

Public Hearings on Redistricting Tallahassee (June 20, 2011)

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Hearing Report

Date: June 20, 2011

City: Tallahassee

Location: Knott Building, Room 412

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm

Number of Speakers: 63

Total Attendance: 154

The Tallahassee public hearings were held at the Captiol, in a room regularly used for public hearings and committee meetings (Room 412, Knott Building, Captiol Complex, 404 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399). A map with directions to the hearings and parking instructions was posted on the internet prior to the meetings. Two hearings were held, the first beginning at 1:00pm and the second at 6:00pm. Legislative staff posted signs throughout the Capitol to provide direction to the meeting room. Staff provided assistance at the hearings by answering questions and displaying district building software outside the meeting room. The meetings were advertised in the Tallahassee Democrat June 17-19, and an op-ed jointly authored by the Chairman Gaetz and Chairman Weatherford was published in the Tallahassee Democrat on June 19. Notice of the meetings was published on each chamber's website, and the public was invited to the meetings via social media websites. Messages were sent to over 80 school board officials, over 110 county commissioners, and over 400 city elected officials in Northwest Florida. Over 120 leaders of public interest groups and civic organizations were also sent messages inviting them and the groups they represent to the hearings. The hearings were streamed live on The Florida Channel's website, recorded, and subsequently re-aired. At the first meeting 50 individuals signed up to speak, and 13 at the second. At the first hearing 22 senators and 39 representatives were present. At the second, 16 senators and 29 representatives were present. After hearing testimony and gathering input from the public, legislators at the meeting were given an opportunity to comment.

Submission from Joseph Cain



Congressional District 22



Congressional District 11



Submission from Douglas Croley

Florida Redistricting
Tallahassee – June 20, 2011

House District – Northeast Gadsden County

Presented by Douglas M. Croley
Gadsden County Commissioner – District Two

Mr. Chair,

As County Commissioner for a large segment of northeast Gadsden County, I appear before this honorable committee to request your most serious consideration to include the Havana area within the Florida House of Representatives district serving northern Leon County. This request for realignment is based upon the serious need to better join together in a traditional manner “communities of common interest” and to do so in compliance with State and Federal law. To this worthy end, please allow me to reference the following key points in support of this redistricting request:

1. Because of its geographical location, northeast Gadsden County is closely aligned with northern Leon County as evidenced by a shared county line on the eastern side and with all east/west connector roads tying together both counties;
2. Most of the business interests, employment, higher education, retail consumer shopping, social, medical, transportation, recreational and cultural needs and requirements of northeast Gadsden County are closely tied to northern Leon County;
3. And, northeast Gadsden County has transitioned into a suburb of northern Leon County with most families having a close day to day presence within the Tallahassee area north of West Tennessee Street and north of East Mahan Drive.

