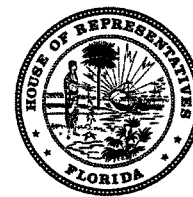


THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



MIKE HARIDOPoulos

President of the Senate



DEAN CANNON

*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

March 30, 2012

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

**Re: Submission Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act: Request
for Preclearance of Florida Senate Districts in Collier, Hardee,
Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties**

Dear Mr. Herren:

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 1973c, the State of Florida submits for preclearance the newly enacted State Senate districts in Senate Joint Resolution 2-B (“SJR 2-B”), to the extent they affect the five Florida counties—Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties—covered under Section 5. SJR 2-B establishes new State Senate districts for the State of Florida.

SJR 2-B is the Florida Legislature’s second attempt to reapportion State Senate districts. On February 9, 2012, the Legislature adopted Senate Joint Resolution 1176, which apportioned state legislative districts. On March 9, 2012, the Florida Supreme Court invalidated the Senate plan under the Florida Constitution. At the same time, the Court held that “the Senate plan does not facially dilute a minority group’s voting strength or cause retrogression under Florida law.” *In re Senate Joint Resolution of Legislative Apportionment 1176*, No. SC12-1, 2012 WL 753122, at *54 (Fla. Mar. 9, 2012).

On March 27, 2012, the Legislature enacted Senate Joint Resolution 2-B to conform to the judgment of the Court. Pursuant to Article III, Section 16(e) of the Florida Constitution, the Florida Attorney General will submit SJR 2-B to the Florida Supreme Court for a determination of its validity. This submission for preclearance is made


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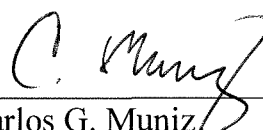
concurrently, as permitted under 28 C.F.R. § 51.22(b), to afford a full sixty days for preclearance review before the commencement of candidate qualifying on June 4, 2012. See §§ 99.061(1), 100.031, 100.061, Fla. Stat. (2011). In light of the imminent qualifying period, prompt consideration is requested.

The attached submission is organized to correspond to 28 C.F.R. §§ 51.27 and 51.28. Please let us know if you have any questions.


Sincerely,



Andy Bardos
Special Counsel
Florida Senate



Carlos G. Muniz
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General



George Levesque
General Counsel
Florida House of Representatives