Districts
Cc: ☒ IHSE Redistricting Committee
Subject: Redistricting: August 15-18 Meetings

Message

Public_Meeting_Schedule.pdf (441 KB) BocaRatonParkingandDirections.pdf (210 KB) StuartParkingandDirections.pdf (133 KB) SouthMiamiParkingandDirections.pdf (446 KB) MiamiParkingandDirections.pdf (133 KB) DavieParkingandDirections.pdf (133 KB)

Dear Members,

For the upcoming August 15-18 [public input meetings on redistricting](#) in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and driving and parking information for each location. Also, below you will find Google Maps links for each meeting location.

- Monday, August 15 – [Stuart](#)
- Tuesday, August 16 – [Boca Raton](#)
- Tuesday, August 16 – [Davie](#)
- Wednesday, August 17 – [Miami](#)
- Wednesday, August 17 – [South Miami](#)
- Thursday, August 18 – [Key West](#)

I look forward to seeing each of you as we continue with the public input meetings on redistricting in Southeast (August 15-18). In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or the staff of our Redistricting Committee.

Sincerely,

Will Weatherford
House Redistricting Committee
www.floridaredistricting.org

You forwarded this message on 8/10/2011 4:51 PM.

From: MyDistrictBuilder
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Cc: MyDistrictBuilder
Subject: Email Update - Florida House Redistricting - August 5, 2011

- Plan 0016 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties
- Plan 0015 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Citrus, Lake, Orange and Sumter counties
- Plan 0014 – Partial plan for the State Senate, affecting Citrus, Lake and Sumter counties
- Plan 0013 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Lake County
- Plan 0012 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Orange, Seminole and Volusia counties
- Plan 0011 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Lake County
- Plan 0010 – Partial plan for the State Senate, affecting Citrus, Lake, Orange and Sumter counties
- Plan 0009 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Lake and Seminole counties
- Plan 0008 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Lake, Orange and Sumter counties
- Plan 0007 – Complete plan for the State Senate
- Plan 0006 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0005 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0004 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0003 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0002 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Brevard and Volusia counties
- Plan 0001 – Complete plan for Congress
- Written suggestions – Congress
- Written suggestions – State House
- Written suggestions – State Senate

Along with the feedback from the Legislature's [26 public input meetings](#) throughout the state, the House will be holding public meetings in Tallahassee in the fall of 2011 for committee meetings.

Upcoming Meetings
The complete Florida redistricting public meeting calendar (attached) can be found at the following locations:

- Stuart – August 15
- Boca Raton – August 16
- Davie – August 16
- Miami – August 17
- South Miami – August 17
- Key West – August 18
- Tampa – August 29
- Largo – August 30
- Sarasota – August 30
- Naples – August 31
- Lehigh Acres – August 31
- Clewiston – September 1

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the staff of our Redistricting Committee.

You forwarded this message on 8/18/2011 8:28 AM.

From: MyDistrictBuilder
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Cc: MyDistrictBuilder
Subject: Email Update - Florida House Redistricting - August 10, 2011

Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – August 10, 2011

Information for the August 15-18 Redistricting Meetings in Southeast Florida
For the upcoming August 15-18 [public input meetings on redistricting](#) in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and driving and parking information for each location. You do not have to RSVP, but if you wish to submit a suggestion, please RSVP.

- August 15 in Stuart: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- August 16 in Boca Raton: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- August 16 in Davie: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- August 17 in Miami: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- August 17 in South Miami: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)
- August 18 in Key West: [Parking and Driving – Google Maps – RSVP](#)

Meeting Videos, Podcasts and Action Packets from the July 25-28 Redistricting Meetings in Central Florida
Meeting videos, podcasts and action packets have been updated through the July 25-28 Florida redistricting meetings. You can access the full menu of meeting materials or directly at <http://mydistrictbuilder4therecord.wordpress.com/>, to access the full menu of meeting materials.

Looking for a quick summary of the Central Florida redistricting meetings? Check out the YouTube videos:

- July 25 in Lakeland
- July 26 in Wauchula
- July 26 in Wesley Chapel
- July 27 in Orlando
- July 28 in Melbourne – coming soon at www.youtube.com/MyDistrictBuilderFL

Update on Redistricting Plan Submissions
Below are links to new public submissions of redistricting maps, including the first submission of a map for the State Senate. With the abundance of written suggestions, below are links to the first submission of a map for the State Senate.

- Plan 0029 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Brevard, Indian River, Osceola, Okeechobee and Volusia counties
- Plan 0028 – Complete plan for the State Senate
- Plan 0027 – Complete plan for the State House
- Plan 0026 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0025 – Partial plan for the State Senate, creating 21 districts throughout Florida
- Plan 0024 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Pasco County
- Written suggestions – Congress
- Written suggestions – State House
- Written suggestions – State Senate

If you or your constituents have any questions about these submissions, the House's [MyDistrictBuilder](#) application, or if you need additional information, please contact the staff of our Redistricting Committee.

From: Weatherford, Will
To: ☒ IHSE All House Districts
Cc: ☒ IHSE Redistricting Committee
Subject: Redistricting: Updated Public Meetings

Dear Members,

I am emailing to update you regarding redistricting maps and written suggestions for redistricting maps that have been submitted by Florida residents thus far, 21 were created with the Florida House's [MyDistrictBuilder](#) application. You can access our [Plan Explorer](#) site to view, comment on and share those redistricting suggestions submitted by Florida residents. Below are links to written suggestions that were submitted to the House.

- Plan 0024 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Pasco County
- Plan 0023 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Orange, Osceola and Polk counties
- Plan 0022 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Lake, Marion and Sumter counties
- Plan 0021 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Lake, Marion and Sumter counties
- Plan 0020 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0019 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0018 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting 34 North Florida counties
- Plan 0017 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Orange, Osceola and Polk counties
- Plan 0016 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas and Sumter counties
- Plan 0015 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Citrus, Lake, Orange and Sumter counties
- Plan 0014 – Partial plan for the State Senate, affecting Citrus, Lake and Sumter counties
- Plan 0013 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Lake County
- Plan 0012 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Orange, Seminole and Volusia counties
- Plan 0011 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Lake County
- Plan 0010 – Partial plan for the State Senate, affecting Citrus, Lake, Orange and Sumter counties
- Plan 0009 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Lake and Seminole counties
- Plan 0008 – Partial plan for Congress, affecting Lake, Orange and Sumter counties
- Plan 0007 – Complete plan for the State Senate
- Plan 0006 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0005 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0004 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0003 – Complete plan for Congress
- Plan 0002 – Partial plan for the State House, affecting Brevard and Volusia counties
- Plan 0001 – Complete plan for Congress
- Written suggestions – Congress
- Written suggestions – State House
- Written suggestions – State Senate

If you or your constituents have any questions about these submissions, the House's [MyDistrictBuilder](#) application, or if you need additional information, please contact the staff of our Redistricting Committee.

From: Office of Public Information
To:
Cc:
Subject: OPI Update: Redistricting Meetings Driving and Parking Information



Attention Subscribers:

Next week, Members of the Florida House and Senate head to south Florida for the 2012 Redistricting Public Input Tour. Below are links to parking information for Boca Raton, Davie, Miami, South Miami and Key West, below are links to parking information but if you wish to speak it is recommended that you RSVP and that you arrive early.

- August 15 in Stuart: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps - RSVP](#)
- August 16 in Boca Raton: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps - RSVP](#)
- August 16 in Davie: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps - RSVP](#)
- August 17 in Miami: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps - RSVP](#)
- August 17 in South Miami: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps - RSVP](#)
- August 18 in Key West: [Parking and Driving - Google Maps - RSVP](#)

We hope you find this information helpful.

Thank you.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 12

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE INFORMER:

REDISTRICTING PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Noteworthy - Recent news of the Florida House of Representatives
- 2012 Redistricting Process Update
- Fall 2011 Committee Meeting Schedule
- Did You Know? - There are many ways to participate in Florida's 2012 Redistricting Process

The House Office of Public Information (OPI) has created several Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to inform the public about the 2012 Florida Redistricting Process. Mostly recently, OPI has released a Spanish Language PSA. Hear all the PSAs by clicking on the links below:

- [60-second Spanish-Language PSA](#)
- [60-second PSA](#)
- [30-second PSA](#)
- [15-second PSA](#)

NOTEWORTHY

Community Redistricting Meetings Continue to Draw Crowds

Over the course of the summer, Members of the Florida House and Senate have been traveling the state hosting a series of public meetings designed to gather citizen testimony on the needs of Florida's many diverse communities and the potential make-up of future state House, state Senate and Congressional district boundaries. A total of 14 meetings have taken place across the Northwest, Northeast and Central regions of the state and more than 3,000 attendees have come out to participate in the once-in-a-decade Redistricting process. Two rounds of meetings are still to come and will take place in August and early September. House and Senate Members are looking forward to visiting communities throughout the South Florida region including Miami, Key West, Tampa, Sarasota and Naples.

[Click here to download the full Redistricting Meeting calendar.](#)



You replied on 8/11/2011 9:47 AM.
From: Stuckey, Sarah
To: Kelly, Alex
Cc:
Subject: FW: New Resource from FL House of Representatives
Message: [Redistricting Public Participation.pdf \(245 KB\)](#)

From: Office of Public Information
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2011 12:39 PM
Subject: New Resource from FL House of Representatives



Greetings!

This summer, Members of the Florida House of Representatives and staff of the House have been traveling the state hosting a series of public meetings designed to gather citizen testimony on the needs of Florida's many diverse communities and the potential make-up of future state House, state Senate and Congressional district boundaries. A total of 14 meetings have taken place across the Northwest, Northeast and Central regions of the state and more than 3,000 attendees have come out to participate in the once-in-a-decade Redistricting process. Two rounds of meetings are still to come and will take place in August and early September. House and Senate Members are looking forward to visiting communities throughout the South Florida region including Miami, Key West, Tampa, Sarasota and Naples.

The mission of OPI is to empower and engage all Floridians with our state's legislative processes in a timely and consistent manner. The Office of Public Information is responsible for recording requests, facilitating Speaker's appointments and providing all Floridians with the information they need to participate in the process. We are hopeful you will be able to do so.

The next leg of the state's redistricting tour will take place August 15-18 in several communities. Below is a list of locations for your reference. We are hopeful you will be able to do so.

Public Redistricting Meeting - Stuart

Monday, August 15, 2011
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. EDT
Blake Library
2351 SE Monterey Road

Public Redistricting Meeting - Boca Raton

Tuesday, August 16, 2011
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. EDT
The Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center (FAU)
777 Glades Road

Public Redistricting Meeting - Davie

Tuesday, August 16, 2011
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. EDT

From: Office of Public Information
To: [IHSE All House](#)
Cc:
Subject: 2012 Redistricting Information



The 2011 Florida Redistricting Public Input Tour has brought Florida House and Senate Members to communities across the state to hear from area residents. Next week, Members will be traveling to the Southeast Florida communities to hear from area residents. If you or someone you know has thoughts on how Florida's legislative and congressional maps should be redrawn, please contact your representative or senator. These unique forums where your opinions regarding Florida's redistricting will be heard. A full schedule including dates, times and locations is available at [www.floridaredistricting.com](#).

Public Redistricting Meeting - Stuart

Monday, August 15, 2011

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. EDT
Blake Library
2351 SE Monterey Road

Public Redistricting Meeting - Boca Raton

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. EDT
The Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center (FAU)
777 Glades Road

Public Redistricting Meeting - Davie

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. EDT
Broward College Gym
3501 Southwest Davie Road

Public Redistricting Meeting - Miami

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. EDT
Wolfson Campus Auditorium (Miami Dade College)
300 NE 2nd Avenue

Public Redistricting Meeting - South Miami

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. EDT
Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall (FIU College of Law)
11200 SW 8th Street

Public Redistricting Meeting - Key West

Thursday, August 18, 2011

4 p.m. - 7 p.m. EDT

The Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee used their respective YouTube pages and video content to help prepare Floridians for both what to expect at the public meetings, and also give suggestions on how Florida residents must prepare to offer their feedback on Florida's redistricting.

The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying YouTube content related to the 2011 Florida redistricting process. The top section shows a video player for "2011 Public Meeting Locations" from the "MyDistrictBuilder" channel. The video features a map of Florida with red stars indicating meeting locations and the website "www.floridaredistricting.org". Below the video player is a description for a "Redistricting PSA - 30 seconds" by "MyDistrictBuilderFL". To the right of the video player is a list of other videos from the "MyFloridaHouse" channel, including "2011 Redistricting Tour - Melbourne", "2011 Redistricting Tour - Orlando", "2011 Redistricting Tour - Wesley Chapel", "2011 Redistricting Tour - Wauchula", "2011 Redistricting Tour - Lakeland", "Eustis resident discusses using MyFlorida...", and "2011 Redistricting Tour - Gainesville".

The bottom section shows a video player for "2011 Redistricting Tour - Melbourne" from the "MyFloridaHouse" channel. The video features three residents: Lee Newell (Micco Resident), Emilio Perez (Latino Justice PRLDEF), and Jocelyn Dickman (Wesley Chapel Resident). Below the video player is a description for the "2011 Redistricting Tour - Melbourne" video, which states it was filmed by the House Office of Public Information and features Members of the Florida House and Senate as well as nearly 200 Florida residents present for the Melbourne stop of the 2011 Florida Redistricting Public Input Tour. To the right of the video player is a list of other videos from the "MyFloridaHouse" channel, including "2011 Redistricting Tour - Melbourne", "2011 Redistricting Tour - Orlando", and "2011 Redistricting Tour - Wesley Chapel".

Direct Contact (via email and phone) with numerous civic organizations, colleges and universities, local governments and other organizations has also been made throughout the process of preparing for the public meetings. The following organizations were contacted prior to these redistricting public input meetings.

- ☐ Southeast Florida County Supervisors of Election
- ☐ Southeast Florida County Commissions
- ☐ Southeast Florida City and Town Commissions and Councils
- ☐ Southeast Florida County School Boards
- ☐ Southeast Florida College and University Student Government Associations, Government Coordinators and/or Political Science Departments

2011-2012 Redistricting: Pre-Meeting Outreach Report



August 29 – Tampa

August 30 – Largo

August 30 – Sarasota

August 31 – Naples

August 31 – Lehigh Acres

September 1 – Clewiston

The contents herein reflect media and community outreach done by the Florida House of Representatives to increase awareness of and participation in the redistricting public input meetings listed above.

Note, the following does not necessarily reflect contributions to community outreach done by individual Members of the House. Nor does the following represent the totality of all media related to the public meetings.

Rather, the following represents contributions to community outreach made by Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford, the Office of the Speaker, the Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Public Information at (850) 921-7747.

[Print \(Pg. 6\)](#)

Naples Daily News	Tuesday, July 26, 2011
Sarasota Herald-Tribune	Monday, August 15, 2011
Fort Myers News-Press	Tuesday, August 16, 2011
Fort Myers News-Press	Wednesday, August 17, 2011
Belleaire Bee	Friday, August 19, 2011
Sarasota Herald-Tribune	Sunday, August 21, 2011
Marco Island Sun Times	Monday, August 22, 2011
Sarasota Herald-Tribune	Wednesday, August 24, 2011
Naples Daily News	Saturday, August 27, 2011
St. Petersburg Times	Monday, August 29, 2011
Ft. Myers News-Press	Tuesday, August 30, 2011

[Published Opinion Editorials* \(Pg. 24\)](#)

Tampa Tribune	Friday, August 26, 2011
Ft. Myers News-Press	Monday, August 29, 2011

* - This list only represents those newspapers that printed the opinion editorial. House staff contacted other newspapers to request that they printed the opinion editorial.