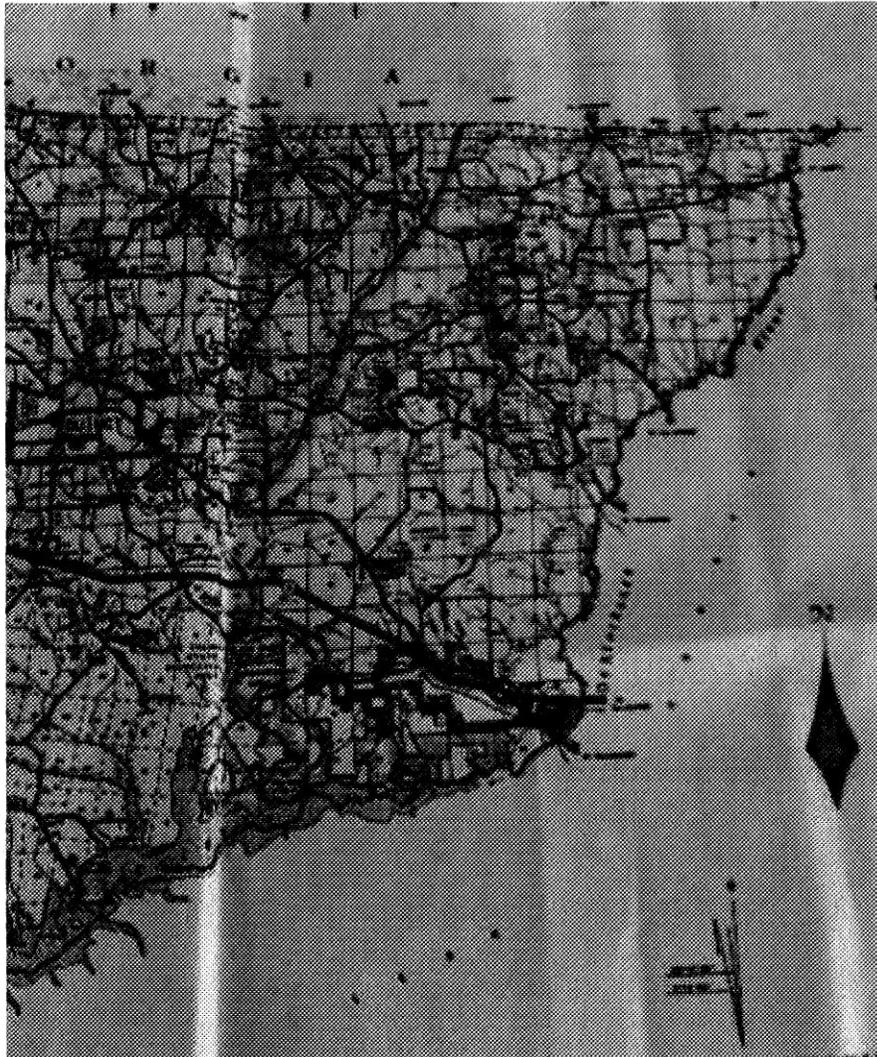
The attached Florida Department of Transportation county map has been highlighted in yellow to indicate northeast Gadsden County in a manner that lends both simplicity and reasonableness to this specific redistricting request. (See attachments #s 1 & 2.)

Having discussed this matter with numerous citizens, I am confident that this proposal will be well received if implemented. I have also touched upon this subject with each of our present State Representatives now serving Gadsden County and I believe that each of them fully appreciate the rationale that underlies this proposal.

I thank the Committee for its time and attentiveness. Should any member now have questions, I will be happy to respond. Otherwise, I will be available to your staff to provide any additional information needed.

Douglas M. Croley
Gadsden County Commissioner
District Two

Attachment #1



Attachment #2

Boundary Description of Northeast Gadsden County

West Boundary - beginning at the Georgia State line run south down the Swamp Creek to the Attapulcus Creek, then run south down Attapulcus Creek to Willacoochee Creek, then run south down the Little River to U S Hwy 90.

South Boundary – begin at the Little River and run east along north side of US Hwy 90 to Interstate 10, then run east along north side of Interstate 10 to the Ochlockonee River.

East Boundary – begin at north side of Interstate 10 and run north up Ochlockonee River to Georgia State line.

North Boundary – begin at Ochlockonee River and run west to the Swamp Creek.

Submission from Betsy Barfield

Betsy Barfield - Commissioner
District Four - Jefferson County
850.933.4055
bbarfield@jeffersoncountyfl.gov

Common Sense and the Constitutional Principle of 'One Person, One Vote'.

Number of Voters per District - Jefferson County, FL

2280 - District 1 - Steven Fulford - 23.51% - 341 over
1787 - District 2 - John Nelson - 18.42% - 152 UNDER
1444 - District 3 - Hines Boyd - 14.88% - 495 UNDER
2219 - District 4 - Betsy Barfield - 22.90% - 280 over
1968 - District 5 - Danny Monroe - 20.29% 29 over
9698 - Total Voters
1939.6 (20%) voters per district

Voter Source - Jefferson County Supervisor of Elections 12/27/10

Baker County 25% of people in District 1 are incarcerated.
Calhoun County - 48% of people in District 4 are incarcerated.
Hardee County - 20% of the people in District 2 are incarcerated.
Jefferson County - 29% of the people in District 3 are incarcerated.
Wakulla County - 18% of the people of District 1 are incarcerated.

This is a problem for fair representation.

Columbia, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes and Madison have ignored the prison populations when drawing their county commissioner districts.

Submission from Mimi Jones



Please Provide Completed Form To:
Legislative Staff at the Meeting.
or
Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov,
or
Fax to (850) 487-6413



Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on www.floridaredistriking.org and www.flsenate.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.

*Field is required.

