



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Wilton Simpson, President
Kathleen Passidomo, Republican President-Designate
Lauren Book, Democratic Leader
SUBJECT: Release of Staff-Produced Legislative and Congressional Maps
DATE: November 9, 2021

As Chair Rodrigues mentioned in his memo yesterday, we all understand and expect the Wednesday release of staff-produced legislative and congressional maps to trigger quite a few questions and comments. We are certain some of this feedback will be productive and appropriate to consider as we undertake our once-in-a-decade responsibility to produce constitutional maps. However, we also want to make sure Senators are aware that you may receive questions that have nothing to do with the constitutional standards we have sworn an oath to uphold and are instead full of political analysis and queries about our own future political ambitions.

We expect staff to release draft maps that comply with both Tier 1 and Tier 2 constitutional standards, as unanimously directed by the Committee on Reapportionment. The directives issued to staff specifically state: "To comply with the Tier One standard related to intent to favor or disfavor an incumbent, you are directed to draw districts without the use of any residence information of any sitting member of the Florida Legislature or Congress and to draw districts without regard to the preservation of existing district boundaries."

As Senators, we are frequently presented with situations where we must set aside our personal views and make decisions in keeping with the oath we each took to defend the constitution and laws of this state. Nowhere is this responsibility more challenging than in redistricting given that some of us may ultimately decide to vote for a map knowing the realities of that map are such that we will never be reelected. Some of us may choose to defer seeking reelection. Still others may decide to run against a current colleague who we know and respect.

Our responsibility as Senators is to pass a constitutional map. Future political ambitions in this chamber or elsewhere should be of no consideration as we review the work of our staff. Therefore, we would encourage Senators not to opine on the staff-produced maps in the context of your own political future. The time for campaigning is coming, but the time for legislating is now, which requires fulfilling our responsibility to pass constitutional maps.