[Radio & TV \(Pg. 28\)](#)

WCTV-TV CBS Tallahassee	Tuesday, August 23, 2011
WTSP-TV News 10 Tampa	Thursday, August 25, 2011
Naples Daily News	Friday, August 26, 2011
WUSF 89.7 FM Tampa	Monday, August 29, 2011
WFSX 92.5FM Ft. Myers	Monday, August 29, 2011
WNOG 1270 AM Naples	Tuesday, August 30, 2011
WWSB-TV ABC Sarasota	Tuesday, August 30, 2011
WZVN-TV ABC Naples	Wednesday, August 31, 2011
WINK-TV CBS Ft. Myers	Wednesday, August 31, 2011
WZVN-TV ABC Naples	Wednesday, August 31, 2011

[Online & Blogs \(Pg. 35\)](#)

News Service of Florida	Tuesday, August 23, 2011
Dunedin Patch	Tuesday, August 23, 2011
Bradenton Herald	Wednesday, August 24, 2011
Bradenton Patch	Sunday, August 28, 2011
Creative Loafing	Monday, August 29, 2011

News Service of Florida	Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Lehigh Acres Citizen	Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Ft. Myers News-Press	Tuesday, August 30, 2011
The Florida Independent	Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Ft. Myers News-Press	Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Naples Daily News	Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Pinellas Beaches Patch	Wednesday, August 31, 2011
The Bradenton Times	Wednesday, August 31, 2011
The Examiner	Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Marco Island Eagle	Thursday, September 1, 2011

[Paid Advertising \(Pg. 55\)](#)

Sarasota Herald-Tribune	Friday, August 26, 2011
La Gaceta	Friday, August 26, 2011
Beach Beacon	Friday, August 26, 2011
Seminole Beacon	Friday, August 26, 2011
Belleair Bee	Friday, August 26, 2011
Clearwater Beacon	Friday, August 26, 2011
Largo Leader	Friday, August 26, 2011
Pinellas Park Beacon	Friday, August 26, 2011
East County Observer	Friday, August 26, 2011
Saint Petersburg	Friday, August 26 – Thursday, September 1
Cape Coral Breeze	Saturday, August 27, 2011
The Pine Island Eagle	Saturday, August 27, 2011
The Ft. Myers Neighbor	Saturday, August 27, 2011
The Ft Myers Beach Observer	Saturday, August 27, 2011
The Lehigh Acres Citizen	Saturday, August 27, 2011
Charlotte Sun	Saturday, August 27, 2011
DeSoto Sun	Saturday, August 27, 2011
Englewood Sun	Saturday, August 27, 2011
North Port Sun	Saturday, August 27, 2011
Venice Gondolier Sun	Saturday, August 27, 2011
Fort Myers News-Press	Monday, August 29, 2011
Naples Daily News	Monday, August 29, 2011
Clewiston Daily News	Monday, August 29, 2011
The Glades Democrat	Monday, August 29, 2011
The Sun	Monday, August 29, 2011
Tampa Tribune	Saturday, August 27 - Monday, August 29
St. Petersburg Times	Saturday, August 27 - Monday, August 29

* - Indicates online advertising

Community Calendar Postings (Pg. 82)

Tampa Tribune	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Sarasota Herald-Tribune	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Naples Daily News	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Clewiston News	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Glades Democrat	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Cape Coral Breeze	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
The Pine Island Eagle	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
The North Ft. Myers Neighbor	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Ft. Myers Beach Observer	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Beach Beacon	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Seminole Beacon	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Belleair Bee	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Clearwater Beacon	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Largo Leader	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Pinellas Park Beacon	Tuesday, August 9- Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – TV* (Pg. 97)

WINK-TV CBS Ft. Myers	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WZVN-TV ABC Naples	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WBBH-TV NBC Ft. Myers	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1

* - This list only represents those television stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) – Radio* (Pg. 99)

WNOG 1270 AM Naples	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WGUL 860 AM Tampa	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WWBA 820 AM Tampa	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WMGG 1470 AM Tampa	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WTAN 1340 AM Clearwater	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WTIS 1110 AM St. Petersburg	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WENG 1530 AM Sarasota	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WTMY 1280 AM Sarasota	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WFLA 970 AM Tampa	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WHNZ 1250 AM Tampa	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WLSS 930 AM Sarasota	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1
WTBN 570 AM Tampa	Thursday, August 18 – Thursday, September 1

* - This list only represents those radio stations that could verify the placement of redistricting PSA(s) in their rotation. House staff contacted several other stations to request that they place the PSA in their rotation.

Social Media (Pg. 105)

Twitter	Thursday, July 14 – Thursday, July 28
Facebook	
Blogging	
MyFloridaHouse.gov	
FloridaRedistricting.org	
Florida Channel	
Email & Direct Contact	

Print

Guest Essay: Rep. Kathleen Passidomo...The other side to the redistricting story

Naples Daily News
July 26, 2011

By: Rep. Kathleen Passidomo

I am writing in response to the guest essay on Florida's redistricting process by the respective presidents of the League of Women Voters of Florida and of Collier County.

As a former member of the League of Women Voters of Collier County and a current member of the Florida House of Representatives' Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee, I am disappointed by the league's statements and I feel compelled to set the record straight.

The Florida Redistricting Committee researched the redistricting process of every other state in the country, and I can honestly say the Florida Legislature's engagement of its citizenry in the once-a-decade process of redistricting our legislative and congressional boundaries is more open and transparent than in any other state.

For example, this summer the Legislature is hosting 26 meetings throughout Florida, including one in Naples on Aug. 31, to take public input. The Legislature has also made its redistricting software and data available online to the public via www.floridaredistricting.org. Furthermore, the Legislature is using an unprecedented level of social media to give Floridians an opportunity to participate throughout the redistricting process.

The bottom line is that the Legislature is offering Floridians the opportunity to start the redistricting conversation without any preconceived notions on the table, yet the league continues to berate the Legislature for not providing maps of the proposed districts before hearing from the public.

This position is perplexing because 10 years ago the league proposed legislative and congressional maps for consideration prior to the time that the maps were drawn by the Legislature. In fact, for more than 30 years the league has campaigned for many of the redistricting standards recently adopted by Florida voters in November 2010, Amendments 5 and 6. Yet just last month, the league's first vice president, Pamela Goodman, emailed the chairman of our House Redistricting Committee to say that, "I want to make it very clear that NO local league, or the Florida State League, is currently planning on developing any redistricting maps." So after 30 years of campaigning and drawing maps during the previous redistricting, suddenly the league's leadership has issued what appears to be a "gag" order on its members from offering specific suggestions in this redistricting.

For years I have greatly respected the mission of the league, encouraging "informed and active participation in government." That is why I am troubled by the league's recent comments that its members will not fully participate this time.

I am also disappointed in the league's comments because I can now say with confidence that we need the direct input of Florida's many diverse communities. Recently I attended redistricting meetings in Northeast, North Central and the Panhandle of Florida. We heard from hundreds of Floridians who supported Florida's new redistricting legal standards. Yet, from one meeting to the next we also heard how different communities believe those standards should apply to their communities.

It would have been nothing short of pure arrogance to have arrived at those communities with maps in hand before hearing from the citizens in those communities. Interestingly enough, this very point was agreed to by the framers of Amendments 5 and 6. In 2009, a principal author of Amendments 5 and 6, Jon Mills, wrote that the intent of the new redistricting standards is for the public to "have the opportunity to comment before and after the Legislature draws the initial maps." In 2010, the chairperson for FloridaFairDistricts.org, Ellen Freidin, told a joint legislative committee that it would be impossible to draw "compliant" or "appropriate" maps until after the Legislature has first heard from the public.

As a citizen legislator, my basic goal with this issue and any other is to represent the voice of my constituents. With the issue of redistricting, opportunities for citizens to guide their legislators' decisions only come once a decade. To date, I can report that we are in receipt of 12 proposed maps from Florida residents, an additional 68 proposals in writing and we have heard the testimony of approximately 470 Floridians from the first nine of our 26 public hearings.

I am proud that the state of Florida is taking the lead on offering its citizens the opportunity to make a real difference in deciding how they wish their districts to be drawn.

Going forward, I hope that the League of Women Voters and all other groups who are interested in this very important process will join with the Legislature and the citizens of the state of Florida to draw our new districts in accordance with the standards and principals of our representative democracy.

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Read More: <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2011/jul/26/guest-essay-rep-kathleen-passidomo-other-side-redi/>

Rep. Rouson awaits redrawing of district

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
August 15, 2011

By: Jeremy Wallace

Even though State Rep. Darryl Rouson lives in Pinellas County, the Democrat knows there is a good chance he will end up being the voice for even more people from Sarasota and Manatee counties in the Florida Legislature.

Because of population shifts during the last 10 years, Rouson's Pinellas County-based District 55 has to add more than 20,000 people next year to be evenly balanced with the 119 other Florida House districts. And many of those people might be primed to come from Manatee and Sarasota counties.

"I honestly don't know what is going to happen," the region's only Democrat in the Florida House. "It probably is a district that is very likely to change."

How it changes will be a key part of a public hearing later this month in Sarasota. The Florida Legislature is holding a special meeting at 6 p.m. on Aug. 30 at the Sudakoff Center on the New College of Florida campus to hear residents' views on how to redraw District 55 and the rest of the region's five House districts and three Senate districts. The Legislature is not expected to draw new maps until early 2012.

One potential is that Rouson's already heavily gerrymandered District 55 will become more so as it picks up more parts of Sarasota and Manatee counties to give it the necessary 150,000 people to be balanced. The district already stretches more than 30 miles from Midtown in St. Petersburg to downtown Sarasota.

Rouson said the district was drawn to ensure minority communities could have a better chance of electing a member to the Legislature. But Rouson said the entire district is in limbo now because of a new state constitutional amendment that calls for more compact districts. Rouson said there will be opposite pressures to have his district retreat entirely from Sarasota and Manatee to comply with the new amendment. That would put the heavily Democratic voting communities Rouson now represents in more Republican districts that neighbor Rouson's now.

Rouson said he is very comfortable representing Sarasota and Manatee, but knows those areas could be taken away from his district completely through redistricting.

"I can't worry about any of it," said Rouson, an attorney who was elected to the Legislature in 2008. "I just have to be open-minded."

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Read More: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20110815/ARCHIVES/108151018/-1/todayspaper?Title=Rep-Rouson-awaits-redrawing-of-district&tc=ar>

Bonita Springs wants to be one district

Fort Myers News-Press
August 16, 2011

By: Mark S. Krzos

The idea behind reconfiguring Florida's congressional and state legislative districts every 10 years is to provide equal representation among voters.

But some say it's hard to see how Bonita Springs benefits from the way district lines are currently drawn.

On Wednesday, the Bonita Springs City Council will vote on a resolution urging the Florida Legislature to draw Florida Senate district lines so that only one senator will represent the entire city.

In 2002, a sliver of Bonita Springs became District 37 and the rest of the city and a good chunk of Lee County became part of District 27, which also represented votes in Charlotte, Glades and rural sections of Palm Beach County.

Garrett Richter, R-Naples, currently represents Collier County, Bonita and Lee County beach communities and most of Cape Coral.

Lizbeth Benacquisto, R-Fort Myers, represents most of Bonita Springs, eastern Lee and Charlotte counties, southern Glades and rural Palm Beach counties.

"How can you represent everyone in that narrow band that runs across the state?" said Bonita Mayor Ben Nelson. "I don't think those lines were drawn with the best interests of the public."

While Richter said the goal of having compact districts where political leanings are balanced isn't easy, the attempt is being made. He also said he thinks Bonita's request is feasible.

"I don't think that's an unreasonable request at all," he said.

City Manager Carl Schwing said his staff is working on a new map that would put Bonita in one district.

"Council asked us to take a look at it," Schwing said. "We think the city will be better served if it's all in one district that reflects a homogenous view."

New districts should not be drawn to favor an incumbent or political party, according to floridaredistricting.org.

The city's proposal shows Bonita in the center of the district that runs from Marco Island north along the west side of Interstate 75 with only a chunk between Immokalee Road in Collier north to Alico Road in Lee extending east.

Schwing said he'll present the new district map, which encompasses 463,523 people, in August.

The state's effort in asking cities, counties and voters to help draw new lines should eliminate accusations of gerrymandering, Nelson said.

"I don't think the process was as open back (in 2002) as it is now," Nelson said. "It's pretty open and we're hoping there's a better chance to come up with a more logical boundary."

Bonita Bay resident John Warfield hopes so.

"It definitely needs to be fixed," said Warfield, a former Bonita Springs councilman.

"There's such an extreme difference between the East Coast and West Coast of Florida."

Public hearings on the redistricting will be at 8 a.m. Aug. 31 in The Naples Daily News community room and at 5 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Veterans Park gymnasium in Lehigh Acres, 55 Homestead Road.

"These fractured districts preclude our ability to speak with one voice as a community," Marion County Republican Executive Committee Chairman Roy Abshier told legislators during a July 13 redistricting meeting in Gainesville.

In a show of solidarity, the leadership of Marion County's Republican and Democratic parties have submitted a joint letter to the Legislature pushing for the county of more than 330,000 to have its own state Senate district.

That's already the case in the Florida House, where District 24, the seat held by Ocala Republican Dennis Baxley, lies completely within Marion County.

But there has not been a state senator from Marion County since 1993, when Dunnellon Democrat Karen Thurman left the Legislature for Congress.

For Alachua County, the last round of redistricting following the 2000 Census did consolidate the political voice in the Florida Senate. Previously divided between three Senate districts, the whole of the county was placed in a redrawn District 14 — the seat now held by Cross Creek Republican Steve Oelrich.

That is not the case in the Florida House. Alachua County Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections Will Boyett pointed to the small southwest county municipality of Archer to show how the current district lines divide some communities. The city of Archer is divided between three House districts, including Florida House District 10, which covers all or parts of 10 counties,

stretching to the Panhandle and the state line and slicing through a small piece of Alachua County.

District 10 Democrat Alan Bembry's main district office is in Madison, approximately 101 miles from Archer City Hall.

"Their concerns are being cut off from their neighbors and the other rural areas of the county," Boyett said.

Archer has 650 registered voters in District 10; 40 in District 11 and 10 in District 22. That contributes to the county elections office having to provide five different ballots for the city's voting precinct.

Marion County Supervisor of Elections Dee Brown said logistical troubles and confusion would result if the large retirement communities along the State Road 200 corridor get split up between multiple districts.

"It would be chaos," she said.

The redistricting timeline is a cause of concern for elections officials in Alachua, Marion and across Florida. The 2012 Legislature plans to move up its 60-day regular session start time to January. Depending on how long legislators take, the subsequent review of redrawn districts by the Attorney General's Office, the Florida Supreme Court and then the U.S. Department of Justice could stretch to June 15, 2012. Meanwhile, the qualifying week for state and local offices runs from June 4-8.

Brown said the typical plea that elections officials make to legislators is to "get it done" so voters and potential candidates know what district they are in well before the election.

"It would be helpful if they had a different schedule for this so the timeline isn't so tight," Carpenter said.

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Read More: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20110816/NEWS0102/108160335/Bonita-Springs-wants-one-district>

Bonita staff asked to rethink redistricting

Fort Myers News-Press
August 17, 2011

By: Mark S. Krzos

The Bonita Springs City Council is sending city staff back to the redistricting drawing board.

City Manager Carl Schwing said his staff put together several maps for new Florida House and Senate districts, each showing the city being in one — instead of two — state Senate districts.

“We need to make sure Bonita isn’t split up into two districts,” Schwing said.

But council members at Wednesday morning’s meeting said none of the proposed maps solves all the issues at hand.

Bonita is currently divided between Senate Districts 27 and 37. Schwing and the council said they don’t want to see a repeat of 2002 when the wealthy Bonita Beach area became part of District 37 and the rest of the city went to District 27.