Prefix MS *First Name Mimi *Last Name JONES Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) CITIZEN

*Your Address 2428 Besswood *City Tal *State FL *Zip 32308

Your County Leon Your Email mimijones37@icloud.com

*What type of map are you commenting on? Congressional State House State Senate

*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting? Yes No

Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.

FOLLOW THE CONSTITUTION

(Over)

www.floridaredistriking.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting



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*Field is required.

Prefix Ms *First Name Mimi Jones *Last Name _____ Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 2428 BIRWOOD LN *City LAL *State FL *Zip 32308

Your County LEON Your Email mijones37@yahoo.com

*What type of map are you commenting on? Congressional State House State Senate

*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting? Yes No

Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.

WE NEED A PLAN TO TWEAK NOW
THE LEGISLATURE IS THE ONE
TO DO IT - IT'S A RED HERRING
TO ASK OTHERS TO DO IT, ETC.
AS AN EDUCATION AS TO THE
DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED.

YOU HAVE THE STANDARDS & THE
MONEY. DO IT RIGHT.

SAVE MONEY. STOP FIGHTING YOUR
CONSTITUENTS IN COURT UNLESS YOU
FEEL SO STRONGLY THAT YOU'LL
SPEND YOUR OWN MONEY, AS YOUR
CONSTITUENTS ARE FORCED TO DO
WHEN YOU FORGET YOU WORK FOR US.

(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

REDISTRICTING · 2012

ABOUT REDISTRICTING

After each decennial Census, the Legislature redraws the districts from which voters elect their public officials. In general, districts are redrawn to accommodate population changes and ensure that district populations are as nearly equal in number as practicable.

There will be opportunities for citizen participation during public hearings, interim committee meetings, and the 2012 Session.

REDISTRICTING LAW

The United States Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Florida Constitution each regulate redistricting. Under the United States Constitution, district populations must be as nearly equal as practicable. In addition, race may not be the predominant factor in drawing lines, unless the use of race is narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling interest.

The Voting Rights Act requires the creation of a district that performs for racial minorities where (1) a minority population is geographically compact and sufficiently numerous to be a majority in a single district; (2) the minority population is politically cohesive; (3) the majority votes sufficiently as a bloc to enable it usually to defeat the minority-preferred candidate; and (4) under all of the circumstances, the minority population has less opportunity than others to participate in the political process and elect representatives of its choice.

The Voting Rights Act applies additional requirements to districts that include any part of Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, or Monroe County. In these districts, the Voting Rights Act prohibits purposeful discrimination and protects against retrogression—or backsliding—in the ability of racial minorities to elect representatives of their choice. To ensure compliance with these requirements, the redistricting plan must be submitted to and precleared by a federal court or the United States Department of Justice before it may be enforced.

The Florida Constitution requires that districts be contiguous. A district is contiguous if all of its territory is in actual contact, uninterrupted by the territory of another district. Contact at a corner or right angle is insufficient, but territory may cross bodies of water. The Constitution allows state legislative districts to overlap, either partially or entirely.

THE NUMBERS

In 2012, the Legislature will redraw the state's congressional districts as well as districts for Florida House and Florida Senate seats. The number of congressional districts in Florida will increase from 25 to 27. The number of Florida House seats must be between 80 and 120, while the number of Florida Senate seats must be between 30 and 40. Currently, the Florida House and Florida Senate contain 120 members and 40 members, respectively. If these numbers are maintained, the average population of a Florida House district will be 156,678, while the average population of a Florida Senate district will be 470,033. Each congressional district will contain approximately 696,345 people.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Legislature will draw lines in accordance with the standards in federal and state law and traditional redistricting principles not inconsistent with those standards. To this end, the Legislature encourages public testimony directed to the following points:

- The full implementation of the protections afforded by the Amendments to racial and language minorities, including continuance of the Legislature's long-established policy to preserve or enhance the number of performing minority districts.
- The various measures of compactness, from geometric calculations to a broad consideration of how communities relate to one another, for example through commerce, transportation, and communication—in order to promote the creation of effective representational units.



REDISTRICTING 2012

- The feasibility of using political and geographical boundaries in the formation of districts, in light of other standards such as the equality of district populations, the protection of racial and language minorities, and compactness.
- To the extent not inconsistent with the Amendments, the desire to preserve the cores of existing districts or the proper placement of communities of interest in districts, as determined by local circumstances and voter preferences.

