

Public Hearing on Redistricting Stuart (August 15, 2011)

Contents

Hearing Report.....	2
Submission from Thomas W. Lockwood	3
Submission from Priscilla Taylor	4
Submission from Okeechobee County Commission	5
Submission from Mike Jones.....	9
Submission from Kathy Brandon.....	10
Submission from Donald Hart	11
Submission from Chuck Winn.....	13
Submission from Vicki Davis.....	20
Handouts	21
Displays Prepared by Florida Senate	23

Hearing Report

Date: August 15, 2011

City: Stuart

Location: Blake Library, John F. Armstrong Wing

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Number of Speakers: 67

Total Attendance: 180

The public hearing in Stuart took place in the John F. Armstrong Wing of the Blake Library (2351 SE Monterey Rd., Stuart, FL 34996). Prior to the meeting, a map with directions to the hearing and parking instructions was posted on the internet. Legislative staff posted signs outside the building and the room to provide directions to the hearing, and was on hand to answer questions and display district building software outside the meeting room.

The hearing was advertised in The Palm Beach Post and Sun-Sentinel on August 14 and 15 and in El Nuevo Herald August 14. Each chamber's website published the public notice, and social media websites invited the public to the hearing as well. Senate staff sent invitations to more than 30 school board officials, over 50 county commissioners, administrators, and personnel under local supervisors of elections. Over 620 city-level elected officials in South Florida and more than 240 public interest group leaders received invitations encouraging leaders and the groups they represent to attend the hearing.

The hearing was streamed live on The Florida Channel's website, recorded, and subsequently re-aired. There were 8 senators and 19 representatives present at the hearing chaired by Representative Precout. Of the 180 people who filled out attendance cards 67 indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing.

After hearing testimony and gathering input from the public, legislators at the meeting were given an opportunity to comment.

Submission from Thomas W. Lockwood

THOMAS W. LOCKWOOD
P.O. Box 3667
Vero Beach, FL 32964

Senator Don Gaetz
Representative Will Weatherford

August 15, 2011

Dear Sen. Gaetz and Rep. Weatherford:

As Chairman of the Indian River County Republican Executive Committee for the past 20 years, I have enjoyed a strong support for and working relationship with the elected officials we have placed in office over the years.

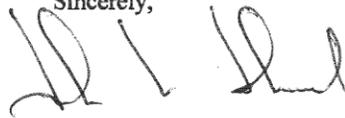
Indian River County strongly recommends we keep Cong. Bill Posey for our entire county or least the largest part. The open seat being vacated by Senate President Mike Haridopolos should be left to include all or most of Indian River County so our voters can have a say in who is their next Senator.

We also think that having two State Representatives has worked better for our voters and ask that we be able to continue. We are encouraging you to please help in this endeavor.

Please allow Indian River County to stay in touch and have input as you move forward carrying out the constitutional amendments.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. W. Lockwood', written in a cursive style.

Thomas W. Lockwood

Submission from Priscilla Taylor



Legislative Affairs

301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 1101.4
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-3451
FAX: (561) 355-3982
www.pbcgov.com



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Karen T. Marcus, Chair
Shelley Vana, Vice Chair
Paulette Burdick
Steven L. Abrams
Burt Aaronson
Jess R. Santamaria
Priscilla A. Taylor

County Administrator

Robert Weisman

"An Equal Opportunity
Affirmative Action Employer"



Notes for Commissioner Taylor – State and Federal Redistricting meeting Palm Beach and Martin County –Aug. 15 and 16

Excerpts from the adopted Palm Beach County Legislative Position on State and Federal Redistricting:

- *Adopt an apportionment plan that minimizes overlap of senatorial and representative districts into counties adjacent to Palm Beach County.*
- *Support the adoption of an apportionment plan in which Palm Beach County residents comprise a majority of the constituencies in the senatorial and representative districts created such that **no less than three Senate districts are created with a majority of their district within Palm Beach County.***

Comments at Blake Library - Stuart, FL meeting:

- The Constitutional amendments that require districts to be compact and follow political and geographic boundaries must be followed, and within those legal parameters, we would ask the legislature to consider the principal of communities of similar interest in the northern part of Palm Beach County when applying those principals to redistricting.
- The northern municipalities maintain shared interests with some of the communities and municipalities to the north along the Treasure Coast, and Palm Beach County has appreciated the strong representation we have enjoyed from members in that area of the County who have represented both Palm Beach and Martin Counties.
- So long as the district lines remain compact and follow the municipal and geographic boundaries in the north, it is acceptable that some of the districts traverse county lines when also considering the principal of communities of similar interest.

Comments at FAU – Boca Raton, FL meeting:

- It is our position to focus on the bigger picture of current representation based strictly on the number of representatives currently in the State and Federal Delegation and our desire to keep those numbers.
- As far as representation in concerned, we ask for nothing more than we currently have, and we ask for nothing less considering Palm Beach County has maintained pace with the overall growth in the State of Florida over the past 10 year.
- **Most importantly, our only specific ask is the desire to maintain no less than three Senate districts with a majority of their district within Palm Beach County.**

Submission from Okeechobee County Commission

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-35

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING A REDISTRICTING PLAN WHICH RETAINS INCLUSION IN TWO STATE HOUSE DISTRICTS AND TWO STATE SENATE DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Okeechobee County, Florida is currently included in two State House Districts and two State Senate Districts, as depicted on the maps attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, Okeechobee County is a predominantly rural area, with agricultural concerns; and

WHEREAS, the current State House District Plan and the current State Senate District Plan have resulted in representation of Okeechobee County by multiple persons with a strong understanding of rural needs; and

WHEREAS, having only one State House Representative or one State Senator for Okeechobee County would weaken the political influence of rural areas like Okeechobee County and shift more power to regions with differing demographics and needs; and

WHEREAS, without strong voices from representatives familiar with rural concerns, it is likely that rural concerns could be overrun by large market needs and political powers; and

WHEREAS, Okeechobee County has benefitted from being included in two State House Districts and two State Senate Districts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA as follows:

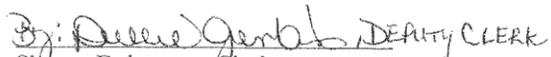
1. That Okeechobee County, Florida supports a redistricting plan which retains inclusion in two State House Districts and two State Senate Districts, to best serve the interests of Okeechobee County.
2. That this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