District 37 comprised Collier County and most of the beach communities in Lee, while District 27 represented voters in most of Lee and sections of Charlotte, Glades and rural Palm Beach counties.

Now, after the 2010 census, new Florida congressional and state legislative districts are being drawn with help of local governments and residents.

While council members agreed they want Bonita Springs to be in one Florida Senate district, they said they still have concerns.

A proposed Senate map shows Bonita in the center of one district that runs from Marco Island north along the west side of Interstate 75 with only a chunk between Immokalee Road in Collier north to Alico Road in Lee extending east.

Another proposed map shows Bonita in the center of a district that runs south from the Caloosahatchee River to Alligator Alley and Pine Ridge Road in Collier and from Punta Rassa east to State Road 29.

Councilwoman Martha Simons said she wants to see Bonita more connected to Lee County.

“I don’t want to see it extended all the way to Vanderbilt Beach,” she said.

Schwing warned that putting Bonita too close to the southern boundary of the new district could force another split.

“We could take in Lehigh Acres and shift the southern boundary (in Collier) north,” he said. “If we shift too far north, we’ll expose ourselves as being too close to the edge.”

Councilman John Spear said one way to avoid that is by coming up with a more alternatives.

The first local public hearings on redistricting will be Wednesday, Aug. 31. There’s one at 8 a.m. in The Naples Daily News community room, and another at 5 p.m. at the Veterans Park gymnasium in Lehigh Acres, 55 Homestead Road.

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Read More: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20110818/NEWS0102/110817052/Bonita-staff-asked-rethink-redistricting>

State schedules redistricting meetings

Belleaire Bee
August 19, 2011

The population of Florida grew by nearly three million people in the 10 years between 2000 and 2010. That means changes will be made to Florida's congressional, state Senate and state House member districts.

In 2012, the Legislature will redraw the state's congressional districts as well as districts for Florida's House and Senate seats. The number of congressional districts in Florida will increase from 25 to 27. In general, districts are redrawn to accommodate population changes and ensure that district populations are as nearly equal in number as practicable.

Reapportionment Committee members will be conducting a series of public hearings throughout Florida to gather public input on the redistricting process.

Two public hearings will be conducted in Pinellas County. The first is Thursday, Aug. 25, 4 to 7:30 p.m., in the Tarpon Springs City Commission Auditorium, 324 E. Pine St., Tarpon Springs. The public meeting in Tarpon Springs is coordinated by state Rep. Peter Nehr. Call 943-4880.

The second is Tuesday, Aug. 30, 8 to 11 a.m., at St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, 13805 58th St. N., Largo. The meeting at the EpiCenter is coordinated by the Florida Redistricting Committee and House, Senate and congressional redistricting sub-committees. Call 850-487-5855.

For more information on redistricting, visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

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Speak up for fair voting districts

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
August 21, 2011

The people of Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties will have only one chance to tell a panel of Florida legislators — face to face and close to home — what they think of the state's redistricting process. We hope citizens make the most of it.

The special panel, which is conducting more than two dozen public meetings across Florida, will have just one in this region. It will be held Tuesday, Aug. 30, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Harry Sudakoff Conference Center on the New College campus.

People unable to attend can submit comments online via email, Facebook and Twitter, and watch the meeting online. Details are available on a Florida House website, www.floridaredistricting.org.

Just don't expect to learn anything new. The lawmakers won't redraw the state's district maps until the next legislative session convenes in January.

But, whether attending in person or participating online, the public should make one thing clear to the legislators: They need to honor the wishes of the 63 percent of Florida voters who last year approved state constitutional amendments that establish standards for fair and equitable voting districts for congressional and legislative elections.

A simple formula

The amendments' formula is simple: The districts — which by law must be redrawn every 10 years following the U.S. Census — must, whenever possible, be compact and contiguous. They should follow city, county and geographic boundaries and not favor any political party or incumbent. Similar guidelines are now used in 44 other states.

Yet, this simple formula upends a decades-old, partisan spoils system by which the party that controls the Legislature draws districts designed to perpetuate that hold.

Democrats did it when they were in power, and Republicans have become so skilled in gerrymandering that they now control 109 of the Legislature's 160 seats and 19 of Florida's 25 congressional districts — despite the Democrats' 600,000 edge in registered voters statewide.

Even more than a partisan tool, the old system has been an incumbent protection plan. While creating heavy majorities for itself in most legislative and congressional districts, the party in power concentrates equally heavy majorities for the minority party in far fewer districts. Before last November's election, the Florida Times-Union reported that over the previous 10 years, of the 505 incumbent legislators who ran for re-election, only 10 lost.

The old system thus distorts representation of the electorate and prevents competitive elections. That's why voters chose overwhelmingly to change it.

But those who benefit from the old system are determined to preserve it. The constitutionality of the new amendments is being challenged in lawsuit filed by two members of Congress — one

Democrat and one Republican — and by the Republican-controlled Florida House. The suit is scheduled to be heard in Miami federal court Sept. 9.

Legislative interpretation

Even if upheld by the courts, the amendments would be left to the interpretation of legislators — including members of the panel holding the statewide meetings — who have openly opposed them and who are determined to ensure that the new districts maintain their party's control of the Legislature and the state's congressional districts.

Control won't be the issue. Many political experts, both Republican and Democratic, expect the GOP to retain the upper hand —even if they meet standards set under the new amendments.

"The Republican leaders in the Legislature can draw districts that will easily let them maintain strong majorities, Steve Schale, a Democratic strategist who directed President Obama's 2008 Florida campaign, told the Palm Beach Post. "But they can't be greedy."

Once the Legislature creates and approves the new district maps, the plan for legislative districts will be subject to the Florida Supreme Court's approval. Then, because of a history of racial discrimination in some Florida counties, both the legislative and the congressional maps must pass muster with the U.S. Department of Justice.

And, if the redistricting plans clear those hurdles, they almost certainly will face legal challenges from political or citizens groups.

All of these deadlines and obstacles must be overcome before candidates for state and federal office can qualify for next year's elections. Qualifying is scheduled for June 4-8.

So legislators — both those on the special panel and their colleagues in next year's regular session — have their work cut out for them. They can make their jobs easier — and honor the wishes of a large majority of Florida voters — if they adhere to the basic standards set forth in the two amendments.

Citizens throughout the state have been reminding the special panel of the public's expectations and of the Legislature's constitutional duty. We urge our readers to join that call for fair voting districts.

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Exclusive: Redistricting - Drawing The Lines

Marco Island Sun Times
August 22, 2011

By: Bob Rathgeber

The legislative road show from Pensacola to Key West designed to discuss the realignment of the state's political maps has illuminated the anger and frustration of Florida voters.

"It's been fascinating," said Rep. Trudi Williams, R-south Fort Myers. "There are an awfully lot of angry folks out there. They hate us. It really startled me, the rage of some of these folks. "They don't just hate us, they despise us."

Wrapping up 10 weeks of meetings, the state committees studying redistricting wind up their public forms when they come to Southwest Florida next week with stops in Lehigh Acres, Naples and Clewiston.

The ACLU, League of Women Voters, NAACP and members of Common Cause have turned out in force since the legislative "listening tour" began in late June.

"We want to thank the Legislature for handing us a wonderful organizing tool all around the state," said Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Florida.

The biggest complaint about the forums has been there are no draft maps to comment on. The state constitution prohibits the Legislature from drawing maps prior to 2012, but, Simon contends, "it says nothing about draft maps."

Among those tasked to gather public input is Rep. Matt Caldwell, R-Lehigh Acres, who says many of those who have attended meetings can be split into two groups.

"There are the truly interested citizens who have unique questions and opinions," Caldwell said. "The other group comes with scripts.

"They're antagonistic toward the Legislature," he said. "They've been suggesting that we're trying to fool the citizenry ... that we've already drawn maps in a secret room. "If that's the case, they haven't given me the key to the room."

'A waste of time'

Doug Wilson, an attorney who is the ACLU chairman in Collier County, plans to speak at the Naples meeting.

"This idea of holding hearings on how to draw the maps is a waste of time," Wilson said.

Drawing the maps, however, is anything but trivial. In fact, it is likely the most important job the current 160 legislators will face in their Tallahassee tenure. Why? Because it will dictate state politics for the next 10 years and leave a political footprint for decades.

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Redistricting talks are a lot of hot air

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
August 24, 2011

Talk about a waste of time and money.

Next Tuesday, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Sudakoff Conference Center at New College of Sarasota, a panel of state legislators will field comments about how to draw the district boundaries for state and congressional elections.

Apparently, these lawmakers weren't listening the first time.

You may remember, in 2010, when we told them we wanted the boundaries drawn in a manner as fair as possible, one that does not favor any particular office holder or political party?

Well, nothing has changed since then.

Our intentions could not have been more clear. We enunciated them in a statewide vote and directed that they be enacted as amendments to the Florida Constitution.

Of course, there are details to be worked out. But the supervisors of elections have already identified logical geographic boundaries and communities of common culture that should be left intact. With the help of computers, the Legislature should have little difficulty drawing lines that honor the wishes of the public.

Forty-four other states are supposedly doing it this way.

One problem. In Florida, the public interest and the self-interest of the lawmakers, including those on the traveling panel, do not coincide.

Our lawmakers have two principal goals in setting up district boundaries: 1. to get themselves re-elected; 2. to get other members of their political party elected or re-elected.

If fairness enters the picture, it's pure coincidence.

The cynicism is warranted. For instance, the state House of Representatives has already joined a lawsuit arguing that the fair districting amendment is unconstitutional.

So, the legislators are hopping around the state pretending to listen to what we want in regard to redistricting; while at the same time they're trying to undo what we've already told them we want with redistricting.

The only consistency in their behavior is that they're spending our money to do both. It's a screwy system, but it's all we've got for now. Those of us who won't give up can go to next week's hearing or submit messages to mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov; or facebook.com/mydistrictbuilder; or twitter.com/FLRedistricting.

But perhaps we could deliver a more effective message by paying close attention and refusing to vote for any incumbent who supports a politically motivated realignment of the districts.

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Congressional, state redistricting panel comes to Naples on Wednesday

Naples Daily News
August 27, 2011

By: Tracy Miguel

NAPLES — Florida lawmakers want to hear from communities statewide before redrawing Florida's legislative and congressional district boundaries.

On the final leg of their tour of more than 25 stops, legislators are coming to North Naples on Wednesday.

Florida legislators must redraw the state's legislative and congressional lines every decade based on U.S. Census information to reflect population changes in each district.

With redistricting on the horizon, lawmakers have held hearings to discover what residents believe is important in their community and what they want in order to provide for equal representation.

"We believe that it is important to listen to the people of your area and get ideas before we draw lines," said state Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, chairman of the Senate Reapportionment Committee.

A public redistricting meeting is slated from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday in the community room of the Naples Daily News building at 1100 Immokalee Road, North Naples. Seating is limited and there is an RSVP form **by clicking here**.

“The purpose for next week is for the public to be able to share how they want their community represented,” said state Rep. Matt Hudson, R-Naples. “I would much better see the citizens of Collier County say how they want to be represented, as opposed to the Legislature mandated.”

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, two new congressional districts will be added to the state’s current 25 seats as a result of the climbing population in Florida. The number of seats in the 120-member state House and 40-member Senate remains unchanged.

Moreover, it is likely that the state House and Senate district boundaries will change as a result of growth and movement of population in Southwest Florida, Gaetz said.

Florida’s population grew by more than a million people — from nearly 16 million people 10 years ago to 18.8 million in the latest count, the U.S. Census Bureau reports.

Collier County’s total population saw a 28 percent increase, from 251,377 in 2000 to 321,520 in 2010.

For the first time, residents can draw their own maps for their community or entire state by visiting www.flsenate.gov/redistricting.

Results of the congressional and legislative redistricting should be determined for Florida during the 2012 legislative session, which starts in January.

Hudson is encouraging community participation.

As the maps are drawn, Rep. Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, said she wants Collier County’s voice heard as equally as other communities’.

“I want my fellow legislators to hear how my community wants to be apportioned,” Passidomo said.

About 25 members of the Legislature are expected to attend Wednesday’s session, including Passidomo.

“I’m looking forward to hearing from people in my community,” said Passidomo, who is on the congressional redistricting subcommittee.

So far, the process has been helpful to learn about other Florida communities, she said.

Passidomo’s District 76, which includes the cities of Naples and Marco Island, had a population decrease. Passidomo’s district boundaries probably will grow, she said.

Hudson’s District 101 population has increased.

Marlene Gargan, chairwoman of the Collier County Democratic Executive Committee, plans to attend the public meeting Wednesday. Collier County Republican Executive Committee Chairman Frank Schwerin couldn't be reached for comment.

Although Gargan hasn't seen any maps yet, she is interested in a change of political lines.

Gargan said she wants to eliminate the combined east coast to west coast districts, such as the current Congressional District 25 and House District 101, which sprawls two coasts.

Instead, Gargan wants district lines drawn to keep communities together, including all the rural communities and coastal communities because they share common interests and needs, she said.

Moreover, Gargan would like for one of the two new congressional district seats to come to Collier County or Bonita Springs, she said.

"I just hope they do entertain all the comments that the public has expressed concern over," Gargan said.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live web stream provided by the Florida Channel at www.thefloridachannel.org.

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Read More: <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2011/aug/27/congressional-state-redistricting-panel-comes-napl/>

Florida's redistricting: Where are the maps?

St. Petersburg Times
August 29, 2011

By: Mary Ellen Klas

TALLAHASSEE — Florida legislators bring the contentious redistricting road show to the western half of the state this week as they work to persuade doubters that they really aren't interested in drawing legislative maps to protect themselves or their parties.

The goal of the final six public hearings, from Tampa to Naples and Clewiston, is to listen to the public, said Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, and Rep. Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel.

But it's all one big gamble. Two constitutional amendments approved by voters in 2010 force lawmakers to do something that was anathema to them during most of Florida's political history — redraw legislative and congressional districts without favoring any incumbent or party.

If their maps leave the appearance of self-protection, they will draw lawsuits and, potentially, a court-ordered plan. If the legal process drags on for weeks, or months, it could affect the candidate filing deadline in June, complicate primary elections and confuse voters.

Republican legislators are counting on the public hearings to provide them the legal ground they need to draw maps that can avoid a court plan. Lawsuits, they conclude, are unavoidable.

"The process does set the Legislature and the courts up because we're not going to make everybody happy," Gaetz said.

Instead, Gaetz and Weatherford say they hope to use the wide-ranging testimony from the public hearings to provide the road map for how they draw their maps.

"I have received no legal counsel telling me what needs to be in the hearings," Gaetz said. The Senate has hired Mike Carvin, a partner with the Washington law firm of Jones Day, who had advised them to "do the hearings and make sure the broadest range of opinion is represented."

But Democrats counter that the hearings are a waste of time intended to delay the process in order to protect incumbent legislators and members of Congress, the majority of whom are Republicans.

"I'm not sure they're trying to make a record as much as they're trying to stall," said Dan Gelber, lawyer for Fair Districts Now, the Democrat-backed group that pushed to pass Amendments 5 and 6 in 2010. Gelber is a former state senator.

Florida's Constitution requires that legislators wait until at least January 2012 to vote on redistricting. Legislators have used that as a reason to accelerate the regular session schedule from March to January and have agreed to start drawing maps this fall when committees begin meeting in mid September.

In 2002, the first committee hearings weren't conducted until October and maps weren't debated until January. That year, however, lawmakers barely beat the deadline for candidate filing — which was in July.

Gelber said legislative leaders know that the new constitutional language could cause a lengthy court review and probable lawsuits, which would likely delay final districts even longer this time. Any delay, he said, will make it difficult for challengers to get into a race, helping incumbents who are likely to be better known.

"It's a huge advantage for incumbents and a huge disadvantage for voters — who will have an election that is just going to be chaotic," he said.