This approach, together with public testimony, research, and facts developed throughout the redistricting process, will result in the adoption of redistricting plans that have the intent and result of full compliance with all legal mandates, including Amendments 5 and 6, and of effective and meaningful representation for all voters in the State of Florida.

Citizens from all parts of the state can visit the House website (www.floridaredistricting.org) and the Senate website (www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting), to learn about creating and submitting their own House, Senate, and congressional maps, and to participate actively in the most open, transparent, and interactive redistricting ever.

LEGAL REVIEWS

After enactment, state senatorial and representative districts are reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court.

Congressional districts are set by an act of the Legislature subject to the Governor's approval. All redistricting plans must be submitted to and precleared by a federal court or the United States Department of Justice.

REDISTRICTING MILESTONES

- JUNE 20 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2011: STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEARINGS
- SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2011: INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- JANUARY 10 - MARCH 9, 2012: REGULAR SESSION
- FEBRUARY - JUNE 2012: LEGAL REVIEWS
- JUNE 4 - 8, 2012: QUALIFYING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICES
- AUGUST 14, 2012: PRIMARY ELECTION
- NOVEMBER 6, 2012: GENERAL ELECTION

SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

Senator Don Gaetz, Chair
www.flsenate.gov/redistricting
 103 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 (850) 487-5855
RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov

HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Rep. Will W. Weatherford, Chair
www.floridaredistricting.org
 400 House Office Building
 402 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
 (850) 488-3928
mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov

Visit

www.floridaredistricting.org and
www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting
 to learn more about creating and
 submitting your own house, senate,
 and congressional maps.

Draw and Submit Your Own 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. Submitting your plan is one of the best ways to show what works for your community. Citizens have full and easy access to the same web application and information that Senators and professional staff use.

To start using District Builder you need:

- A personal account. Choose “**District Builder**” at www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting to register.
- Display resolution of 1024 x 768 or higher.
- A broadband Internet computer and mouse. Firefox (3.6 and 4.0) and Internet Explorer (7 and 8) are supported (Internet Explorer 9 and Opera are not). Your browser must be set to allow JavaScript and pop-ups from “flsenate.gov.”

For full details, see <https://db10.flsenate.gov/db1/help>.

