



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Wilton Simpson
SUBJECT: Reapportionment Information – Committee Assignments
DATE: September 3, 2021

With the census data necessary to begin the redistricting process now available, the Senate can begin holding committee meetings related to redistricting when interim committee meetings resume in Tallahassee later this month. As such, I am moving forward with appointments to the Senate Committee on Reapportionment.

Committee Leadership and Assignments

A full list of appointments to the Committee on Reapportionment and its Select Subcommittees is attached for your reference. As previously announced, Senator Rodrigues will serve as Chair of the Committee on Reapportionment. Additionally, I will divide the Committee into two Select Subcommittees. Senator Bradley will Chair the Select Subcommittee on Congressional Reapportionment. Senator Burgess will Chair the Select Subcommittee on Legislative Reapportionment.

Committee Structure and Process

Senate Rule 2.1 (4) authorizes the creation of Select Subcommittees to study or investigate a specific issue falling within the jurisdiction of the standing committee. The work of the select subcommittee is advisory, reported to the standing committee, and accepted, amended, or rejected by vote of the standing committee. It is my expectation that each select subcommittee will make one or more recommendations to the full committee, which would in turn make a recommendation for consideration on the Senate floor.

As mentioned previously, Senate staff have been planning for software and other infrastructure needed to draw maps and have been working to input the newly received census data. This effort includes coordination with the Florida House, at the staff level, to develop a joint website that will launch in the coming weeks. This is ultimately the site that will provide the public with information about opportunities for appropriate engagement and with access to the data and mapping application.

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As we move forward, Senators should continue to take care to insulate themselves from interests that may intentionally or unintentionally attempt to influence the redistricting process inappropriately. Senators and staff should also be mindful that correspondence, including electronic communications related to the enactment of new districts, whether sent or received on official Senate accounts or devices or personal email accounts or devices, may be of permanent or archival value and those records should be preserved accordingly.

As we move forward towards our interim committee weeks, I recognize that Senators, staff and members of the public have questions about COVID-19 protocols. At this point, I anticipate the Senate will remain open to visitors during our interim committee weeks. As always, Senators and staff can decide whether or not to schedule in-person meetings in their individual offices. In consultation with our infectious disease consultants at Tampa General, I will continue to monitor the evolving status of the pandemic and will not hesitate to implement enhanced protocols if necessary. I will continue to keep Senators and the public informed of any updates.