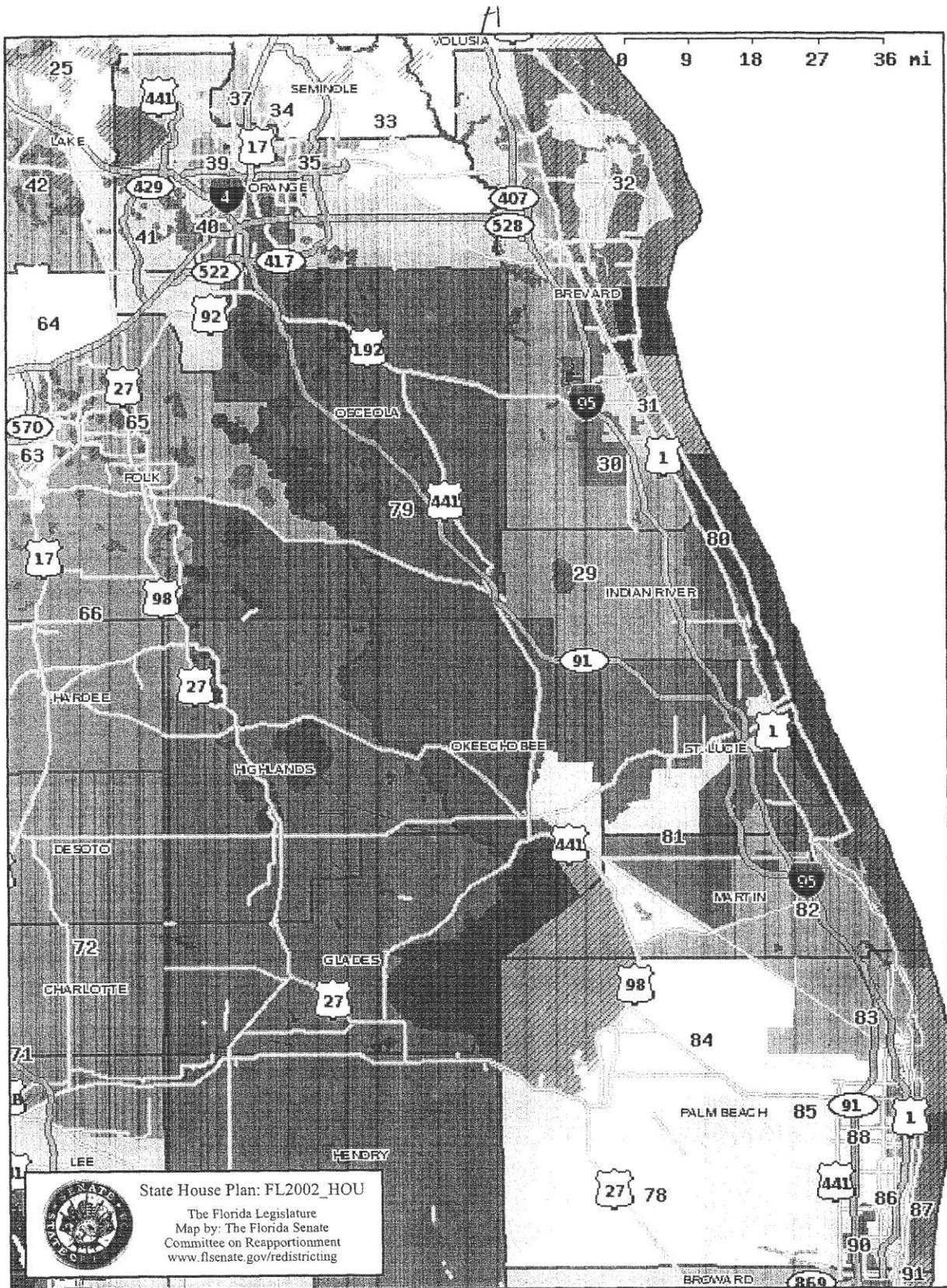
[7000-89180.WPD]

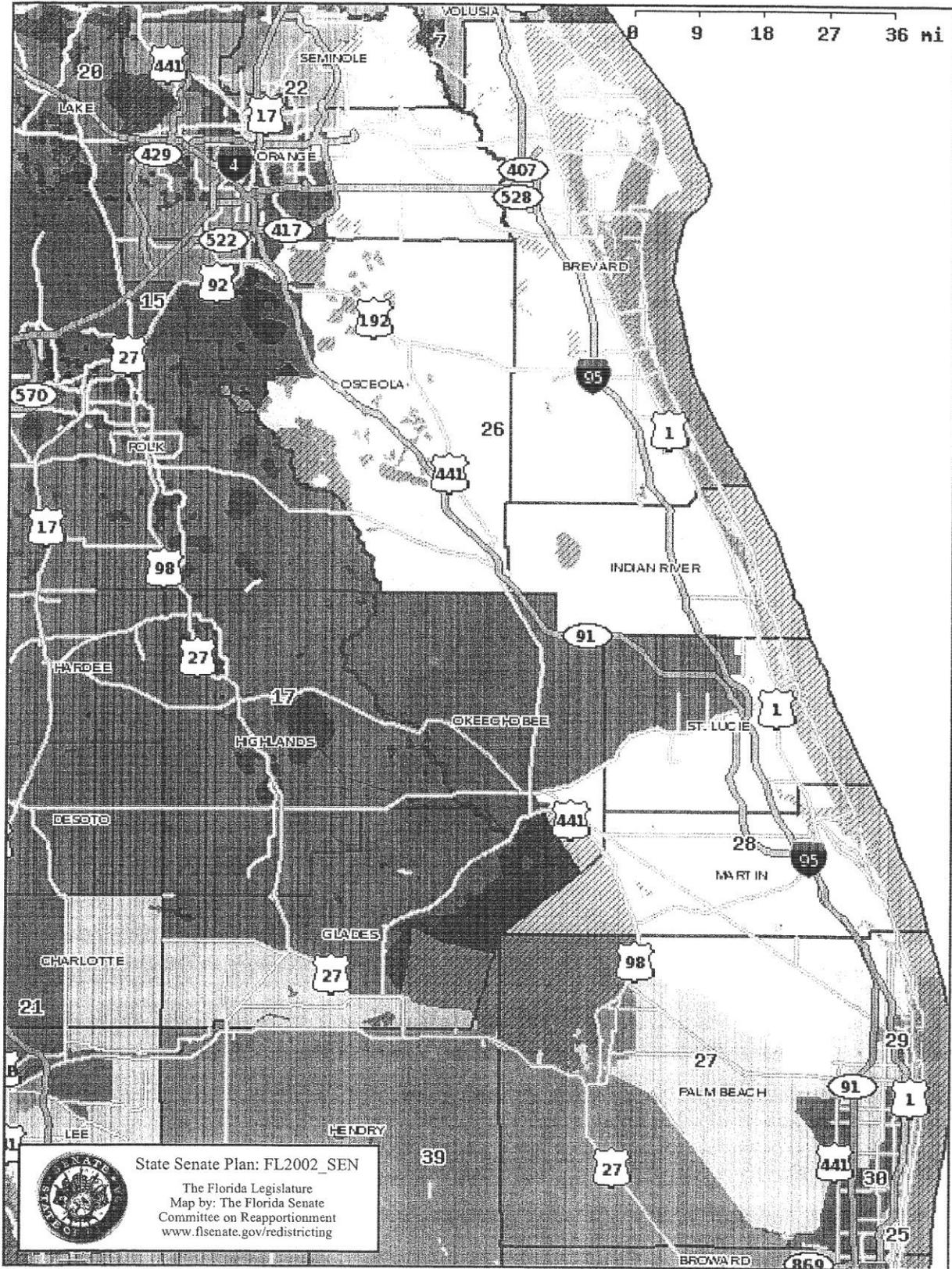
APPROVED and ADOPTED this 15 day of August, 2011.