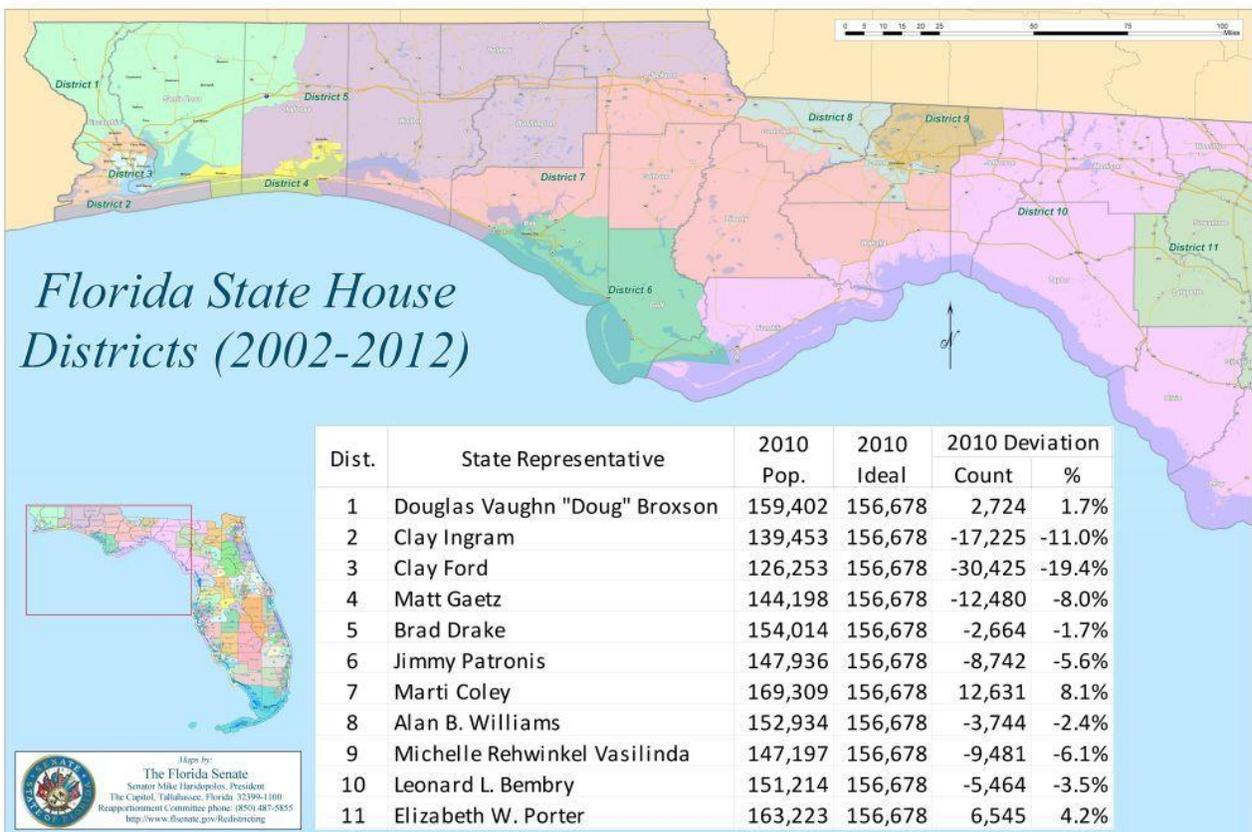
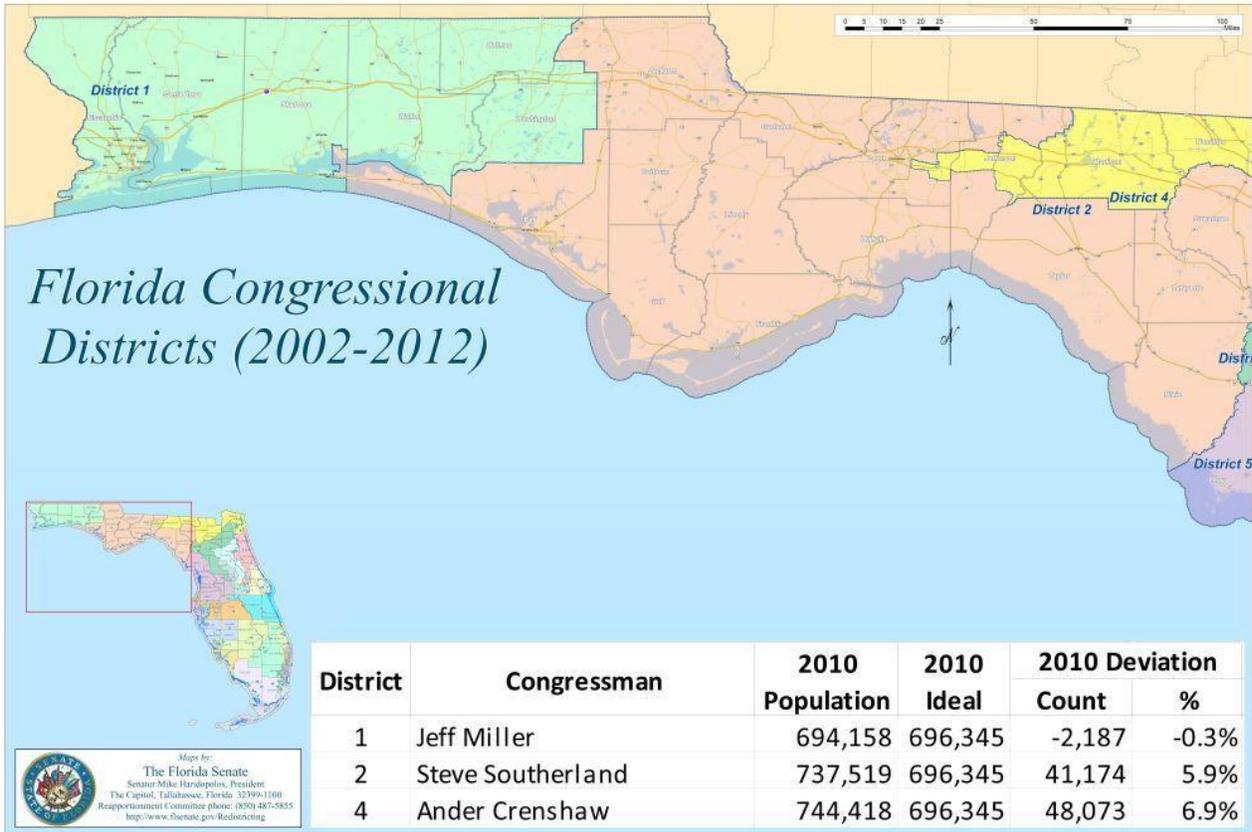
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection and copying. See § 11.0431(2)(e), Fla. Stat.