At nearly every one of the 20 hearings so far, legislators have heard a steady drumbeat of scolds from distrustful voters. Constituents have complained that lawmakers are conducting hearings before drawing maps, adhering to an antiquated redistricting schedule and wasting taxpayer money by fighting voters in court.

"The Legislature's timetable to get final districts is just days before candidates are required to file for their seats," said Burnadette Norris-Weeks, an attorney for the Broward County Supervisors of Elections at a public hearing in Davie this month.

She warned that the late schedule will lead to candidate confusion and embarrassment. "If you create districts where there is again major problems, we'll be the laughingstock of the country."

Gaetz and Weatherford vigorously defend the time line, saying they have accelerated the legislative session two months to vote out a plan.

"If everyone in the process takes all the time they could take, we could be in a crunch," Gaetz acknowledged. "My objective is that we not take all the time that we legally can."

The Republican leaders say their job is made easier when the public offers up suggestions. "There needs to be a rationale for why new districts are drawn," Gaetz said. He notes that 21 maps have already been proposed and that any legislators may propose a map at any time.

Meanwhile, the cost of redistricting continues to mount — even before the first official map is drawn.

The House and Senate have spent \$3 million so far with most of it, \$2.5 million, paying lawyers to attempt to defeat the game-changing constitutional amendments approved by voters last year, according to records obtained by the Times/Herald.

The invoices don't detail the reasons for the expense, but the House is paying the law firm of former state Rep. Miguel DeGrandy and the former law firm of House Speaker Dean Cannon to represent them in a case challenging the constitutionality of Amendment 6, which sets standards for congressional redistricting.

The House has spent \$1.7 million for that case and for a failed attempt to get an alternative amendment on the ballot in 2010. The Senate has spent \$650,000, most of it last year, to defend the Legislature's attempt to weaken Amendments 5 and 6. The Senate has not joined with the House in the legal challenge.

The hearings have cost the House \$48,025 through July, according to the invoices. The Senate has spent \$10,090 for the same time period.

Costs include staff travel, including \$80 in per diem expenses, legal advertising, court reporters and interpreters.

Those expenses often don't go over well with the public.

"Why are we doing this?" asked Elizabeth Pines of the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County, whose group has been one of the most vocal critics at the hearings. "It's time to get to work."

Legislators listen, and bite their tongues. They have been counseled by leadership to say nothing or it may be interpreted as incumbency protection.

At the end of each public hearing, Gaetz makes a statement and responds politely to the stream of criticism. His speech is getting longer each time.

He notes that other states that have completed their redistricting maps abide by different rules. Louisiana, for example, finished its redistricting this year because its elections are this year. Illinois also completed the job, he said, but only after the Legislature offered up a "take it or leave it proposition."

"We will move the process as quickly as we can," he told the crowd at the Davie hearing, "given the fact we have 160 opinions in the House and the Senate."

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Editorial: It's worth attending redistricting events

Ft. Myers News-Press
August 30, 2011

Southwest Florida hosts legislators today and Thursday to hear the public's views about redistricting.

Every 10 years the Florida Legislature meets to redraw legislative and congressional district lines to reflect shifts in population, based on the census.

The Legislature will be meeting over the next few weeks to discuss new maps and will approve them at the beginning of 2012.

Redistricting affects residents' representation in Tallahassee and Washington, and can affect the amount of federal and state funding an area receives.

These are your taxpayer dollars. You should be involved. Attend these meetings and have your say.

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Published Opinion Editorials

Let's talk redistricting

Tampa Tribune
August 26, 2011

This summer, lawmakers from across the state will begin the process of redrawing Florida's legislative and congressional district boundaries. This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the U.S. Constitution. In keeping with the Sunshine State's strong commitment to transparency, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools and resources that you need to impact the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, we are making your community aware that Florida's legislators are hosting a series of 26 public input meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

We travel next to Southwest Florida for public redistricting meetings. On the final leg of our tour we will stop in Tampa at the Jefferson High School Auditorium on Monday from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. We head to Largo on Tuesday for hearings at the EpiCenter at St. Pete College from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., and then to Sarasota to New College of Florida from 6 p.m. until 9.

We will host a meeting in Naples on Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Naples Daily News community room before heading to Lehigh Acres at the Veterans' Park Gymnasium from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Our travels end in Clewiston on Sept. 1 from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Hendry County Health Department.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you, not for politicians to stand on their soapboxes. We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community.

We will provide Floridians with opportunities to ask questions throughout the process; however, legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you. The meetings will also give residents of Collier, Hendry and Hillsborough counties, all of which are jurisdictions covered by Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act, the opportunity to comment on the impact of redistricting to their unique communities.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live Web stream provided by the Florida Channel at www.thefloridachannel.org. If you cannot attend or tune in to the stream there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

We invite you to visit the Web pages launched by both the House of Representatives (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Senate (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting). Both sites are filled with information about redistricting and allow users to create and submit your own

redistricting maps using the same data and tools that legislators will use to draw legislative and congressional boundaries.

The online district-building applications were created with you in mind and include training resources that can help you get started drawing your own plan. Demonstrations of the web applications will be set up outside of each community meeting, and everyone who will have the chance to ask House and Senate staffs about the applications and the redistricting process in general.

Floridians can also go online to submit comments, to access committee and public hearing schedules, or simply to keep up with the latest information on the process.

Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help construct their redistricting proposals.

This is your opportunity to help shape the districts that form the basis of your representation in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

We invite you to stay informed about the process through the tools and information online, and we hope that you will join us at one or more redistricting public hearings to make your voice heard.

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Read More: <http://www2.tbo.com/news/opinion/2011/aug/26/meopino2-lets-talk-redistricting-ar-252993/>

Guest opinion: We request your help, comments on redistricting

Ft. Myers News-Press
August 29, 2011

This summer, lawmakers from across the state will begin the process of redrawing Florida's legislative and congressional district boundaries.

This historic event happens just once every 10 years, as directed by the U.S. Constitution.

In keeping with the Sunshine State's strong commitment to transparency in government, the Florida Legislature has been working hard to ensure that you will have unprecedented access to all of the information, tools, and resources that you need to impact the redistricting process.

With that responsibility in mind, we invite you to the Florida Legislature's public input meetings on redistricting throughout the state.

On this final leg of our tour, we will stop in Largo today for a hearing at the EpiCenter at St. Pete College from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., and then to Sarasota to New College from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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Our travels end in Clewiston on Thursday, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Hendry County Health Department.

The purpose of these public hearings is to listen to you.

We want to get your thoughts about what you believe are the important facts and unique characteristics of your community.

Southwest Florida has changed dramatically in the last 10 years, and residents are facing new, unique challenges.

We will provide Floridians with opportunities to ask questions throughout the process; however, legislators will dedicate the time spent in your community to hearing from you.

The meetings will also give residents of Collier, Hendry and Hillsborough counties, all of which are jurisdictions covered by Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act, the opportunity to comment on the impact of redistricting to their unique communities.

Those who cannot attend but would like to listen to the meeting can access a live web stream provided by the Florida Channel at thefloridachannel.org.

If you cannot attend or tune-in to the webstream there are still many ways to actively participate in the redistricting process.

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Legislators will use your feedback, comments and submitted plans to help construct their redistricting proposals.

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Radio & TV

Timeline for Redistricting Drawing Fire

WCTV-TV CBS Tallahassee
August 23, 2011

By: Brandon Larrabee

As lawmakers move toward the end of their statewide tour to gather voters' input on the once-a-decade redistricting process, the timeline for the next step in the redrawing of the state's political maps is becoming more contentious.

A coalition of voting-rights groups, led by the League of Women Voters and supporters of the Fair Districts amendments, is pushing legislative redistricting committees to move forward with drawing proposed maps as quickly as possible.

Critics of the Legislature's somewhat vague timeline say mass chaos could follow if lawmakers don't approve maps soon enough to give the attorney general, Florida Supreme Court and Department of Justice enough time to review the plans well in advance of the June 18 opening date for qualifying.

Otherwise, would-be candidates will essentially have qualifying week -- from June 18 to June 22 -- to look at final maps and decide whether they want to make a bid.

"That's not an acceptable amount of time for candidates to figure out where their districts are and to start to run," said Senate Minority Leader Nan Rich, D-Weston.

Instead, voting rights groups are pushing for lawmakers to tee up the redistricting maps for a vote by the Jan. 13 end of the first week of the legislative session.

"We recognize that many measures come out of the Legislature with little or no public input into the final product," said a letter signed by the League, the NAACP, Common Cause Florida and Hispanic advocacy group Democracia USA. "But redistricting is too important for a 'Tallahassee special.' A timeline without the deadlines we suggest is a guaranteed recipe for disaster."

Members of the league have also showed up at the redistricting public hearings across the state to pound lawmakers for not setting up an early timeline.

After the letter was issued, House Speaker Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, fired back.

"Given the Leagues 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," Cannon said.

Supervisors of elections have also raised concerns about the problems that could be caused by maps being finalized in June.

Lawmakers involved in crafting the lines concede that Florida's process is one of the latest in the nation. But Senate Reapportionment Chairman Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, said that's because the state is one of the last to receive its redistricting data from the U.S. Census Bureau. And, he said, some of the states that have already drawn lines either hold their elections later this year or rammed through partisan plans.

Legislative leaders also say that they are captives, essentially, of a timeline laid out in the Florida Constitution, which requires them to approve the maps in 2012. House Redistricting Chairman Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, said last week that supporters of moving the timeline up had an opportunity to do that, if they wanted to.

"It would have been nice if the Fair Districts folks would have put that into the constitution," he said.

And lawmakers say they've done what they can by moving the legislative session up from its traditional starting date in March to January in an effort to pass the maps as quickly as possible.

"Florida did accelerate the process," Gaetz said. He added that his committee will take up at least some maps during its first pre-session meeting in September.

As for concerns with qualifying, Gaetz noted that candidates can get signatures for their qualifying petitions from any voter in the state of Florida for the 2012 elections -- without regard to district boundaries, as is usually the case.

"If you want to run for office in a redistricting year, it's actually easier to be a challenger and get petitions signed than in any other year," he said.

But Rich said she was unconvinced, particularly when faced with concerns from elections officials across the state.

"I think that a supervisor of elections of a major county understands more what is needed to pull off an election ... in which the state of Florida can be proud," she said.

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http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/Timeline_for_Redistricting_Drawing_Fire_128253083.html

Don't miss: Have your say in Florida redistricting

WTSP-TV News 10 Tampa
August 25, 2011

By: Bob Shackelford

Pinellas County -- Voters will get the chance to share their opinions on Florida's redistricting.

A public hearing will be held Thursday from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Tarpon Springs City Commission Auditorium to gather public input on the redistricting process. City Commission is located at 324 E. Pine Street.

Between 2000 and 2010, the population of Florida grew by nearly three million--meaning changes will be made to the state's congressional, state Senate and state House districts.

Next year, the Legislature will redraw the state's congressional districts as well as the districts for Florida's House and Senate seats. The number of congressional districts will grow from 25 to 27 seats.

Voters unable to attend Thursday's hearing can attend another on Tuesday, Aug. 30 at the St. Petersburg College EpiCenter--13805 58th St. N in Largo--from 1:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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Read More: <http://dunedin.wtsp.com/news/politics/77003-dont-miss-have-your-say-florida-redistricting>

Naples Daily News Call-In With Senator Gaetz

Date: Friday, August 26, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Duration: 5 mins
Host: Tracy Miguel-Navarro
Station: Naples Daily News
Topic: Public Redistricting meetings

Public Redistricting Meetings Held in Bay Area

WUSF 89.7 FM Tampa
August 29, 2011

By: Alex Cook

TAMPA (2011-8-29) - The Florida House and Senate redistricting committees are holding a public meeting in Tampa tonight, as part of a statewide tour to gather public opinion on how best to redraw district lines.

At these hearings, the public will be able to speak directly to Florida legislators with their concerns and ideas.

State representative Will Weatherford said legislators will consider the input from the public meetings when they sit down to redistrict the state.

"You know the hope is to start taking the information we received and start looking at different parts of the state," said Weatherford. "We'll start looking at different options as to how we can draw the maps both legally and making sure that we're protecting minority communities and giving them the ability to vote for candidates of their choice and at the same time reflecting what the citizens who show up at these hearings want."

The state's redistricting plans have come under scrutiny from the League of Women Voters, who argue that potential redistricting maps should be revealed to the public during these meetings instead of decided by legislators in private.

Tampa's public redistricting meeting is tonight, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Jefferson High School in downtown Tampa. More public meetings will be held in the Bay area tomorrow. Largo residents can meet with the redistricting committees tomorrow morning from 8:00 am to 11:00 am, and Sarasota's meeting will be from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm tomorrow night.

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Read More:

http://www.wusf.usf.edu/news/2011/08/29/public_redistricting_meetings_held_in_bay_area

WFSX 92.5FM Call-In With Representative Nehr

Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Duration: 15 mins
Host: Robin Wolf
Station: WFSX 92.5FM Ft. Myers
Topic: Public Redistricting meetings

WNOG 1270 AM Call-In With Representative Weatherford

Date: Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Time: 7:05 a.m.
Duration: 10 mins
Host: John Mountz,
Station: WNOG 1270 AM Naples
Topic: Public Redistricting meetings

Hundreds show up for redistricting meeting in Sarasota

WWSB-TV ABC Sarasota

August 30, 2011

SARASOTA - Hundreds packed an auditorium Tuesday night at New College of Florida to voice concerns over the state's redistricting maps. Every ten years, the electoral boundaries in Florida are redrawn when the results of the census are published.

This year however, there is some controversy. Last year, voters in Florida approved the Fair Districts Amendments, prohibiting gerrymandering when the redistricting maps are published. Still, voters aren't convinced that the Republican-controlled committees that will make the maps will be fair.

"We would like to see districts done in a way that puts communities together as much as possible, so they are not broken up in artificial ways just for somebody to reach a political end," said Doug Heinlen, a Suncoast resident who spoke at Tuesday's meeting.

Representative Peter Nehr, a republican from Pinellas County says, they committee board members will follow the law. "We are going to follow the law to the letter. There will be no favoring of any political party. The courts will make sure of that when they check our results," he said.

Rep. Nehr also says that the public will be able to voice their opinions a second time, once the maps are drawn up. "I can assure you that every single map that is out there will be reviewed by the public and allowed to be commented on before any votes are taken."

Committee board members will hold their first meeting on the redistricting maps on September 19th. The maps should be drawn sometime between January and March.

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Read More: http://www.mysuncoast.com/news/local/story/Hundreds-show-up-for-redistricting-meeting-in/-Nz-3eog_kKOt2CV-CgbOw.csp

Naples Daily NewsMakers with Jeff Lytle

Date:	Wednesday, August 31, 2011
Time:	11:00 a.m EDT
Duration:	30 mins
Host:	Jeff Lytle
Station:	WZVN-TV ABC Naples
Topic:	Public Redistricting meetings

Where should lawmakers draw district lines?

WINK-TV CBS Ft. Myers
August 31, 2011

NAPLES, Fla.- It's a hot topic every ten years: where should lawmakers draw district lines?

Legislators have been touring the state, asking Floridians that question. Wednesday, they stopped in Naples.

State lawmakers began this series of statewide public hearings in late June. They're wrapping them up with stops all over Southwest Florida. And they say, Wednesday's crowd in Naples was the best they've seen yet when it came to offering civilized debate and constructive ideas.

In 2012, lawmakers will be tasked with redrawing the states congressional districts as well as districts for Florida House and Senate seats. The sunshine state will gain two congressional districts thanks to the most recent census. Lawmakers opted to go on this public hearing tour without having proposed maps to show constituents. That's drawn the ire of some, but they insist the process would have seemed too deliberate had they come with maps already drawn.