MARGARET GARRARD HELTON,
CHAIRWOMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

By:  DEPUTY CLERK
Sharon Robertson, Clerk
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA





Submission from Mike Jones



August 14, 2011

Talking Points, Mike Jones, President and CEO

August 15 and 16 redistricting hearings in Stuart and Boca Raton

I am the President and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. The EC is non-partisan, non-profit organization promoting policies that create an environment in which business can prosper. The EC is a countywide organization of owners and CEOs of large, medium and small employers representing every industry sector and geographical area. I have been a resident of North Palm Beach for over 10 years.

- I have reviewed the redistricting guidelines and found them to be very confusing and contradictory. I sympathize with legislators who must finally decide and applaud your efforts to hear from the public.
- Thanks to the Legislature for listening to citizens first before producing maps.
- I also commend the Legislature for an open and transparent process that allows citizens to submit their suggestions.
- The growth of Palm Beach County (16.7%) has nearly matched that of the State (17.7%) and justifies consideration to maintain fair representation for our County in the Legislature and Congress.
- Palm Beach County is larger than some other “regions” of the State composed of multiple counties. Almost 60% of the population resides within incorporated areas.
- Even though we are one of the largest counties in land area east of the Mississippi, larger than some states, and even though our diverse population is dispersed in 38 cities and towns, we do have “communities of interest with common concerns” which can be grouped geographically.
- These communities of interest can rationally be divided, for example, geographically among the northern population centers (Juno, Jupiter, Lake Park, North Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, Tequesta), the central county (Greenacres, Lake Worth, Lantana, Palm Springs, West Palm Beach), the south county (Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach), the western communities (Loxahatchee Groves, Royal Palm Beach, Wellington,) and the Lakes-Glades region (Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay).
- A large percentage of the population within our very large County resides within 10-15 miles of the coast.
- While the FEC corridor, I-95 and the Turnpike serve as north-south connectors for communities of interest, they also provide natural division boundaries between the east and west.
- Much of the County's organic growth continues to move northward toward the Treasure Coast as evidenced by the establishment of Scripps and Max Planck on the FAU-Abacoa campus and Torrey Pines in St Lucie County.
- These points of connectivity in the northern portions of the Treasure Coast must be counterbalanced with the recognition that the new FAU medical school on the Boca Raton campus has launched a joint PhD program with the Scripps Institute to the north.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

1555 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard, Suite 950
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
Telephone: (561) 684-1551 ♦ Facsimile: (561) 689-7346

Submission from Kathy Brandon

My name is ^{KATHY BRANDON LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS ST LUCIE COUNTY} and I am vp of lwvslc. Let me say that I feel we are living in Seinfeld's bisarrio world. Tonight we should be speaking about the maps, but instead I will plead for you to move up your time-line. The congressional maps can be drawn now. There is no reason to wait. Other states have already begun the process and are well ahead of Florida. We are in the national public eye and need to do this process well.

St Lucie County is represented in the FL congress by 4 house representatives and 3 senators. They are confused. Now it is time to implement "Fair Districts". You must move up your timeline in order to avoid massive voter confusion in 2012, and allow for public comment or input on the maps.

The committee should begin working on maps in Sept in order to have final approval when session begins in Jan 2012. Here is the League's suggestion:

1. Oct 3 deadline for legislators to file all proposed redistricting plans.
2. Completion of all committee review of the maps by the conclusion of the interim committee hearings in Dec 2011.
3. Require any amendment be filed with sufficient notice to afford citizens an opportunity to review the various plans.
4. Vote on the final plans on the Floor by no later than the end of the first week of session, Friday, January 12, 2012.

This allows 2 months for the court and Justice Department reviews. I am worried that after 26 hearings we will still be in the dark as to what the House and Senate intend to do with district maps.

Let me close by quoting "A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting, 2010 Edition," published by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, "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."

Submission from Donald Hart

Florida State Conference NAACP Martin County Talking Points

The state of Florida should ensure transparency, fairness, and compliance with the Voting Rights Act and with Equal Protection.

- You should ensure “one person one vote.”
- You should redistrict in a way that avoids minority vote dilution.
- You should avoid drawing district lines so that the minority population is over-concentrated or “packed” into election districts.
- You should also be careful to avoid *cracking* (or “fracturing”) –drawing district lines so that an area of concentrated minority population, is divided and spread among several districts that are predominantly white.
- You should be careful to avoid *stacking*—drawing district lines so that a large minority population concentration is included with a larger white population with the purpose or effect of depriving minority voters of a voting majority.
- We also respectfully request that you avoid drawing plans that erode minority rights relative to the status quo—that is that you avoid creating retrogressive redistricting plans.

A key traditional redistricting principle is respect for communities of interest.

- These are defined by three characteristics:
 - the extent to which non-members identify members as a distinct community;
 - the extent to which members identify themselves as a distinct community; and
 - the extent to which members are similarly affected by governmental action.
- African-American citizens form one of the strongest communities of interest in the state, and the redistricting plan should have as a priority the fashioning of districts that accord appropriate representation to communities of interest.

We are aware of and request adherence to the redistricting principles outlined in sections 20 and 21 of the Florida Constitution.

- “Districts shall not 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.” In addition, districts shall be compact and contiguous.

MARTIN COUNTY REDISTRICTING DATA

- In Martin County, by 2010, the black voting age population was 5,720; an increase of approximately 27 percent. The Hispanic voting age population was 11,797; an increase of approximately 93 percent.

Martin County Voting Age Population Data (VAP)

<u>Race</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Percentage*</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percentage*</u>
Black	5,710	4.7%	4,484	4.3%
Latino	11,797	9.8%	6,106	5.9%

*Percentages are of the county's voting age population

Florida State Conference NAACP
Martin County Talking Points

Map Production by precinct and Voting Age Population

- In producing the data for the maps, we ask that you include precinct and district Voting Age Population (VAP), disaggregated by race and national origin. We ask that the data also include VAP of citizens who can vote.

Finally, we find the absence of prospective maps at redistricting public meetings very troubling.

- The ability to offer substantive comments is severely diminished without the presentation of maps at these public halls. We ask that an additional set of meetings is established throughout the state in order to allow for effective comment on the proposed maps.



Donald HART
FSC NAACP

8/15/11 (772) 633-4642

Submission from Chuck Winn

FERRIN.JAY

From: Snyder, William [William.Snyder@myfloridahouse.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Kelly, Alex
Subject: FW: Follow-UP Martin Co State House Dist Apportionment
Attachments: Martin Co State House District Apportionment C.J. Winn.jpg; image001.gif

Here is another comment.

Thank you, Alex.

Representative William D. Snyder - District 82
2400 S. Federal Hwy., Suite 250
Stuart, FL 34994
(772)221-4904
(772)221-4906 fax



Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

From: Chuck Winn [<mailto:winncl@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 7:47 PM
To: GAETZ.DON.WEB
Cc: NEGRON.JOE.WEB; Snyder, William; Harrell, Gayle
Subject: Follow-UP Martin Co State House Dist Apportionment

Honorable Don Gaetz
Florida Senate

Dear Senator Gaetz:

This follows-up to my remarks at last night's reapportionment meeting in Stuart. Before I continue, please extend my thanks to the entire Committee for being pro-active in notifying our community to enable us to actively participate. I would particularly like to thank Representative Precourt for the outstanding job he did in maintaining a smooth flow during the meeting. Additionally, your succinct summary of the major legal mandates, constraints and parameters within which the Committee must operate, unquestionably cleared up any false perceptions any reasonable public participants may have held. Whether we agree with it or not, the ultimate driver is the 1964 U.S. Supreme Court's Reynolds vs. Simms decision which stated "Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests".