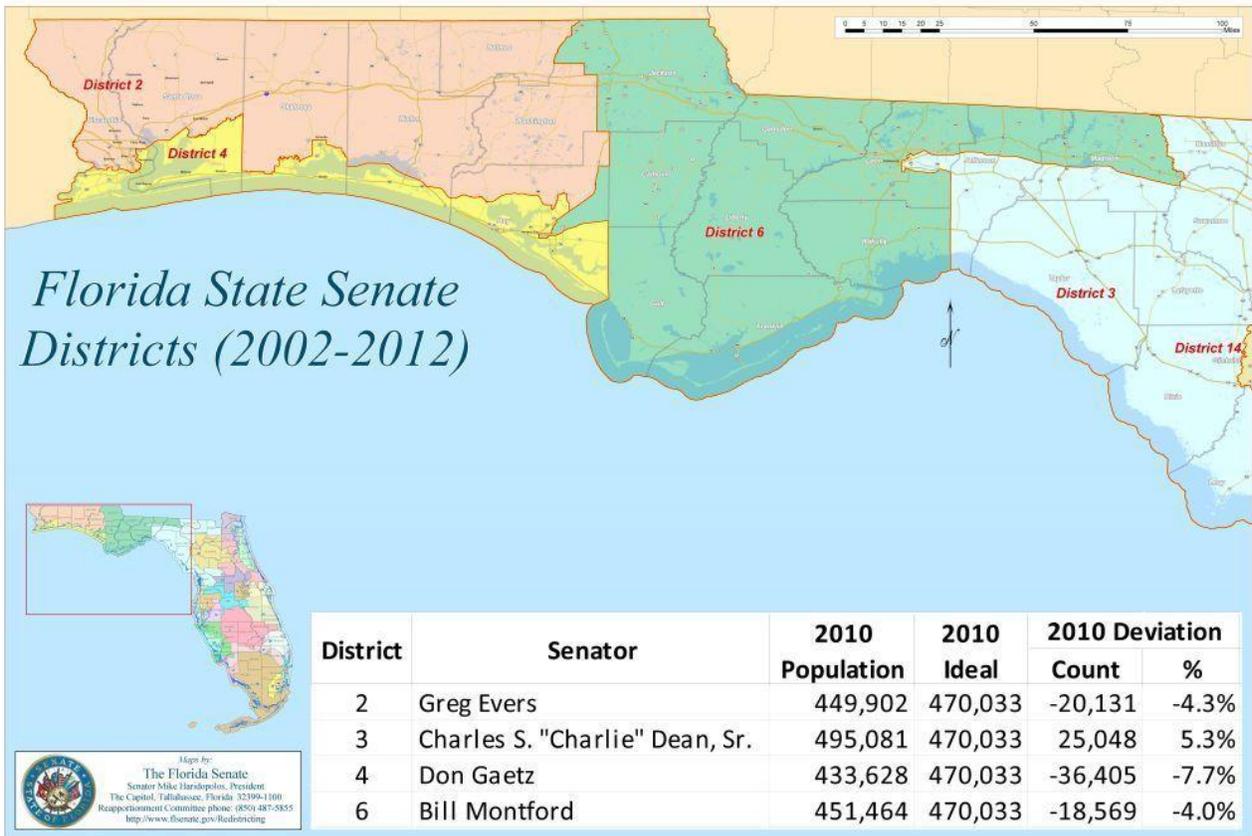
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see www.floridaredistricting.org. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose which better meets their needs.

Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

With innovative technologies and joint [public hearings](#), the Florida Legislature is promoting the most open, accessible, and interactive redistricting ever.

Displays Prepared by Florida Senate





Population Deviations of Current Florida House Districts Relative to 2010 Census
Ideal district population (156,678)

Population Deviations of Current Florida Senate Districts Relative to 2010 Census
Ideal district population (470,033)

Population Deviations of Current Congressional Districts Relative to 2010 Census
Ideal district population (696,345)