Local Senators Benaquisto and Richter were both in attendance today. They each share representation of parts of Bonita Springs. Bonita Mayor Ben Nelson asked lawmakers to consider redrawing the lines to keep the entire city in one district, an idea many didn't even know was a concern until Wednesday.

There's another public meeting tonight at 6 p.m. in Lehigh Acres, followed by a final meeting tomorrow morning in Clewiston.

By mid-September, lawmakers will start meeting in committee to hash out the details in order to be ready for debate when session starts on January 10th.

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Read More: <http://www.winknews.com/Local-Florida/2011-08-31/Where-should-lawmakers-draw-district-lines>

Redistricting meeting held in Naples

WZVN-TV ABC Naples
August 31, 2011

NAPLES, FL - Southwest Florida residents packed a public forum in Naples about statewide redistricting. Residents told the 24 legislators in attendance about how they think lines should be drawn.

Most residents say all they want is fair input and representation.

Currently the state is divided into 25 U.S. Congressional districts.

By law, the district lines have to be redrawn every ten years.

Because of a population increase, according to the latest census data, Florida gained two congressional districts.

Redistricting will be decided by legislators because of Amendments 5 & 6 that passed last November.

Residents who spoke expressed concerns they would lose representation and that politicians would redraw lines to gain support for their political affiliation – or stall the vote until it's too late for new candidates to run and win.

"It's time for us to do the job and make sure that all Floridians are represented- not just one political party," said resident Steven Hempling.

"We are able to make substantive comments. Not only do we want these maps to be fair to citizens but we want to look at it and say- district 4 is not right here," said Annisa Karim.

There is another redistricting meeting Wednesday night in Lehigh Acres at Veterans Park Recreation Center at 55 Homestead Road South. It begins at 6 p.m.

Legislators say they would like to vote on new boundaries in the next legislative session which begins in January 2012.

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Read More: <http://www.abc-7.com/story/15367084/2011/08/31/redistricting-meeting-held-in-naples>

Online & Blogs

Timeline for Redistricting Drawing Fire

News Service of Florida
August 23, 2011

By: Brandon Larrabee

As lawmakers move toward the end of their statewide tour to gather voters' input on the once-a-decade redistricting process, the timeline for the next step in the redrawing of the state's political maps is becoming more contentious.

A coalition of voting-rights groups, led by the League of Women Voters and supporters of the Fair Districts amendments, is pushing legislative redistricting committees to move forward with drawing proposed maps as quickly as possible.

Critics of the Legislature's somewhat vague timeline say mass chaos could follow if lawmakers don't approve maps soon enough to give the attorney general, Florida Supreme Court and Department of Justice enough time to review the plans well in advance of the June 18 opening date for qualifying.

Otherwise, would-be candidates will essentially have qualifying week -- from June 18 to June 22 -- to look at final maps and decide whether they want to make a bid.

"That's not an acceptable amount of time for candidates to figure out where their districts are and to start to run," said Senate Minority Leader Nan Rich, D-Weston.

Instead, voting rights groups are pushing for lawmakers to tee up the redistricting maps for a vote by the Jan. 13 end of the first week of the legislative session.

"We recognize that many measures come out of the Legislature with little or no public input into the final product," said a letter signed by the League, the NAACP, Common Cause Florida and Hispanic advocacy group Democracia USA. "But redistricting is too important for a 'Tallahassee special.' A timeline without the deadlines we suggest is a guaranteed recipe for disaster."

Members of the league have also showed up at the redistricting public hearings across the state to pound lawmakers for not setting up an early timeline.

After the letter was issued, House Speaker Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, fired back.

"Given the Leagues 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," Cannon said.

Supervisors of elections have also raised concerns about the problems that could be caused by maps being finalized in June.

Lawmakers involved in crafting the lines concede that Florida's process is one of the latest in the nation. But Senate Reapportionment Chairman Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, said that's because the state is one of the last to receive its redistricting data from the U.S. Census Bureau. And, he said, some of the states that have already drawn lines either hold their elections later this year or rammed through partisan plans.

Legislative leaders also say that they are captives, essentially, of a timeline laid out in the Florida Constitution, which requires them to approve the maps in 2012. House Redistricting Chairman Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, said last week that supporters of moving the timeline up had an opportunity to do that, if they wanted to.

"It would have been nice if the Fair Districts folks would have put that into the constitution," he said.

And lawmakers say they've done what they can by moving the legislative session up from its traditional starting date in March to January in an effort to pass the maps as quickly as possible.

"Florida did accelerate the process," Gaetz said. He added that his committee will take up at least some maps during its first pre-session meeting in September.

As for concerns with qualifying, Gaetz noted that candidates can get signatures for their qualifying petitions from any voter in the state of Florida for the 2012 elections -- without regard to district boundaries, as is usually the case.

"If you want to run for office in a redistricting year, it's actually easier to be a challenger and get petitions signed than in any other year," he said.

But Rich said she was unconvinced, particularly when faced with concerns from elections officials across the state.

"I think that a supervisor of elections of a major county understands more what is needed to pull off an election ... in which the state of Florida can be proud," she said.

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Mayor Wants to Stay 'Whole' in Redistricting Process

Dunedin.Patch.com
August 23, 2011

Mayor Dave Eggers said he is voicing Dunedin's desire to stay "whole" as officials begin redrawing the voting districts.

Florida's population has increased by nearly 3 million since 2000, according to 2010 U.S. Census data. Florida will gain two congressional seats in the 2012 elections, which is why congressional, state Senate and state House districts will have to be redrawn. This process ensures that all voting districts have equal (or nearly equal) populations when elections roll around.

For now, Dunedin's state representation is split between two districts for both the House (Districts 45 and 50) and Senate (Districts 11 and 13). Dunedin is represented by one U.S. House member (District 10). Florida has two U.S. senators, each of whom represents the entire state.

"I'll just take the message that we — the commission — would encourage that Dunedin be kept whole, that one representative would be representing Dunedin instead of being split in two," Eggers said at the end of the Aug. 18 commission meeting.

A reapportionment committee is holding two public input meetings for the redistricting process.

The nearest upcoming meetings are:

Thursday at Tarpon Springs City Commission Auditorium, 324 E. Pine St., Tarpon Springs; 4 to 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 30 at St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, 13805 58th St. N, Largo; 8 to 11 a.m.

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Read More: <http://dunedin.patch.com/articles/mayor-wants-to-stay-whole-in-redistricting-process>

Redistricting meetings to be in Sarasota

Bradenton Herald
August 24, 2011

TALLAHASSEE -- 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 Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.

The Sarasota meeting is set for 6-9 p.m. Tuesday in the Harry Sudakoff Conference Center at New College, 5845 General Dougher Place.

The 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, visit www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting.

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Read more: <http://www.bradenton.com/2011/08/24/3440722/political-notes-redistricting.html>

State Redistricting Meeting Set for Monday in Tampa

Bradenton.Patch.com
August 28, 2011

By: D'Ann White

State Rep. Rachel Burgin (R-Riverview) will join lawmakers from across Florida for when the Congressional Redistricting meeting is held Monday, Aug. 29, in Tampa.

Throughout the summer, citizens across Florida have expressed their preferences on the state's political boundary lines in public meetings. Now Hillsborough County will have its turn. Tampa's public input meeting takes place from 4-8 p.m. at Jefferson High School Auditorium, 4401 Cypress St., Tampa.

Attendees will discuss redrawing boundary lines for the House, the Senate and Congress in this meeting.

"It is critical that the community gets involved in redistricting to ensure their voice is being heard," said Burgin. "The manner in which lawmakers prioritize concerns for the next 10 years depends on the participation now.

Burgin has spent much of her summer attending redistricting meetings around the state.

"I believe the citizens of each community play a vital role in the redistricting process," she said. "Many of the stories we have heard thus far assure us that Florida's citizens are prioritizing the shape of their districts differently for the next decade. It excites me to see our citizens so passionate and concerned about developing our new district lines."

Redistricting refers to the process by which census data is used to redraw the lines and boundaries of electoral districts within a state to ensure that districts are substantially equal in population. This process affects districts at all levels of government – from local school boards and city councils to state legislatures and the U.S. House of Representatives.

State Sen. Ronda Storms, R-Valrico, sits on the Senate Reapportionment Committee, charged with redrawing the new lines.

It's not an easy task this year. The committee must draw lines for 27 congressional districts, two more than the state currently has. That's because the 2010 census revealed that Florida's population has expanded so much it requires the state have two more districts.

Florida lawmakers also will redraw 120 House districts and 40 state Senate districts.

A number of configurations for House, Senate and Congressional districts have been submitted and can be viewed at <http://www.floridaredistricting.org/>.

Residents can also try their hand at drawing districts. District Builder is a full-featured web application with 2010 Census data for drawing Florida Senate, Florida House, and Congressional districts and submitting them to the Legislature. Citizens have full and easy access to the same web application and information that legislators and professional staff use.

To get started, register for a secure District Builder account. To learn more about District Builder before registering, view the online Help Manual.

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Read More: <http://brandon.patch.com/articles/state-redistricting-meeting-set-for-monday-in-tampa>

Tampa redistricting meeting dominated by calls to "show us the maps"

Creative Loafing Blog
August 29, 2011

By: Mitch Perry

Although there were definitely divisions among the 93 people who came to speak at the Florida Legislature's redistricting public hearing at Jefferson high School in Tampa Monday night - there was one issue that brought people together.

That would be that Congressional District 11, which covers Tampa and most of Hillsborough County - not contain South St. Petersburg and Manatee County in next year's redrawing of the seat currently held by Democrat Kathy Castor, which makes it one of the most obvious gerrymandered districts in the state.

That complaint brought home that most people speaking - Democrats, Republicans and independents - truly hate gerrymandering, which is what the passage of amendments 5 and 6 on the November ballot last year is supposed to alleviate.

But there was absolute a divide among the dozens and dozens of people who spoke for nearly four hours at the hearing. Those who strongly believe that the Legislature has their marching orders with the huge success of those amendments last year, and those who question the measure, calling it ambiguous.

Supporters of amendments 5 and 6 say the mandate is to draw congressional and legislative lines in a "fair, compact and contiguous" fashion. Supporters of that measure maintained the mantra of "show us the maps."

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Read More: <http://cltampa.com/blogs/dailyloaf/?page=3#.Tl5qH2pkNNQ>

Gaetz proposes moving redistricting process timeline

News Service of Florida
August 30, 2011

By: Brandon Larrabee

LARGO — The Legislature could consider a constitutional amendment to change the timeline for redistricting votes in an effort to address a barrage of criticism lawmakers have heard as they have traveled across Florida, Senate Reapportionment Chairman Don Gaetz said Tuesday.

The idea floated by Gaetz, R-Niceville, marked the second time in as many days that the lawmakers spearheading the once-a-decade redistricting process appeared to try to mollify increasingly vocal critics of the current process.

Voter-rights groups and citizens who have showed up for the public hearings that began in Tallahassee in June have roundly criticized the process for taking too long and for putting the public hearings ahead of the maps being drawn.

Gaetz and House Redistricting Chairman Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, said after a Monday meeting in Tampa that they would consider hosting videoconferences at different locations around the state to allow virtual public hearings on the maps before lawmakers vote on the final plans.

Gaetz went farther on Tuesday.

"Maybe we need to move redistricting votes to an odd-numbered year so that the Legislature and the public and the courts and the federal Justice Department all have more time," Gaetz told reporters after the Largo meeting, where he announced he was considering sponsoring an amendment.

An amendment like the one Gaetz outlined would not affect the current round of redistricting. But it could ensure future redistricting efforts don't run into the same resistance that this round of map-drawing has encountered. Supervisors of elections have joined groups that supported the Fair Districts anti-gerrymandering amendments in arguing that a delayed finish to redistricting could make it nearly impossible for incumbents to be effectively challenged and could cause mass confusion at the polls.

The Florida Constitution currently requires the Legislature to vote on the maps in the even-numbered year following the release of U.S. Census numbers. Lawmakers moved up the start of the session to January to try to give enough time for lawmakers to pass a map that must then be reviewed by Attorney General Pam Bondi, the Florida Supreme Court and the U.S. Department of Justice under the Voting Rights Act, because of a history of racial or language discrimination, in parts of Florida, before it can take effect.

Critics have worried that if lawmakers wait until near the March end of the legislative session, the new lines could go into effect just days before the end of candidate qualifying and complicate efforts to mail absentee or overseas ballots for party primaries.

Those critics have frequently showed up to hammer lawmakers for not adopting a timeline recommended by the League of Women Voters and other groups, who have suggested redistricting committees tee up plans for a vote during the first week of session.

"We get sidetracked into discussions about what the constitution ought to include, or what it does include, and maybe the best thing to do is consider an amendment to the constitution," Gaetz said.

Weatherford said Gaetz's announcement at the Largo hearing was the first he had heard of the idea. He said the amendment was "an intriguing idea" that might help drive home lawmakers' argument in the current round of redistricting that they have little control over the schedule.

"It's certainly worth looking at and debating, because clearly people are having a hard time understanding," Weatherford said.

Deirdre Macnab, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida, reacted cautiously to Gaetz's proposal. She said the league would have to hear more about the idea before taking a stance on it.

"This is a conversation that probably would better be had after the Legislature has completed its constitutional duty, following the law and the will of the voters," Macnab said.

At Tuesday's meeting in Largo, several residents of the southern end of Pinellas County's peninsula also chafed at being included in the 11th Congressional District, a Tampa-dominated seat that is connected only by bodies of water in several places. It was drawn that way to connect pockets of African-American voters and traditionally Democratic voters in southern Pinellas with Democratic and black voters in Hillsborough County.

"I think Pinellas should be Pinellas," resident Peter Franco said.

Several Hillsborough County residents at a hearing Monday night defended the district, which also covers part of Manatee County, because it is a minority access district; blacks and Latinos combined make up half the voting-age population in the district.

But Maria Scruggs, who is black, lashed out Tuesday at similar reasoning when one white commenter said downtown St. Petersburg had more in common with other parts of the district across the bay than other parts of Pinellas.

"We do not necessarily have the same interests of African-American communities in Manatee for the sake of our ethnicity," she said.

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Read More: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/state/gaetz-proposes-moving-redistricting-process-timeline-1806130.html>

Public invited to redistricting hearing set Aug. 31 in Lehigh

Lehigh Acres Citizen
August 30, 2011

A legislative redistricting hearing will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at Veterans Park Recreation Center in Lehigh Acres. The session will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Members of the House and Senate will be on hand. Residents are encouraged to attend and tell their legislators how they would like to see Lehigh in the redistricting issue.

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Read More: <http://www.lehighacrescitizen.com/page/content.detail/id/521320/Public-invited-to-redistricting-hearing-set-Aug--31-in-Lehigh.html?nav=5100>

Redistricting forums being held today in Southwest Florida

Ft. Myers News-Press
August 30, 2011

By: Bob Rathgeber

When state legislators hold public forums today in Lee and Collier counties to discuss redistricting, a new proposal will be introduced to the talks.

Florida Senate Reapportionment Chairman Don Gaetz said Tuesday in Largo that the Legislature could consider a constitutional amendment to change the timeline for redistricting votes in an effort to address criticism lawmakers have heard as they have traveled across the state.

Legislators will be in Naples this morning and Lehigh Acres tonight and wrap up their 26-stop statewide tour Thursday in Clewiston.

Across the state residents have lashed out against the process of the once-every-10-year process of redrawing districts.

Voter-rights groups and citizens have criticized the process for taking too long and for putting the public hearings ahead of the maps being drawn.

The Florida Constitution requires the Legislature to vote on the maps in the even-numbered year after the release of U.S. Census numbers.