The attached sketch map outlines the recommendation I made in my remarks for a State Representative District apportionment scheme for Martin County. I will follow up with a refined map constructed with the "Map Builder" program on the Committee's web site.

Even without the fair districts amendments to our Florida Constitution, population would be the primary driver for reapportionment. The City of Port St Lucie, with their huge population growth can justify a demand for an entire House District of their own, with the exception that requirements for equity of population might require adding a few Port St Lucie precincts with Martin County, however.

Martin County's population does justify one entire State House District, but no more than a small portion of another. One major concern voiced by Indiantown residents what that the final apportionment plan include that community in its entirety in all new districts. The following are proposed boundaries that may require fine tuning for population by adding or subtracting precincts.

District A: The district entirely in Martin Co. should be bordered by the Turnpike on the West; and run from the St Lucie Co line south to Hobe Sound, and possibly to Tequesta and the Palm Beach County line.

District B: That portion of Martin Co west of the Florida Turnpike, inclusive of all of the community of Indiantown, combined with Okeechobee County and Highlands County.

Respectfully,

Charles J. Winn

1520 N.W. Lakeside Trail

Stuart, FL 34994

FERRIN.JAY

From: Snyder, William [William.Snyder@myfloridahouse.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:22 AM
To: Kelly, Alex
Subject: FW: CORRECTION RE: Redistricting info
Attachments: image001.gif

Dear Alex,

This suggestion comes from one of my constituents. Please tell me if you are the right person to whom we should send emails such as this. It was great seeing you in my district Monday. Call on me any time.

William

Representative William D. Snyder - District 82
2400 S. Federal Hwy., Suite 250
Stuart, FL 34994
(772)221-4904
(772)221-4906 fax



Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

From: Snyder, William
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:21 AM
To: 'Chuck Winn'
Subject: RE: CORRECTION RE: Redistricting info

Thank you very much, Colonel, for this information. I will put it in the proper hands in Tallahassee.

Regards,

Representative William D. Snyder - District 82
2400 S. Federal Hwy., Suite 250
Stuart, FL 34994
(772)221-4904
(772)221-4906 fax



Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

From: Chuck Winn [mailto:winncl@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2011 4:29 PM
To: 'Chuck Winn'; Snyder, William; 'Kate Boland'; 'Miller'; 'Cindy Lucas'; 'James Stack'; 'Mona Leonard'; 'Donivan'; DGF2219@att.net; 'Eleanor Hanley'; 'Elmira Gainey'; 'Darlene Fuggetta'; 'Marylynn Magar'; 'Larry Magar'; 'Mike Neiber'; gbh@gayleharrell.com; 'Susan Auld'
Subject: CORRECTION RE: Redistricting info

I just did a population check.

The average population per state house district should be 114,285 given the state population of 16 million and 140 representatives. Martin County's population is 143,800, just barely large enough to justify a single House seat.

Highlands has a population of 98,000 and Okeechobee 39,969. Looks like Western Martin Co. would have to be combined with Highlands which would meet the population requirement to justify an additional district.

Sorry about the oversight.

From: Chuck Winn [mailto:winncl@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2011 11:31 AM
To: 'Snyder, William'; 'Kate Boland'; 'Miller'; 'Cindy Lucas'; 'James Stack'; 'Mona Leonard'; 'Donivan'; DGF2219@att.net; 'Eleanor Hanley'; 'Elmira Gainey'; 'Darlene Fuggetta'; 'Marylynn Magar'; 'Larry Magar'; 'Mike Neiber'; 'gbh@gayleharrell.com'; 'Susan Auld'
Subject: RE: Redistricting info

Even without the fair districts amendments, population is the primary driver for reapportionment. Port St Lucie, with their huge population growth can justify a demand for an entire House District of their own. Martin County's population does justify one entire State House District, but only part of another. Anyone who believes that the end state will look like the current status quo is pipe dreaming. The best possible options for Martin Co would be one district entirely in Martin Co and another one shared with Okeechobee Co. The following are general proposed boundaries that will require fine tuning for population by adding or subtracting precincts.

District A: The district entirely in Martin Co. should be bordered by the Turnpike on the West, and run from the St Lucie Co line south to the vicinity of Bridge Rd in Hobe Sound.

District B: The Martin Co portion of a second district should be combined with Okeechobee Co should look something like an inverted "L" and should include all of Martin Co. West of the Turnpike and run south to Bridge Rd; then at Bridge road it should extend east to the shoreline and encompass everything down to the PB Co line. This section would combine with Okeechobee Co to form a new district. Consensus would have to be reached with Okeechobee leaders who might otherwise want to combine with either Highlands or Glades.

Whether we agree with it or not, the ultimate driver is the 1964 U.S. Supreme Court's Reynolds vs Simms decision which stated "Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests".

Chuck Winn

From: Snyder, William [mailto:William.Snyder@myfloridahouse.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2011 10:42 AM
To: Kate Boland; Miller; Winn; Cindy Lucas; James Stack; Mona Leonard; Donovan; DGF2219@att.net; Eleanor Hanley; Elmira Gainey; Darlene Fuggetta; Marylynn Magar; Larry Magar; Mike Neiber; Snyder, William; gbh@gayleharrell.com; Susan Auld
Subject: RE: Redistricting info

Kate-

Thank you for all your efforts to have all voices heard during the coming redistricting meeting. I have heard from state representatives that prior meetings have been quite rancorous. I am pleased that we will have in attendance a balanced audience.

Respectfully,

Representative William Snyder
State Representative, District 82
2400 S. Federal Highway, Suite 250
Stuart, FL 34994
(772) 221-4904 phone
(772) 221-4906 fax



Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

From: Kate Boland [mailto:kbchgo@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2011 2:20 PM
To: Miller; Winn; Cindy Lucas; James Stack; Mona Leonard; Donovan; DGF2219@att.net; Eleanor Hanley; Elmira Gainey; Darlene Fuggetta; Marylynn Magar; Larry Magar; Mike Neiber; Snyder, William; gbh@gayleharrell.com; Susan Auld
Subject: Re: Redistricting info

Sorry I overlooked the site put up by the FL legislature.

<http://www.floridaredistricting.org/>

On Thu, Aug 11, 2011 at 2:16 PM, Kate Boland <kbchgo@gmail.com> wrote:

Links below may be of interest. The first is the site of the proponents of amendments 5 and 6 where you can see their commentary. The specific page provides the constitutional language resulting from adoption of the amendments.

The other three sites give quite a bit of background on the Florida redistricting and the issues leading up to the adoption of the amendments in 2010. These are wikipedia type sites so can't vouch for their total accuracy. The most comprehensive info I found however.