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Read More: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20110831/NEWS01/108310353/Redistricting-forums-being-held-today-Southwest-Florida?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home>

Hundreds show up in Sarasota to talk redistricting, gerrymandering, 'Fair Districts'

The Florida Independent
August 30, 2011

By: Cooper Levey-Baker

Hundreds of Sarasota and Manatee county residents turned out Tuesday evening for one of the state Legislature's final public redistricting hearings. Many of the attendees criticized the Florida House for intervening in a lawsuit to stop one of the "Fair Districts" amendments and urged the 34 lawmakers assembled to present map proposals this fall so that the process doesn't drag on into next summer.

State Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Destin, managed the majority of the meeting, recognizing the 109 attendees who signed up to speak. Representatives from the League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida and Unidos Now all addressed the panel.

Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections Kathy Dent was the first to speak, asking the Legislature to work swiftly so that supervisors of election around the state have time to prepare for the 2012 elections. "We will be more likely to make a mistake" if wrangling over the redistricting maps stretches into next summer, Dent said.

"I think what's concerning about tonight ... is the perception here that the game is fixed," said former Sarasota Mayor Kelly Kirschner, speaking on behalf of Unidos Now. He described a "sense of mistrust with government in our hometown and home state."

Kirschner then called for the Legislature to end the practice of gerrymandering. "When you have competition, I think it breeds honesty in the process," he said, instructing the panel to "create a competitive marketplace where ideas matter and gerrymandering doesn't."

There was also direct criticism of state House District 55, a largely African-American district that stretches from downtown Sarasota through Manatee County and across the Sunshine Skyway to St. Petersburg, and congressional District 16, which passes all the way from Port Charlotte on the Gulf Coast to Jupiter on the East Coast. "Why do we need to separate us by all these different demographics?" one man asked. "We are supposed to be one nation. We are supposed to be a melting pot."

But four residents of Newtown, a mostly African-American North Sarasota neighborhood, asked that the redistricting committee continue to include the community in the St. Pete-based House District 55, an arrangement they said gives them a voice. State Rep. Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, said the difference of opinion over 55 illustrates the challenges the redistricting committee faces.

Several participants called on the Florida House to quit the lawsuit challenging Amendment 6, one of the "Fair Districts" amendments intended to end gerrymandering. Both "Fair Districts" measures were approved by 66 percent of Sarasota County voters last fall. "Drop the lawsuit," one man said. "Stop fighting the will of the people."

The three-hour event was held at New College of Florida, situated in an area of Sarasota represented by state Sen. Nancy Detert, R-Venice, who addressed the audience near the end of the meeting. "Frankly, I'm very disappointed in our community," the senator said, criticizing the at-times antagonistic hometown audience for what she called its "lack of civility." She said that "paranoia" about the redistricting process was rampant.

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Read More: <http://floridaindependent.com/45991/sarasota-redistricting-hearing>

Southwest Florida residents want legislators to get moving on redistricting

Ft. Myers News-Press
August 31, 2011

By: Bob Rathgeber

NAPLES -- Two things came through clearly to members of the state legislature Wednesday morning at their public hearing on redistricting: Get it done quickly and make districts compact.

"There is a significant concern about the timeline," said Sen. Garrett Richter, R-Naples. "That came through loud and clear."

Speaker after speaker pleaded with lawmakers to get the process done so they will know who will be running for what office in the 2012 elections.

Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, who is the Senate's chairman of the redistricting committee, agreed with Richter that the legislature has gotten the message about expediting the redistricting process.

He said committees will convene in Tallahassee on Sept. 19, begin constructing maps and present them to the full legislature when it meets beginning Jan. 10.

If that happens, audience member Doug Wilson, said, Gaetz's timeline will have earned "the gratitude and respect" from all Floridians. Wilson is president of the Collier County chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The other major concern was drawing districts that divide communities.

Three Bonita Springs residents spoke about that issue. Bonita is divided into a pair of House and Senate districts.

Peter Simmons said the community needs to be all in one district. "Keep Bonita intact," he said.

House redistricting chairman Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, said this was good to know.

"Had we not had this public meeting, I would not have known nor understood the concerns," he said. "This is why these are important."

Compared to other meeting around the state, legislators said the Naples meeting was the most civil of the previous 23. In many of those lawmakers had been lambasted because they had no maps to show, among other concerns.

"This was the most valuable public hearing we have held," Gaetz said.

A crowd of about 200 was on hand. A second Southwest Florida meeting will be held at 6 p.m. today in Lehigh Acres.

From this morning on news-press.com

NAPLES -- More than 200 people began gathering this morning for the first of Southwest Florida's two public meetings to discuss redistricting in Florida.

Southwest Florida was well represented. Rep. Gary Aubuchon, R-Cape Coral; Rep. Trudi Williams, R-south Fort Myers; Rep. Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, R-Fort Myers and Sen. Garrett Richter, R-Naples were on hand to listen to public questions.

The first speaker was Jennifer Edwards, Collier County supervisor of elections. She urged legislators to consider three points when drawing new maps -- keep neighborhoods intact, avoid irregular district maps and redistrict quickly.

Several of the first speakers urged legislators to cut the number of state house districts representing Collier County. Currently, five districts are a part of Collier, one stretching from coast to coast.

Joyce Fletcher, vice president of the Collier County League of Women Voters, urged legislators to make districts more compact, suggesting that two districts covering the area would work.

The second meeting of the day will be held in Lehigh Acres beginning at 6 p.m.

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Read More: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20110831/NEWS0107/110831008/Southwest-Florida-residents-want-legislators-get-moving-redistricting?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home>

Florida lawmakers discuss state and congressional boundaries

NaplesDailyNews.com

August 31, 2011

By: Jenna Buzzacco-Foerster

10:16 a.m.: Dozens of people have spoken about the need to provide maps before asking for public input, but Charles Van Meter this morning said he was pleased with the state's decision to ask for public comment before presenting maps.

“I think being a good legislator is listening to your constituents and then taking the right action,” Van Meter said.

Former state Rep. Dudley Goodlette agreed. Goodlette said he thought it was “an orderly process” and getting public input early was crucial to the process.

Goodlette said putting maps out for the public to comment on would lead people to think it was a done deal.

10 a.m.: Doug Wilson, president of Collier County's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said if state Sen. Don Gaetz is correct in a time line presented earlier today he will have earned the “gratitude and respect” for Floridians.

Wilson spoke out against gerrymandering – the process of dividing election districts to give one political party an electoral majority – and asked state legislators to steer clear of the process when redistricting.

“This is an evil against democracies,” Wilson said. “This is an evil practiced by both parties.”

Wilson asked legislators to draw the boundaries in good faith, and said he would support the idea of presenting multiple maps for discussion – much like Collier County officials are doing in their redistricting efforts – before a final map is approved.

“We will be watching,” he said.

9:22 a.m.: About 12 residents have spoken out thus far, and state lawmakers said they have about 50 people registered to speak this morning. Many of those people have asked legislators to not create districts that combine Florida's east coast with the west coast.

“I do not believe you can represent both sides of the state effectively and efficiently,” said Jacob Winge.

Attendees have also asked that the redistricting process be done as quickly as possible, and one resident asked that the map be approved within the first week of the 2012 legislative session.

8:51 a.m.: An audience member disrupted a public speaker's comments this morning by shouting “Finish your remarks. Other people want to talk.”

The outburst came just 40 minutes into the three hour public hearing and Liza McClenaghan was speaking at the time.

While McClenaghan started her brief presentation with praise for the online district boundary builder, she later asked the board to consider a constitutional amendment that would allow the state to begin the redistricting process as soon as Census numbers are released.

8:23 a.m.: State Sen. Don Gaetz said this morning public input is essential to the redistricting process.

“Maps submitted (to the state Legislature) ought to, and will, form the basis for the legislative process moving forward,” Gaetz told a crowd of about 100 Southwest Florida residents this morning.

Fifty public submissions are already available on the state's redistricting website. Many of those publicly proposed maps were on display in the Daily News' lobby this morning.

Gaetz in his opening statements said he urged community members to submit maps “that make sense for your community.”

Gaetz said the three-hour redistricting meeting will be dedicated to public comment.

8 a.m.: At least 50 people have registered to speak during today's state legislative and congressional redistricting meeting, said Collier Supervisor of Elections Jennifer Edwards.

Florida lawmakers will meet at 8 a.m. this morning to discuss several proposals redrawing the state's legislative and congressional lines. The boundaries must be redrawn every decade based on U.S. Census information to reflect population changes in each district.

The meeting goes from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the community room of the Naples Daily News building at 1100 Immokalee Road . Those who can't attend the meeting can watch it **online**.

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, two new congressional districts will be added to the state's current 25 seats as a result of the climbing population in Florida. The number of seats in the 120-member state House and 40-member Senate remains unchanged.

It is likely that the state House and Senate district boundaries will change as a result of growth and movement of population in Southwest Florida.

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Read More: <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2011/aug/31/florida-lawmakers-discuss-state-and-congressional/>

Citizens Concerned New Political Districts Won't Reflect Community

PinellasBeaches.Patch.com
August 31, 2011

By: Phil Ammann

Florida lawmakers are drawing lines in the sand, so to speak.

Lawmakers are looking closely at Florida's population growth over the past 10 years. Based on population data collected in the 2010 U.S. Census, the state is gaining two additional seats in the House of Representatives.

On Tuesday, about 400 citizens met with representatives from the Democratic and Republican parties to discuss redistricting plans at St. Petersburg College's EpiCenter in Largo. For most, the main concern is that the new districts will not reflect areas of common interest.

When former commissioner and vice mayor of Safety Harbor Matt McLachlan looks at the current district maps, he doesn't see communities.

He sees boundaries set up by cities, and that is exactly what he wants lawmakers to avoid this time around.

"Palm Harbor is not a city. Feather Sound is not a city. Pinellas County should be one group. ... Let Tampa and Hillsborough counties stay over there," McLachlan said.

Indian Rocks Beach Mayor RB Johnson was one of the first to speak. He called for unity among the barrier islands of Pinellas County.

“After redistricting, we would like to see the beach communities to remain essentially as a distinct entity,” Johnson said. “We would like it to have the same geographic boundaries.”

Johnson said the character of Pinellas County’s beach community is distinct and should remain separate from the rest of the county.

The state’s Redistricting Committee has visited more than 20 cities to hear the public’s opinion, part of a statewide tour that will end Thursday in Clewiston.

Committee chairman Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, and Rep. Will Weatherford, R-Wesley Chapel, hope to reassure the public that redistricting will be achieved fairly.

The Florida Legislature requires redistricting based on population increases or decreases.

Because of this, “Many Senate and House districts will change. In fact, it is my guess that all Senate and House districts will change,” Gaetz said.

Redistricting Is No Easy Task

The challenge for lawmakers is to be fair within constitutionally required guidelines. The twist is in Florida Propositions 5 and 6, approved by voters in 2010. Known as the “fair district” amendments, they ban gerrymandering and require redistricting without favoring any one political party.

After each U.S. Census, states must recalculate congressional districts based on the population. Florida experienced substantial increases overall, but not everywhere. Pinellas County lost several thousand citizens between 2000 and 2010.

According to 2010 Census figures, current Florida House districts in Pinellas County are now underpopulated by as much as 20 percent. Those districts will have to be substantially redrawn to meet the standards for representation.

Under the standards, each district must be equal in population, with approximately 700,000 people in a U.S. congressional district. Each of the 40 state Senate seats will correspond to approximately 470,000 people, and Florida state House seats must represent about 157,000.

Populations for new districts must reach certain levels, which may be difficult geographically. Right now, State Sen. Arthenia Joyner’s District 18 covers three counties —Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee. Rouson’s District 55 covers four.

Tuesday’s meeting lasted for more than three hours, with almost 70 speakers. The atmosphere was at times contentious. On several occasions, citizens shouted at Weatherford for trying to keep each speaker to less than three minutes.

Aides had to escort Independent Party member Ernie Bach away after he refused to leave when his time was up.

Many citizens commented on how difficult it is to feel represented when their lawmaker has to cross the Sunshine Skyway or Howard Frankland Bridge for community visits.

On top of everything else, lawmakers are under the gun to have the new districts ready by the 2012 elections.

"Our biggest concern is time," said Rep. Larry Ahern, R-Seminole. "With a 50,000 lost population, everyone's district will change."

Have Your Voice Heard

To date, citizens have submitted 48 proposed district maps through the Florida House's online application My District Builder and more than 100 written proposals.

If you missed the two Tampa Bay redistricting meetings, you may still participate in the process. Lawmakers will continue to accept comments through their websites, Facebook and Twitter. The House Redistricting Committee will begin reviewing public input this October. Voting on the new districts will occur during the 2012 legislative session, which begins Jan. 12.

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Read More: <http://pinellasbeaches.patch.com/articles/citizens-concerned-new-political-districts-wont-reflect-community-5>

Area Citizens Give Input on "Fair Districts" at Public Hearing

The Bradenton Times
August 31, 2011

By: Dennis Maley and Merab-Michal Favorite

SARASOTA – Over 40 redistricting maps lined the lobby of Harry Sudakoff Conference Center at New College Tuesday night. But it wasn't a politician who designed the possible redistricting lines displayed at the Florida Legislative Redistricting Hearing -- it was citizens like you. Members of the Legislature have been touring the state to try to get as much public input as possible for the proposed boundaries, even setting up a website, www.mydistrictbuilder.com, where citizens can personally draw the lines themselves.

The passage of Amendment 5 and 6, known as the Fair Districts Act, seemed like a rather simple assertion by the Florida electorate. A majority of Floridians demanded that political districts be drawn in a way that makes every effort to forge them along natural boundaries that keep communities in tact. Whereas districts had long been intentionally gerrymandered in political compromises to yield predictable results, they would now simply be drawn by community lines like counties and cities.

Today, many districts, especially on state and federal levels, slice through several counties denying members of a particular community true representation. Other districts, are intentionally drawn to make minority representation more likely as has become the standard practice to ensure equal protection under the 14th Amendment. Already up for debate (and litigation) is whether the two are mutually exclusive.

However, residents discovered through the interactive website and old-fashioned debate that drawing unbiased lines isn't as easy as it seems. Over 80 speakers voiced opinions on how they thought the districts should be construed, but several people were in disagreement. Members of the African-American community asked that the legislature keep controversial District 55 as it is now, encompassing socio-economic areas from Pinellas to Sarasota counties, stating that "compacting districts will be a loss to the minority voice."

Whereas African Americans had been the largest minority demographic, Latin-Americans have rocketed past them, currently comprising 22.5 percent of the state's population. The Spanish population were counting on uniquely created districts designed to reflect that growth in representation, an expectation obviously clouded by Fair Districts. However, minority vote dilution is a violation under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The other issue speakers were concerned with was the timeline of the legislative calendar that suspends the official district plan approval to anywhere from January 10 – March 9, 2012. Redistricting happens every 10 years, after the U.S. Census, but under Constitutional Law, the legislature is not allowed to vote on redistricting until two years after it's passed. This could present major complications when it comes to the 2012 elections.

"This timeline is unacceptable," said Anne Hardy, who was representing Sarasota's League of Women Voters. "It is an inadequate amount of time for people to learn about candidates and the candidates to learn what district they can run in."

In addition to the Fair Districts mandate, the population of the state grew by over 3 million! As a result, there will be two additional Congressional seats created. There's also been a lot of shifting. Congressional Districts 16 and 25 have to lose more than 100,000 residents in Florida's redistricting plan, while District 112's population grew by nearly 60 percent. Homestead had nearly 90 percent population growth from 2000 to 2010.

In Manatee County, where several districts at all levels fracture the community's state, federal and even local representation among the distinct communities, there are many questions as to how redistricting might address representation. Several citizens asked that Manatee and Sarasota Counties be combined with the eastern Lakewood Ranch community into one district.

"The fabric of both counties is tightly interwoven," said Linda Wright. "Separating them would tear generations of community."

While some residents applauded the members of the legislature for hearing the opinions of the people, others argued that the public hearings were premature and maps should have been produced in order for residents to comment on them.

“This is a chicken verses egg debate we hear everywhere we go,” said Rep. Will Weatherford (R-61). “We wanted to listen to the people first. We’ve heard over 70 hours of public comment over the last few days and you have given us some very good ideas.”

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Read More:

http://www.thebradentontimes.com/news/2011/08/31/state_government/area_citizens_give_input_on_fair_districts_at_public_hearing/

Redistricting Manatee

Examiner.com
August 31, 2011

By: Richard Jackson

Thirty-four legislators brought Florida's redistricting road show to New College's Sudakoff Center on Tuesday evening. Senator Don Gaetz co-chaired the meeting with Representative Will Weatherford. Of an estimated 400 citizens, 109 ventured their opinions forcefully, logically, and convincingly in public statements of two minutes or less. Hostility and frustration with redistricting specifically and the Legislature in general were vented freely.

Six points were made repeatedly.(1)The Legislators were criticized for not having a map for citizens to analyze. (2)The old map was criticized for being one in which the legislators in power chose their voters, rather than the other way around. (3)Legislators were warned not to create another "incumbent protection plan." (4)Citizens accused the legislators of already having a map, in just "another backroom deal." (5)Legislators were accused of being smug and of going "through the motions." (6)House #55, a gerrymandered minority district which starts south of Tropicana Field and crawls in serpentine fashion to Newtown in Sarasota, had numerous critics because of its forty-five mile length.

I spoke and advanced a simple plan for Manatee and Sarasota Counties. I suggested splitting each county's population in half north-south, giving each county two state representatives. These four districts would meet the amendment's requirements of "compact" and contiguous." Further, my senate district would consist of three of these four house districts and fulfill the same requirements.

The legislators were apparently under instructions to sit and take it, and take it they did. The legislators offered a weak defense before the close, but it was too little too late.

The citizens seemed to realize how important this redistricting issue is and conveyed the message that if the state was sliced and diced once again, that in ten years, our potentially great state will not be a fit place to live. Attempts by the chairs to lighten the mood were not well received, and the evening did not end well.

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Read More: <http://www.examiner.com/k-12-in-tampa-bay/redistricting-manatee>

'Daily NewsMakers with Jeff Lytle' ... Redistricting

MarcoIslandEagle.com
September 1, 2011

Will new state and federal districts be fair or partisan? Will our area add a U.S. House seat?

Florida lawmakers working on redistricting brought their road show to Naples for a public forum Wednesday hosted at the Naples Daily News' Community Room. Later, the panel's leaders — Sen. Don Gaetz of Destin and Rep. Will Weatherford of Pasco County — and Rep. Kathleen Passidomo of Naples came to the newsroom/studio for the “Naples Daily NewsMakers with Jeff Lytle” program that airs Sunday morning at 10 on ABC7.

This week's other “NewsMakers” guest is Christine O'Donnell, former GOP candidate for U.S. Senate from Delaware. She was in Naples promoting her new book, “Trouble Maker.” What advice does she have for GOP presidential contender Michele Bachmann?

Florida redistricting

Lytle: How soon do we find out about the U.S. House district that may or may not be coming to Southwest Florida?

Gaetz: I don't know and I don't think any living American knows where those congressional districts will be.

But we've already seen our first maps. We saw our first maps on June 20, and we now have 50 maps. The map we saw on June 20 for congressional districts did show some increased districts in this part of the state, as well as in the central part of the state, and I think there's probably a case to be made for that.

Lytle: Specifically, will we see Connie Mack IV's District 14 shrink and come down more to Collier County?

Gaetz: Well, the answer to that pre-supposes the kind of discussion that we're going to have to have based on the input that we've gotten.

I've can't give you an answer to that question, but I think that as the House and the Senate redistricting committees work through the information we've gotten from these hearings, and look at the population data, hopefully we'll be able to come up with an answer.

Also discussed this morning at 10 on ABC7: Is opposition real or imagined to voter mandates to make districts more compact and sensible? Should the state have a tax-subsidized health insurance program only for top employees such as legislators and the governor?

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Read More: <http://www.marconews.com/news/2011/sep/01/daily-newsmakers-jeff-lytle-redistricting/>

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Persons in need of special accommodations should contact the
Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.



This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Sarasota Herald Tribune on Friday, August 26, 2011.



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Tuesday, August 30, 2011


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This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the East County Observer on Friday, August 26, 2011.



This appeared as an online advertisement on the Saint Petersburg website from Friday, August 26 – Thursday, September 1, 2011.

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Wednesday, August 31, 2011

NAPLES

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**Naples Daily News
Community Room
1100 Immokalee Rd
Naples, FL 34108**

LEHIGH ACRES

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**Veterans Park
Recreation Center
55 Homestead Road South
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936**

Thursday, September 1, 2011

CLEWISTON

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**Hendry County Health Department
100 South Olympia Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440**

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at (850) 488-3928 or mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
at least 5 business days before the meeting,
in order that accommodations may be satisfied.

FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the DeSoto Sun on Saturday, August 27, 2011.



www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:

Tell Us Your Story

Attend a Public Meeting

Coming Soon to a Town Near You!


Tuesday, August 30, 2011

SARASOTA
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
New College
Harry Sudakohh Conference Center
5845 General Dougher Place
Sarasota, FL 34243

Wednesday, August 31, 2011


LEHIGH ACRES
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Veterans Park Recreation Center
55 Homestead Road South
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

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FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Englewood Sun on Saturday, August 27, 2011.



www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:

**Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**


Tuesday, August 30, 2011

SARASOTA
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
New College
Harry Sudakohh Conference Center
5845 General Dougher Place
Sarasota, FL 34243

Wednesday, August 31, 2011


LEHIGH ACRES
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
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55 Homestead Road South
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FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the North Port Sun on Saturday, August 27, 2011.



www.floridaredistricting.org

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Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!


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New College
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FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Venice Gondolier Sun on Saturday, August 27, 2011.

**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story**

**Attend a Redistricting
Public Meeting
Coming to Southwest
Florida!**

**Wednesday
August 31, 2011**

**Check out local meeting
dates and times at:**

www.floridaredistricting.org

**For special accommodations, contact
the Florida House at (850) 488-3928**



This appeared as a 1/8 page black and white ad in the Ft. Myers News-Press on Monday, August 29, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

**Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

NAPLES
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Naples Daily News
Community Room
1100 Immokalee Rd
Naples, FL 34108

LEHIGH ACRES
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Veterans Park
Recreation Center
55 Homestead Road South
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Thursday, September 1, 2011

CLEWISTON
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hendry County Health Department
100 South Olympia Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440

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Florida House of Representatives Redistricting Committee
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FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

**IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Naples Daily News on Monday, August 29, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

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Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

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8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Naples Daily News
Community Room
1100 Immokalee Rd
Naples, FL 34108

LEHIGH ACRES
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Veterans Park
Recreation Center
55 Homestead Road South
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

Thursday, September 1, 2011

CLEWISTON
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hendry County Health Department
100 South Olympia Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440

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FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

**IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Clewiston Daily News on Monday, August 29, 2011.

www.floridaredistricting.org

Redistricting 2012:
Tell Us Your Story
Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

NAPLES 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Naples Daily News Community Room 1100 Immokalee Rd Naples, FL 34108	LEHIGH ACRES 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Veterans Park Recreation Center 55 Homestead Road South Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
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Thursday, September 1, 2011

CLEWISTON
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hendry County Health Department
100 South Olympia Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440

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FLORIDA IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
REDISTRICTING YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in the Glades Democrat on Monday, August 29, 2011.

www.floridareddistricting.org

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Attend a Public Meeting
Coming Soon to a Town Near You!**

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Naples Daily News
Community Room
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Naples, FL 34108

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Veterans Park
Recreation Center
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Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

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Clewiston, FL 33440

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FLORIDA
REDISTRICTING

**IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT,
YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY**

This appeared as a ¼ page black and white ad in The Sun on Monday, August 29, 2011.

Tampa Tribune



These online advertisements appeared on the Tampa Tribune website Saturday, August 27-Monday, August 29, 2011.


St. Petersburg Times



These online advertisements appeared on the St. Petersburg Times website Saturday, August 27-Monday, August 29, 2011.

Community Calendar Postings

Tampa Tribune

**TBO EXTRA**

HOME VIDEO MOVIES MUSIC TV DINING ARTS NIGHTLIFE CELEBRITIES ETC G

Friday, August 19, 2011 Tampa 88.0° Partly Cloudy



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Home > Tampa Events > Tampa Civic/Government Events > Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Summary **Full Details** [Print](#)



Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

Monday, Aug 29 4:00p to 8:00p
at Jefferson High School, Tampa, FL

Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Southwest Florida from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, and includes stops in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston. [read more](#)

[Event Website](#)


Category: [Civic/Government](#)

Creator: SarahStuckey

[Like](#)
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Location & Nearby Info


Jefferson High School
4401 W. Cypress St.
Tampa, FL 33607




Show nearby:
☒ Restaurants ☐ Hotels
☐ Bars

1	Charley's Steakhouse	0.2 mi
2	Green Iquana Bar & Grill	0.3 mi


Hot Tickets


 **La N**
Fri 8

 **Mon**
Sat 1


Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Herald-Tribune.com	Sarasota	Manatee	Venice	North Port	Englewood	YourSarasota	Topics
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Mom Turns \$47 Into \$6795
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Home > Sarasota Events > Sarasota Community Events > Florida House & Senate Public Redistricting Meeting

Summary	Full Details	 Print
<div></div>	<p>Florida House & Senate Public Redistricting Meeting Tuesday, Aug 30 7:00p at Harry Sudakoff Conference Center, New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL</p> <p>Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Southwest Florida from August 29-September 1, and includes stops in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston. read more</p> <p> Event Website</p> <p>Categories: Community, Civic/Government</p> <p>Creator: SarahStuckey</p>	<p> Tweet this</p> <p> Invite Friends</p> <p> Add to Calendar</p>

Location & Nearby Info

Harry Sudakoff Conference Center, New College Of Florida 5845 Gen. Dougher Place, East Campus Sarasota, FL 34278 (941) 487-4888	Show Nearby: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Restaurants <input type="radio"/> Hotels <input type="radio"/> Bars
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Events » **Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings**

1100 Immokalee Road, Naples
<http://www.naplesnews.com>

Event Rating: ★★★★★

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

AUG
31
WEDNESDAY

Description

Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Southwest Florida from August 29-September 1, and includes stops in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston.

Members of the Florida legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process. For more information, visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

Location



Event details

- **Place:** [Naples Daily News](#)
- **Date:** Wednesday, August 31, 2011
- **Time:** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **Cost:** Free
- **Age Limit:** All ages
- **Categories:** [Community](#), [Meetings](#), [Political](#), [Public Meetings](#)

Tools

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Florida House and Senate to Hold Public Redistricting Meetings

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For more information, visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

Thursday, 01 September, 2011

08:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Cost:

Free

Categories:

[Clewiston](#)

Location: [Map](#) [Weather](#)

Hendry County Health Department
100 South Olympia Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440 US

Event Contact Info

Sarah Stuckey

Email: sarah.stuckey@myfloridahouse.gov

Phone: (850) 921-7747

Website: [Click to Visit](#)

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08:00 AM - 11:00 AM

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Free

Categories:

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Location: [Map](#) [Weather](#)


Hendry County Health Department
100 South Olympia Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440 US

Event Contact Info

Sarah Stuckey
Email: sarah.stuckey@myfloridahouse.gov
Phone: (850) 921-7747
Website: [Click to Visit](#)

Share this Event



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BREAKING NEWS» Six candidate forums set for the next two weeks

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- Arts & Entertainment
- Clubs Calendar
- **Community Calendar**
- SUBMIT an Event

FL House/Senate Public Redistricting Mtg

Wed, August 31, 2011 @ 6:00PM

Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Southwest Florida from Aug. 29-Sept. 1, and includes stops in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston. Members of the Florida legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process! For more information, visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

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The Pine Island Eagle

PineIsland-Eagle.com

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[Need Help Paying Bills?](#) Savings from 0 - 65%. \$20K min. 1 Eas
[Stateside=State Strategy](#) Plan & execute for success in 2012 Pu

Your Community News Business Opinion Lifestyles Sports Ads & Extras

BREAKING NEWS» Six candidate forums set for the next two weeks

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- **Calendar**
- SUBMIT an Event



FL House/Senate Hold Redistricting Mtgs

Mon, August 29, 2011 @ 4:00PM

Floridian's across the state are invited to participate in an important event – the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. In preparation for this redistricting process, public meetings will take place in Southwest Florida from Aug. 29-Sept. 1, and includes stops in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston. Members of the Florida legislature invite you to come out and be a part of this process! For more information, visit www.floridaredistricting.org.

North Fort Myers Neighbor

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- SUBMIT an Event

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www.doverealty.net

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Move-in ready homes from the 190s.

FL House/Senate Hold Redistricting Mtgs

Wed, August 31, 2011 @ 6:00PM

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Ft. Myers Beach Observer

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www.doverrealty.net

Fort Myers Beach RV Park
Indian Creek RV Resort
- RV Sites Day, Weekly, Monthly &

FL House/Senate Hold Redistricting Mtgs

Wed, August 31, 2011 @ 6:00PM

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For more information, visit FloridaRedistricting.org.

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28	29	30	31																			

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Community Calendar announcements are submitted by the public. Information is subject to change without notice.

New Community Calendar items, as well as any corrections or changes, may be submitted online by clicking [here](#).

• Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011

Senior brunches

DUNEDIN - The Hale Senior Activity Center hosts breakfast brunches on Tuesdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at 330 Douglas Ave. Enjoy a breakfast of eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. Cost is \$3 with a recreation ID card or \$4 with no card. Call 298-3299.



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Florida House and Senate redistricting meeting

LARGO - The Florida House and Senate will hold a public redistricting meeting Tuesday, Aug. 30, 8 a.m., at the St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, 13805 58th St. N. in Largo. The public is invited to participate in the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines. For more information, visit www.floridaredistricting.org.



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Florida House and Senate redistricting meeting

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Business Events Calendar pced.org

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Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo
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28	29	30	31																			

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Community Calendar announcements are submitted by the public. Information is subject to change without notice.

New Community Calendar items, as well as any corrections or changes, may be submitted online by clicking [here](#).

• Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011

Senior brunches

DUNEDIN - The Hale Senior Activity Center hosts breakfast brunches on Tuesdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at 330 Douglas Ave. Enjoy a breakfast of eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. Cost is \$3 with a recreation ID card or \$4 with no card. Call 298-3299.

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Public Service Announcements - TV

WINK-TV CBS Ft. Myers

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA-REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY... TELL US YOUR STORY!

WZVN-TV ABC Naples

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WBBH-TV NBC Ft. Myers

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[Click Here to Watch 15-second Public Service Announcement](#)

Public Service Announcements – Radio

WNOG 1270 AM Naples

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WGUL 860 AM Tampa

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WWBA 820 AM Tampa

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WMGG 1470 AM Tampa

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WTAN 1340 AM Clearwater

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WTIS 1110 AM St. Petersburg

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WENG 1530 AM Sarasota

THE SUNSHINE STATE HAS MORE THAN 18 MILLION UNIQUE STORIES. IT'S HOME TO A DIVERSE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. FLORIDIANS WILL SOON FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSSED IN A PROCESS THAT HAPPENS JUST ONCE EVERY TEN YEARS. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS WILL REDRAW OUR STATE'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARY LINES AND YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO START THE CONVERSATION. FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WILL TRAVEL ACROSS THE STATE STOPPING IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CITIES IN ORDER TO GATHER PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE COMMUNITIES YOU LIVE IN. CITIZENS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH LAWMAKERS. TO LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA AND HOW YOU CAN USE MY DISTRICT BUILDER TO PERSONALLY DRAW DISTRICTS AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS IN TALLAHASSEE AS WELL AS VISIT MY DISTRICT BUILDER ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER... VISIT WWW-DOT-FLORIDA-REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG

REDISTRICTING-DOT-ORG. FLORIDA REDISTRICTING: IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY...
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WTMY 1280 AM Sarasota

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WFLA 970 AM Tampa

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WHNZ 1250 AM Tampa

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WLSS 930 AM Sarasota

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WTBN 570 AM Tampa

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Social Media

The House's official **Twitter and Facebook** accounts were used daily in the two weeks leading up to the meetings and during the meetings to increase awareness and participation.