<http://fairdistrictsnow.org/redistricting/amendments/>

http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Redistricting_in_Florida

[http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Florida_Legislative_District_Boundaries,_Amendment_5_\(2010\)](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Florida_Legislative_District_Boundaries,_Amendment_5_(2010))

[http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Florida_Congressional_District_Boundaries,_Amendment_6_\(2010\)](http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/Florida_Congressional_District_Boundaries,_Amendment_6_(2010))

Kate

--

Kate Boland
[772-324-8520](tel:772-324-8520)
[301-535-2531](tel:301-535-2531) (m)
kbchgo@gmail.com

--

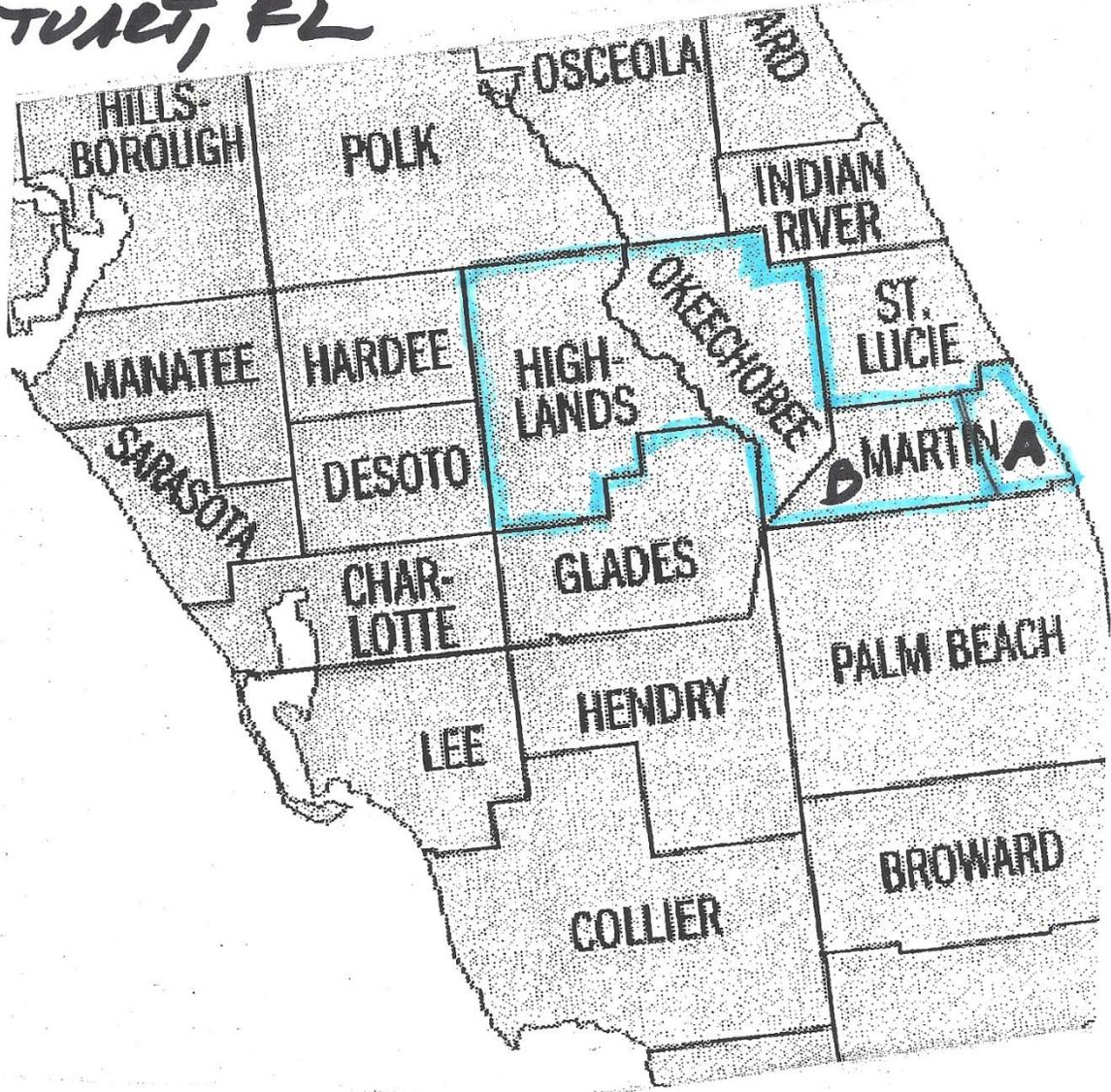
Kate Boland
772-324-8520
301-535-2531 (m)
kbchgo@gmail.com

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 10.0.1392 / Virus Database: 1520/3829 - Release Date: 08/12/11

**RECOMMENDATION OF
CHARLES J. WINN
STUART, FL**



**MARTIN CO. STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT APPOINTMENT CONCEPT**
**DIST A - EASTERN MARTIN CO. BOUNDED
ON THE WEST BY THE FL TPKE**
**DIST B - WESTERN MARTIN CO COMBINED
WITH OKEECHOBEE & HIGHLANDS COS.
(INCLUDES ALL OF INDIANTOWN)**

Submission from Vicki Davis



August 16, 2011

Vicki Davis

Martin County
Supervisor of Elections



Florida Redistricting Committee
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Members:

Thank you for taking the time to visit Martin County for a public community hearing on "reshaping political boundary lines" within the State of Florida! Because everyone does live in congressional and legislative districts, we would like to remind you of our "Indiantown Story."

Indiantown is an agricultural community located in the western area of Martin County with a population of 6,408 residents, with 2,901 registered to vote. For many years this small, rural community has been divided in representation at both the congressional and state levels. Currently, these 2,901 registered voters are represented by two congressional districts and three state house districts.

I would encourage each of you to remember when drawing political boundaries that these voters deserve:

- One representative in Congress,
- One representative in the State Legislature; unifying them as
- One community, one voice, and one vote!

Additionally, I would urge the committee to finalize the drawing of these lines as soon as possible to facilitate our notification of changes to affected voters, also allowing us to provide updated voter information to candidates.

Throughout your deliberations, these points should also be considered:

- County lines create compact districts,
- VTD's limit ballot styles which cost less money while eliminating confusion; and,
- To keep neighborhoods in the same district as much as possible as they share common interests.

Please feel free to contact me or my office at any time. Your efforts in drawing political boundaries will "fundamentally change a community's portrait of representation at all levels of government" for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicki Davis".

Vicki Davis

Phone 772.288.5637 • Fax: 772.288.5765 • www.MartinVotes.com
135 SE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. • P.O. Box 1257 • Stuart, FL 34995

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.

In November 2010, the voters added Amendments 5 and 6 to the Florida Constitution. These Amendments prohibit line-drawing that intentionally favors or disfavors a political party or an incumbent. The Amendments also afford protection to racial and language minorities. Districts may not be drawn (1) with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process; or (2) to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice. Finally, unless it would conflict with federal law or the standards described above, the Amendments require that district populations be as nearly equal as practicable, and that districts be compact and, where feasible, follow existing political and geographical boundaries.

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.

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

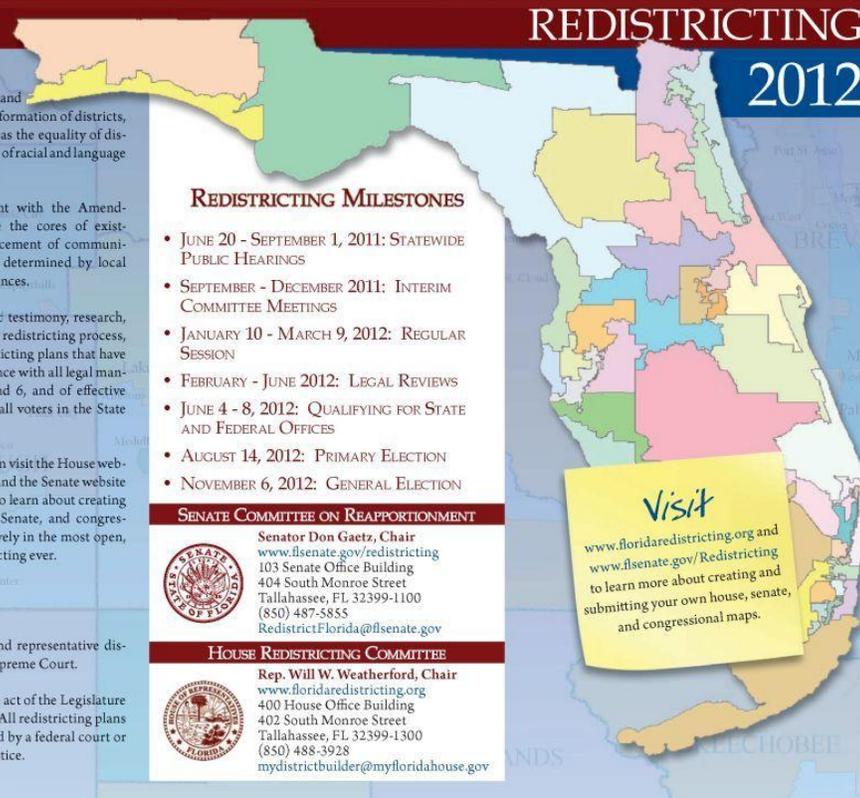
Senator Don Gaetz, Chair
www.flsenate.gov/redistricting
 103 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 (850) 487-5855
RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov

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>.

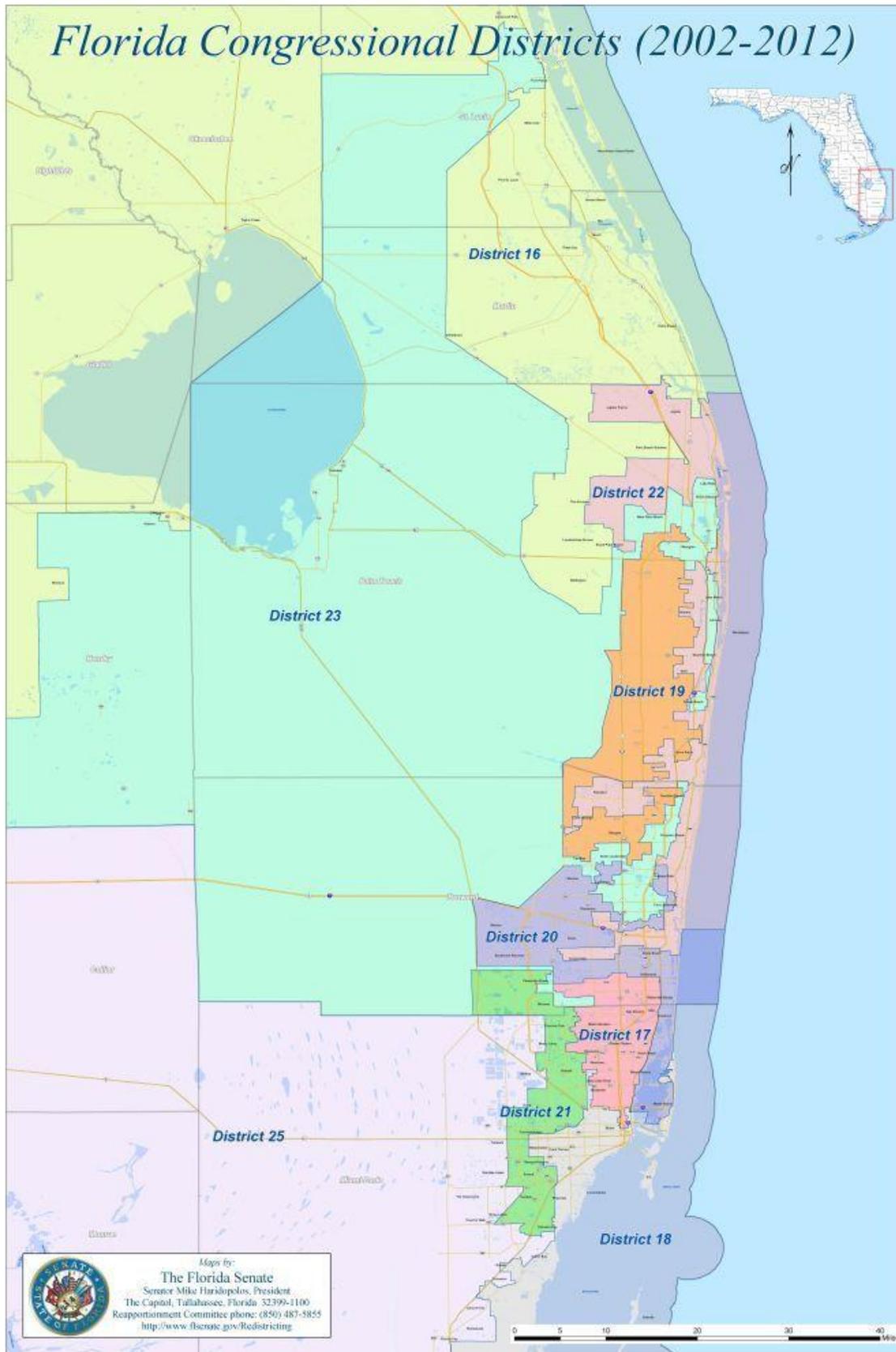
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection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