[@MyFLHouse on Twitter](#)

[@FLRedistricting on Twitter](#)

www.facebook.com/MyFLHouse

www.facebook.com/MyDistrictBuilder

The collage displays four social media profiles:

- Twitter: MyDistrictBuilder**
 - Profile: @FLRedistricting, Tallahassee, Florida. Bio: Official MyDistrictBuilder Twitter account. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the FL House of Reps. Contact: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov http://www.floridaredistricting.org/
 - Stats: 869 Tweets, 411 Following, 527 Followers, 21 Listed.
 - Recent Tweets: Three tweets from FLRedistricting promoting redistricting meetings, including dates like July 13 and July 12, and links to floridaredistricting.org.
- Twitter: Florida House (@MyFLHouse)**
 - Profile: @MyFLHouse, Tallahassee, FL. Bio: Official Florida House Twitter account. Messages and comments received are subject to FL's public records law. Email us: publicinfo@myfloridahouse.gov http://www.myfloridahouse.gov
 - Stats: 416 Tweets, 178 Following, 1,355 Followers, 80 Listed.
 - Recent Tweets: A tweet from MyFLHouse stating "Final 'On Track' Released! All bills are now either signed, vetoed or passed into law w/o @FLGovScott sig. Check it out. 1 usa.gov/k15LLa".
- Facebook: MyDistrictBuilder (FloridaRedistricting.Org)**
 - Profile: Government organisation · Tallahassee, Florida.
 - Wall: A post from MyDistrictBuilder (FloridaRedistricting) asking for RSVPs for a July 11-12 meeting in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Daytona Beach.
 - Stats: 374 people like this.
- Facebook: My Florida House**
 - Profile: Government organisation · Tallahassee, Florida.
 - Wall: A post from My Florida House announcing the release of the latest edition of OPI: On Track, which depicts all legislation that has been either signed, vetoed or passed into law without the Governor's signature.
 - Stats: 1,047 like this.


The [House Redistricting Committee's official Blog](#) was used to prepare Florida residents for public meetings, including guidance on meeting protocol, educational resources on redistricting, guidance on what Members of the Florida Senate and House can and cannot consider in the redistricting process, and information on who to maximize the use of public participation resources being made available to the public. Public participation content from the blog was already rebroadcast via Twitter, Facebook and www.floridaredistricting.org.

— AUGUST 23, 2011 • 6:11 PM

RSVP, Directions and Maps for the Southwest Florida Redistricting Meetings

For the upcoming August 29 – September 1 public input meetings on redistricting in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston, [click here for the updated Public Meeting Schedule](#), and see below for RSVP, driving and parking information, and Google Maps link for each location.

- o Tampa on August 29: [RSVP – Driving and Parking – Google Maps](#)
- o Largo on August 30: [RSVP – Driving and Parking – Google Maps](#)
- o Sarasota on August 30: [RSVP – Driving and Parking – Google Maps](#)
- o Naples on August 31: [RSVP – Driving and Parking – Google Maps](#)
- o Lehigh Acres on August 31: [RSVP – Driving and Parking – Google Maps](#)
- o Clewiston on September 1: [RSVP – Driving and Parking – Google Maps](#)



The Florida House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker

Devin Gersbach
Speaker

For Planning Purposes:
Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Contact:
Lyndsey C. Riley, Senate (850) 524-5008
Katie D. O'Neil, 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 public input sessions in Southwest Florida. Meetings will take place in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston.

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AUGUST 21, 2011 • 3:54 PM (EDIT)

8/29 to 9/1: Redistricting Meetings in Southwest Florida

Below is the updated public input meeting schedule. There is only one week, 6 meetings, remaining for the Florida House and Senate's joint meetings on redistricting. The remaining 6 meetings will take place in Tampa (8/29), Largo and Sarasota (8/30), Naples and Lehigh Acres (8/31) and Clewiston (9/1).



HPUBC0049 – Hitchcock, Virginia

[View in Google Maps](#)

Summary:

- o Congressional Redistricting Plan
- o 27 Districts
- o Complete: 90 unassigned census blocks
- o Contiguous: The districts contain holes and noncontiguous territory
- o Direct Impacts: Statewide
- o Submitted to the Florida House of Representatives
- o Submitted by Virginia Hitchcock of Sarasota County

Open Plan in MyDistrictBuilder or Another Application:

- o **KMZ File:** Save and Open Plan in MyDistrictBuilder
- o **Block Assignment File:** Save and Open Plan U.S. DOJ format

Statistics:

- o **PDF File:** Open District Summary Population Report
- o **PDF File:** Open District by County – Shares of Population Report
- o **CSV Spreadsheet File:** Open Census & ACS Summary Statistics
- o **CSV Spreadsheet File:** Open Census & ACS Expanded Statistics

Maps:

- o **PDF File:** Open Complete Map

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Filed under: Congress - Complete Plans, florida, redistricting, statewide

AUGUST 29, 2011 • 7:11 AM • 0

HPUBH0048 – Stacy, Graham

[View in Google Maps](#)

FloridaRedistricting.org and MyFloridaHouse.gov were used as hubs of information and access to [Watch Meetings Live](#) (via the [Florida Channel's Redistricting Hearings webcasting](#)), access the [Meeting Calendar](#) and follow other announcements related to the public meetings.

The image displays two webpages side-by-side. The left webpage is the FloridaRedistricting.org homepage, featuring a blue header with the text "FLORIDA REDISTRICTING" and "IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY". Below the header is a "MyDistrictBuilder" section with a "SIGNUP" button. The main content area includes sections for "Redistricting...What? Why? How?", "Legislative Headlines", "Public Participation", and "Legal Concepts". The right webpage is the MyFloridaHouse.gov homepage, also with a blue header. It features a "Florida Redistricting Streaming Media and Archives" section with a table of upcoming events. Below this is a "Speaker Dean Cannon" section with a photo and text. The bottom section is titled "In The News" and includes a "House Daily Schedule" section with a "No Events For Today" message. The footer of the right webpage includes a "Videos" section.

FloridaRedistricting.org

IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

MyDistrictBuilder

STAY INFORMED!
Do you want to receive email updates or news alerts about MyDistrictBuilder and Redistricting?
SIGNUP

Redistricting...What? Why? How?
Welcome to FloridaRedistricting.org. Redistricting is the redrawing of Florida's political boundary lines, every ten years, to reflect changes in population. Everyone lives in districts...congressional, legislative, etc. Those districts tell the stories of their communities. The Florida House is inviting Floridians to start the redistricting conversation. To enable that conversation, FloridaRedistricting.org serves as a hub of public participation opportunities, including access to MyDistrictBuilder™, the online tool for both Floridians and their legislators to suggest new district boundary lines.

Below are the latest releases of public information, calendar updates, legislative information and more.

Legislative Headlines:

- Plan Explorer: New Written Redistricting Plan Submissions (June 26)
- Press Release: Recap Public Participation Meetings in FL's Panhandle (June 22)
- Are You Ready to Participate in Florida's Redistricting? (June 17)
- Redistricting Public Services Announcements (June 15)
- Media Advisory for Redistricting Meetings in Florida's Panhandle (June 13)
- Video Update Regarding Public Meetings (June 12)

Public Participation:
Below are resources to guide your involvement in the many ways Floridians can participate in the 2011-2012 redistricting.

- Participate in Florida's Redistricting
- What is Redistricting and How Can Floridians Participate?
- Tell Us Your Story at a Public Meeting on Redistricting
- Helpful Guidance for Public Participation
- Learn Redistricting Concepts & Terminology
- Timeline for Redistricting in Florida
- Florida Redistricting By The Numbers
- Printable/Emailable Suggestion Form for Vision & Technology Impaired
- Learn to Use MyDistrictBuilder
- Complete Public Participation Toolkit

Legal Concepts:
Below are in-depth resources on Florida and federal redistricting legal requirements.

MyFloridaHouse.gov

IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR DISTRICT, YOUR STORY...TELL US YOUR STORY

Florida Redistricting Streaming Media and Archives

Archived videos are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. Click Video to watch the meeting with documents, or Agenda / Minutes to see just the documents. You can also search the archives by typing keywords into the Search box.

To enable the most effective streaming experience for all browsers and operating systems, please download and install [Silverlight](#) from Microsoft.

The minimum system requirements for watching the Archived video are available [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Name	Date
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Jacksonville	July 11, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - St. Augustine	July 12, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Daytona Beach	July 12, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - The Villages	July 13, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Gainesville	July 13, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Lakeland	July 25, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Wauchula	July 26, 2011 - 8:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Wesley Chapel	July 26, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 2:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Orlando	July 27, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Melbourne	July 28, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Stuart	August 15, 2011 - 6:00 PM
Redistricting Hearing - Boca Raton	August 16, 2011 - 10:00 AM
Redistricting Hearing - Ft. Pierce	August 16, 2011 - 6:00 PM

Florida House of Representatives

MyFloridaHouse.gov

HOME | BILLS | DOCUMENTS | REPRESENTATIVES | COMMITTEES | CALENDARS | LEADERSHIP | SESSION LIVE | LEGISLATIVE TRACKING | BROADCASTS

FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE | BILL FINDER | SEARCH BILLTEXT | SEARCH STATUTES

NEWS ALERTS Governor Scott Signs Legislation Expanding School Choice

Speaker Dean Cannon

Welcome to the Florida House of Representatives' Official Website.

Here, you can find information about what is happening in the Florida House and the Florida Legislature, including frequent updates on the once-in-a-decade Redistricting process and instant access to bills, bill analyses and amendments.

During the upcoming 2012 Session, legislators will redraw Florida's legislative and congressional districts. The House of Representatives is proud to make this the most open and transparent process of its kind and your input is critical to our mission. This summer, House Members will visit more than two dozen cities across our great state to listen to your thoughts on where the new lines should be drawn.

[Read Full Message](#)

- [Redistricting Schedule](#)
- [MyDistrictBuilder™](#)
- [Legislative Appointments](#)
- [Contact the Speaker](#)

In The News

Governor Scott Signs Legislation to Strengthen, Expand Charter and Virtual Schools
[I Read More](#)

Funerals for Fallen Firefighters Scheduled for Friday and Saturday
[I Read More](#)

Citizens to have say in new districts
[I Read More](#)

Redistricting Tour Stops In Bay County
[I Read More](#)

Brave new world of do-it-yourself mapping
[I Read More](#)

[Full Listing](#)

MyFloridaHouse Mobile

FLORIDA REDISTRICTING

Watch meetings live or view video archives at:

House Daily Schedule

No Events For Today.

[\[FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE\]](#)

Videos

CS/CS/HB 75 Five Questions with Ben

Email was also used to increase participation in the public meetings. Redistricting Committee Chair Will Weatherford provided all 120 Members of the House with meeting logistics and updates regarding publicly submitted redistricting plans for both the Members and their constituents to utilize. Furthermore, the House Office of Public Information and the Redistricting Committee updated their email lists with information about and ways to participate in the public meetings.

You forwarded this message on 9/7/2011 4:41 AM.

From: MyDistrictBuilder
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Cc:
Subject: Email Update - Florida House Redistricting - August 24, 2011

Sent: Wed 8/24/2011 3:24 PM

**Florida House of Representatives – House Redistricting Committee
Redistricting Update – August 24, 2011**

Information for the August 29 – September 1 Redistricting Meetings in Southwest Florida
For the upcoming August 29 – September 1 [public input meetings on redistricting](#) in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston, below are links to parking and driving directions, Google Maps for each location, and the RSVP page for each location. You do not have to RSVP, but if you wish to speak it is recommended that you RSVP and that you arrive prior to the start time of the meeting.

- Tampa on August 29: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Largo on August 30: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Sarasota on August 30: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Naples on August 31: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Lehigh Acres on August 31: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Clewiston on September 1: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)

Update on Redistricting Plan Submissions
We have crossed the 40 plans submitted mark! That means that Florida residents have submitted more than 40 partial or complete redistricting maps for the State House, State Senate or Congress. You can view, comment on and share the public submissions by visiting the “Public Submissions” button at <http://www.floridaredistricting.org/>. In addition, you can even save a map’s files to your computer and open them up in the House’s [MyDistrictBuilder](#) application at <http://floridaredistricting.cloudapp.net/MyDistrictBuilder.aspx>. So if you see a map that you like, but you think it could use some improvement, you can use MyDistrictBuilder to make changes and resubmit the proposal with your revisions.

August 25 Pinellas/Pasco Redistricting Meeting
In addition to the 26 public input meetings on redistricting, held jointly by the Florida House and Senate, State Representative Peter [Nehr](#) is

**OFFICE OF
PUBLIC
INFORMATION**

Attention Subscribers:

Next week, Members of the Florida House and Senate will head to southwest Florida for the final leg of the 2011 Statewide Redistricting Public Input Tour. For next week’s meetings in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston, below are links to parking and driving directions, Google Maps for each location, and the RSVP page for each location. Attendees are not required to RSVP, but if you wish to speak it is recommended that you do so and also that you arrive prior to the start time of the meeting. Please feel free to visit www.floridaredistricting.org for additional resources related to the once-in-a-decade Redistricting process.

- Tampa on August 29: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Largo on August 30: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Sarasota on August 30: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Naples on August 31: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Lehigh Acres on August 31: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)
- Clewiston on September 1: [RSVP](#) – [Driving and Parking](#) – [Google Maps](#)

We hope you find this information helpful.

Thank you.

The [Office of Public Information](#) and the [Redistricting Committee](#) used their respective YouTube pages and video content to help prepare Floridians for both what to expect at the public meetings and also give suggestions on how Florida residents must prepare to offer their feedback on Florida's redistricting.

2011 Public Meeting Locations

www.floridaredistricting.org

MyDistrictBuilderFL's Channel ☒ Subscribed [Playlists](#)

Redistricting PSA - 30 seconds
MyDistrictBuilderFL

[View comments, related videos, and more](#)

Recent Activity

MyDistrictBuilderFL added new videos to [Meetings, Interviews & Presentations](#) (1 week ago)

Spanish Redistricting PSA

MyFloridaHouse ☒ Subscribed 113 videos [Download This Video](#)

Proceso de Redistribucion Distrital en la Florida: Tu Oportunidad, Una Vez Cada Decada

www.floridaredistricting.org

2011 Redistricting Tour - Tallahassee by MyFloridaHouse 167 views

2011 Redistricting Tour - Orlando by MyFloridaHouse 167 views

2011 Redistricting Tour - The Villages by MyFloridaHouse 72 views

2011 Redistricting Tour - St. Augustine by MyFloridaHouse 105 views

Redistricting PSA by MyFloridaHouse 315 views

Direct Contact (via email and phone) with numerous civic organizations, colleges and universities, local governments and other organizations has also been made throughout the process of preparing for the public meetings. The following organizations were contacted prior to these redistricting public input meetings.

- ☐ Southwest Florida County Supervisors of Election
- ☐ Southwest Florida County Commissions
- ☐ Southwest Florida City and Town Commissions and Councils
- ☐ Southwest Florida County School Boards
- ☐ Southwest Florida College and University Student Government Associations, Government Coordinators and/or Political Science Departments