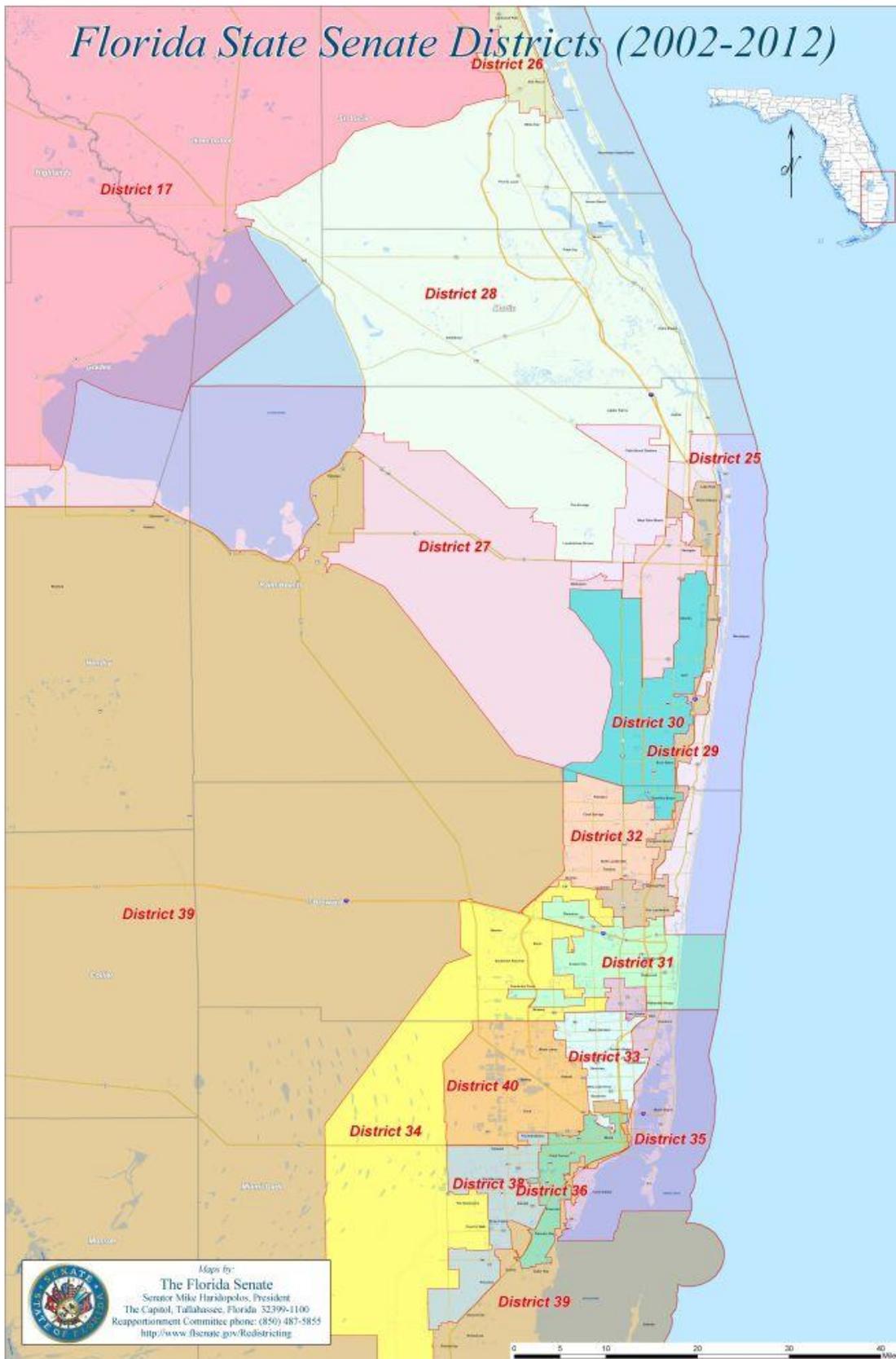
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see www.floridaredistricting.org. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose which better meets their needs.

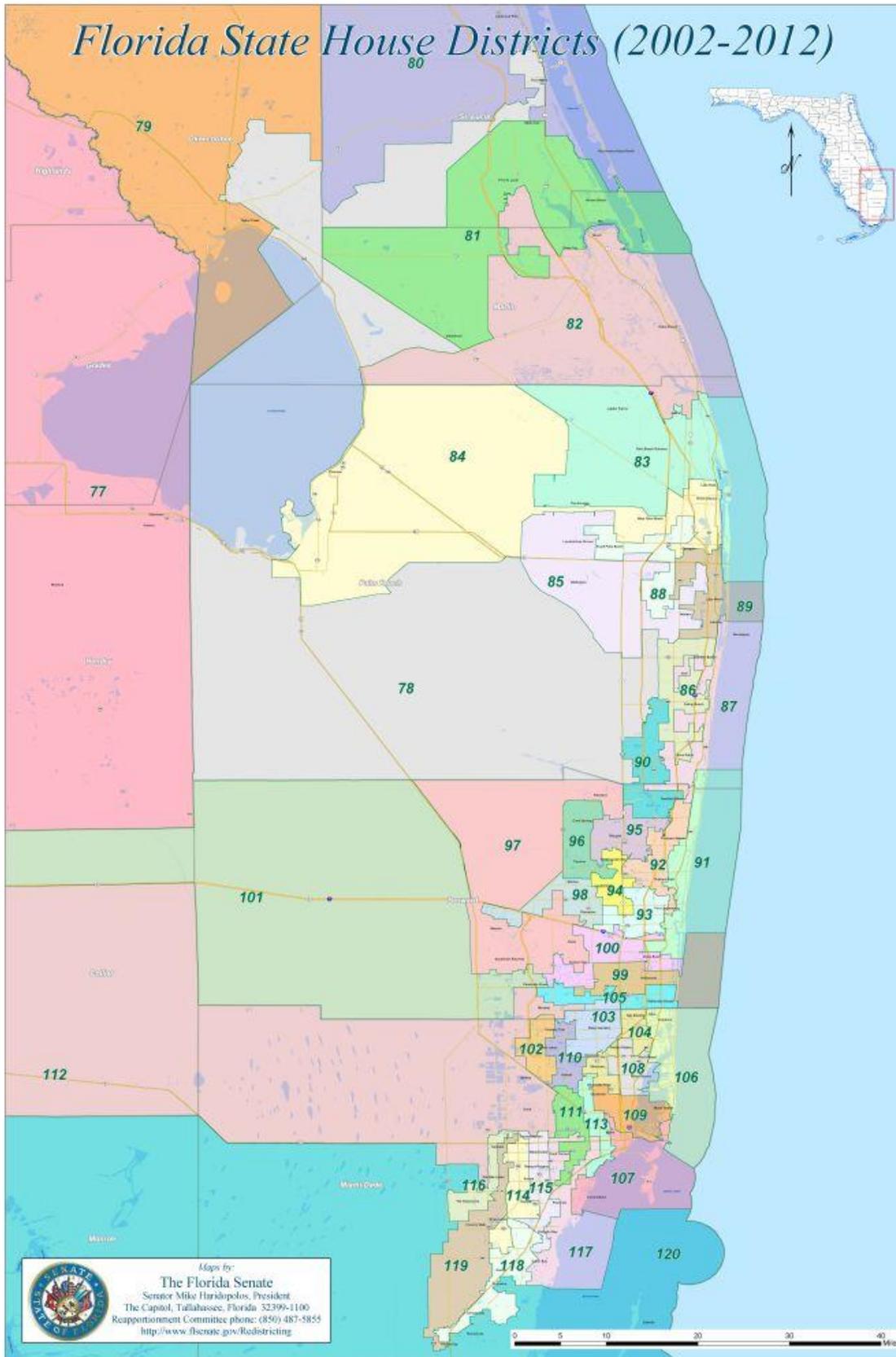
Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

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 districts (2010 Census)—Southeast Florida

Congressional District	2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
			Count	%
16 Tom Rooney	797,711	696,345	101,366	14.6%
17 Frederica Wilson	655,160	696,345	-41,185	-5.9%
18 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	712,790	696,345	16,445	2.4%
19 Ted Deutch	736,419	696,345	40,074	5.8%
20 Debbie Wasserman Schultz	691,727	696,345	-4,618	-0.7%
21 Mario Diaz-Balart	693,501	696,345	-2,844	-0.4%
22 Allen West	694,259	696,345	-2,086	-0.3%
23 Alcee L. Hastings	684,107	696,345	-12,238	-1.8%
25 David Rivera	807,176	696,345	110,831	15.9%

State Senate District	2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
			Count	%
25 Eilyn Setnor Bogdanoff	428,398	470,033	-41,635	-8.9%
26 Mike Haridopolos	481,892	470,033	11,859	2.5%
27 Lizbeth Benacquisto	551,555	470,033	81,522	17.3%
28 Joe Negron	545,085	470,033	75,052	16.0%
29 Christopher L. "Chris" Smith	397,144	470,033	-72,889	-15.5%
30 Maria Lorts Sachs	458,703	470,033	-11,330	-2.4%
31 Eleanor Sobel	432,649	470,033	-37,384	-8.0%
32 Jeremy Ring	428,898	470,033	-41,135	-8.8%
33 Oscar Braynon II	404,290	470,033	-65,743	-14.0%
34 Nan H. Rich	481,165	470,033	11,132	2.4%
35 Gwen Margolis	438,861	470,033	-31,172	-6.6%
36 Miguel Diaz de la Portilla	418,626	470,033	-51,407	-10.9%
38 Anitere Flores	442,810	470,033	-27,223	-5.8%
39 Larcenia J. Bullard	483,183	470,033	13,150	2.8%
40 Rene Garcia	448,543	470,033	-21,490	-4.6%

State House District	2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
			Count	%
78 Steven M. "Steve" Perman	156,153	156,678	-525	-0.3%
80 Debbie Mayfield	148,503	156,678	-8,175	-5.2%
81 Gayle B. Harrel	201,633	156,678	44,955	28.7%
82 William D. Snyder	172,265	156,678	15,587	9.9%
83 Patrick Rooney, Jr.	168,377	156,678	11,699	7.5%
84 Mack Bernard	144,934	156,678	-11,744	-7.5%
85 Joseph Abruzzo	193,827	156,678	37,149	23.7%
86 Lori Berman	142,110	156,678	-14,568	-9.3%
87 Bill Hager	137,131	156,678	-19,547	-12.5%
88 Mark S. Pafford	164,967	156,678	8,289	5.3%
89 Jeff Clemens	140,077	156,678	-16,601	-10.6%
90 Irving "Irv" Slosberg	142,553	156,678	-14,125	-9.0%
91 George R. Moraitis, Jr.	129,999	156,678	-26,679	-17.0%
92 Gwynndolen "Gwyn" Clarke-Reed	133,187	156,678	-23,491	-15.0%
93 Perry E. Thurston, Jr.	131,283	156,678	-25,395	-16.2%
94 Hazelle P. "Hazel" Rogers	135,245	156,678	-21,433	-13.7%
95 James W. "Jim" Waldman	134,355	156,678	-22,323	-14.2%
96 Ari Abraham Porth	140,377	156,678	-16,301	-10.4%
97 Martin David "Marty" Klar	169,848	156,678	13,170	8.4%
98 Franklin Sands	134,942	156,678	-21,736	-13.9%
99 Elaine J. Schwartz	137,645	156,678	-19,033	-12.1%
100 Evan Jenne	137,630	156,678	-19,048	-12.2%
101 Matt Hudson	189,600	156,678	32,922	21.0%
102 Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez	160,952	156,678	4,274	2.7%
103 Barbara Watson	138,339	156,678	-18,339	-11.7%
104 John Patrick Julien	137,432	156,678	-19,246	-12.3%
105 Joseph A. "Joe" Gibbons	151,273	156,678	-5,405	-3.4%
106 Richard L. Steinberg	150,952	156,678	-5,726	-3.7%
107 Luis R. Garcia, Jr.	156,177	156,678	-501	-0.3%
108 Daphne D. Campbell	132,251	156,678	-24,427	-15.6%
109 Cynthia A. Stafford	135,230	156,678	-21,448	-13.7%
110 Esteban L. Bowo, Jr.	132,138	156,678	-24,540	-15.7%
111 Erik Fresen	139,430	156,678	-17,248	-11.0%
112 Jeanette M. Nuñez	210,556	156,678	53,878	34.4%
113 Carlos Lopez-Cantera	136,597	156,678	-20,081	-12.8%
114 Ana Rivas Logan	133,125	156,678	-23,553	-15.0%
115 Jose Felix Diaz	135,054	156,678	-21,624	-13.8%
116 Carlos Trujillo	134,681	156,678	-21,997	-14.0%
117 Michael Bileca	150,960	156,678	-5,718	-3.6%
118 Dwight M. Bullard	162,848	156,678	6,170	3.9%
119 Frank Artiles	154,679	156,678	-1,999	-1.3%
120 Ron Saunders	170,078	156,678	13,400	8.6%

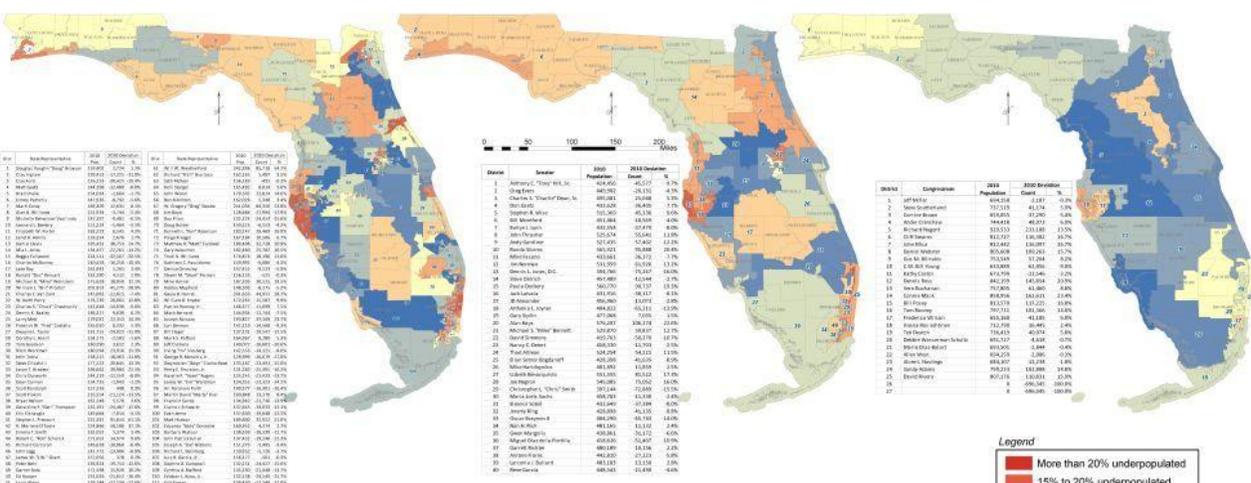
Prepared by:
The Florida Senate
 Senator Mike Haridopolos, President
 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
 Reapportionment Committee phone: (850) 487-5855
<http://www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting>



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)



	2000	2010
Total Resident Population, Decennial Census	15,982,378	18,801,310
Number of Congressional Districts	25	27
Ideal District Population (Congressional Districts)	639,295	696,345
Maximum Number of State Senate Districts	40	40
Ideal District Population (State Senate Districts)	399,559	470,033
Maximum Number of State Representative Districts	120	120
Ideal Population (State Representative Districts)	133,186	156,678

Prepared by:
The Florida Senate
 Senator Mike Haridopolos, President
 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
 Reapportionment Committee phone: (850) 487-5855
<http://www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting>