# Public Hearing on Redistricting Boca Raton (August 16, 2011)

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### **Hearing Report**

Date: August 16, 2011 City: Boca Raton

Location: Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

Number of Speakers: 93 out of 110

Total Attendance: 237

The public hearing in Boca Raton took place at Florida Atlantic University in the Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center (777 Glades Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33431). 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 The Sun-Sentinel on August 14 and 15, in The Miami Herald on August 14 and 16, and in El Nuevo Herald on 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 reaired. There were 11 senators and 24 representatives present at the hearing chaired by Senator Gaetz. Of the 237 people who filled out attendance cards 110 indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing. At the time of adjournment 17 speakers remained. Senator Gaetz invited those speakers to supplement the record with their written comments or to submit comments via email.

### **Submission from Lisa Aronson**



#### Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

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Email to: mydistricthuilder@myfloridahouse.gov and redistrictflorida@fiseante.gov.

> or Fax to (850) 487-6413



# Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

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www.floridaredistricting.org	<u>v</u>	ww.flsenate.gov	/redistricting

Good morning honorable members of the Florida Legislature:

My name is Lisa Aronson and I am a city commissioner for the city of Coconut Creek in northern Broward County. For those of you unfamiliar with Coconut Creek, our beautiful city is bordered on the north by the Hillsboro Canal which divides Broward County from Palm Beach County, and our southern border is primarily Atlantic Boulevard. Our eastern border is the Florida Turnpike and our western border is generally State Road 7. Coconut Creek, proudly known as the Butterfly Capital of the World, is now home to almost 53,000 residents based on the 2010 Census. Our population is diverse throughout our entire city.

Since 2002, we have been fortunate to have representation from two members of Congress, two State Senators and two State Representatives. We are grateful that several of you and your colleagues have local government experience, and Rep. Jim Waldman is a former Mayor and City Commissioner for the City of Coconut Creek.

While I am not here today to make specific recommendations about proposed maps for the Florida House and Senate or for congressional representation in Florida, I am here to convey our City Commission's consensus. At a recent City Commission workshop held on August 4<sup>th</sup>, the consensus of our commission was to voice our preference for having continuing representation by two members of Congress, two State Senators and two State Representatives. We want you to know we appreciate having opportunities to discuss issues and interests with multiple elected leaders. If you are inclined to keep our entire city together within one district each as the maps are

drawn, please keep in mind the City of Coconut Creek Commission's preference for two.

I commend the Florida House and Florida Senate for the incredible number of resources available online to give the public the opportunity to learn about the redistricting process and the multiple ways one can participate. Thank you for taking the time to hear from me and numerous South Florida residents about redistricting.

###

#### Submission from Michael Barnett

Thank you, Mr. Chairman & members, for taking the time to listen to the citizens of Palm Beach County today.

My name is Michael Barnett and as a Palm Beach County resident, I rise to speak today to the importance of ensuring that African Americans in Palm Beach County have the chance to elect candidates of their choice in House, Senate and Congressional maps. I know that over the last few decades, this body has made great strides in the representation of racial and language minorities in the state's legislature and congressional delegation, and my hope today is this progress will continue.

My fear is that the new redistricting standards before you today endanger the progress we have made. Now that our constitution contains a requirement for districts to be "geographically compact" and "follow political boundaries where feasible," it seems quite possible that several minority crossover districts may fall victim to these new standards.

Please understand that majority-minority districts sometimes are not compact. Take for example Senate District 29, which stretches from Ft. Lauderdale to Riviera Beach. This district may not look pretty, but it is ensuring that the minority citizens of Riviera Beach have the chance to elect a candidate of their choice. If this particular district was cut any other way, the ultimate result would silence the voice of these citizens, a result which isn't good for our county. If I may, I would like to point out there are still disparities with our House delegation. African-American residents in neighborhoods such as Lake Worth, Lantana, Boynton & Delray Beach do not have the chance to elect a candidate of their choice in the House so I would urge you to rectify this situation as allowed under federal law.

In closing, my purpose today is to remind you to <u>preserve minority access districts in Palm Beach County and throughout Florida</u>. We have come too far to see the vague new standards which are open to much interpretation roll back the progress we have made in this state. We have worked too hard for too long to allow for this to happen. Please continue the work we have accomplished together, Republicans and Democrats, over the last 30 years. <u>Please, make it your number one priority to preserve minority access seats in South Florida</u>.

#### **Submission from Hugh Brown**

# FERRIN.JAY From: H. Brown [hb3003@gmail.com] Saturday, August 20, 2011 10:19 AM Sent: To: MyDistrictBuilder Redistricting Process Subject: Legislators, Thank you for letting me comment on the redistricting process - I appreciate you taking my comments ahead of creating new district boundaries. I'm Hugh Brown, and I live in Boynton Beach in Palm Beach County. As an African American, I want to make sure that my voice and the voice of others in my community is heard fairly at all levels of government. In Boynton Beach, the African American community has the ability to elect candidates of our choice to all levels of government except the State House of Representatives. I don't think it makes sense that the African American community in Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Lantana, and other neighboring towns can elect candidates of our choice to the County Commission, the State Senate, and the US Congress, but not the Florida House. This omission prevents our community from truly being empowered, and I ask that you please fix this when you draw the new lines and allow us to elect a candidate of our choice to the Florida House. Our community is very important in these areas of Palm Beach County, and we have unique needs that must be represented at all levels of government. I believe if you fix this problem, African Americans in neighborhoods like Boynton Beach and Delray Beach will truly feel empowered. Again, I ask that you allow African Americans in the communities that I mentioned to elect a candidate of our choice to the State House and preserve our ability to do so at all other levels of our government, from the county to the State Senate to Congress. Sincerely,

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Hugh Brown

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Thank you,

The H. Brown hb3003@gmail.com

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." -Colin Powell-

### **Submission from Kristine deHaseth**



# Please Provide Completed Form To: Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

Email to: mydistrictbuilder/gmyfloridahouse.gov and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov.

Fax to (850) 487-6413



# Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

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Organization Name (If applicable) F	1 Coalition for	Preservation	[-0
Your Address 235 NE 6	Ave +city Delr	ay Beach +State FC	- *Zip_3348.
our County Palm Beach	Your Email Krish	në @ preservati	onfla. org
What type of map are you commenting	ng on? 🔁 Congressional	State House Sr St	ate Senate
Would you like to receive email upda	ites regarding Florida Redistri	icting? 🗹 Yes 🗆 No	1
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Please provide detailed com	ments regarding your r	redistricting suggestion	or request.
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#### Redistricting 2012

Good Morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and I applaud your efforts to involve the public in such an important decision.

My name is Kristine de Haseth. I am a homeowner in Ocean Ridge, a small beach front community in House District 87 and Senate District 25. I am active in the community as a member of the local Garden Club, the Women League of Voters, the Florida Coalition for Preservation and on the board of a resident owned, old Florida beach Club. When issues arise, as they always do, local and state legislators have been key to providing information, guidance, resources and support.

There are many unique issues that face coastal communities and residents on barrier islands that are not shared by other County residents. By creating and maintaining a contiguous district of coastal communities, if affords representatives to have an in-depth knowledge of coastal issues and become a champion of this important state resource.

As the first round of public input draws to a close, I would encourage that maps be top priority in the upcoming legislation. Public input without knowledge of the final proposed maps is important but not complete. Please allow ample time for public input once the maps are release.

Thank you for your attention.

# **Submission from Dianne Douglas DeWolfe**

#### FERRIN.JAY

From: Dianne DeWolfe [dddew91843@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2011 5:24 PM

To: MyDistrictBuilder

Subject: Dis 22

As I'm having surgery, unable to attend the 8/16 redistricting meeting. Please keep the coastal district districts intact. We have concerns that are similar especially about being prepared for hurricanes and quick repair after hurricanes.

Dianne Douglas DeWolfe 561-512-7104 Palm Beach Gardens, Florida Sent from my iPad

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From: Dianne DeWolfe [dddew91843@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2011 6:31 PM

To: FERRIN JAY

Subject: Re: Redistricting Public Hearing in Boca Raton

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

Due to upcoming spine surgery I will not be able to attend. Please keep fl 22 a coastal district. We need someone who can quickly react to hurricane help. I also worked hard for Allen West to be my congressman and I want him to stay my congressman!!

Dianne Douglas DeWolfe 561-512-7104 Palm Beach Gardens, Florida Sent from my iPad

On Aug 12, 2011, at 4:04 PM, FERRIN.JAY < FERRIN.JAY@flsenate.gov > wrote:

Dear Dianne DeWolfe:

Thank you for registering to attend the public hearing in Boca Raton on Tuesday, August 16th, starting at 10:00am at Florida Atlantic University. We look forward to hearing from you about new congressional, state senate, and state house maps that will work for your communities and meet requirements of federal and state law.

If you need directions or parking information, please visit our <u>Public Hearings</u> web page. If you need special accommodations, please notify the Senate Sergeant at Arms at (850) 487-5224.

The House and Senate websites are packed with information about redistricting in Florida. Visit <a href="https://www.floridaredistricting.org">www.floridaredistricting.org</a> to learn more about how you can participate in the most open, transparent, and interactive redistricting ever.

Sincerely,

Will W. Weatherford, House Redistricting Committee Chair

Don Gaetz, Senate Reapportionment Committee Chair

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# Submission from Jessica Dornblasu



# Please Provide Completed Form To: Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov.

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.floridaredistricting.org and www.floridate.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.
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*Your Address 136 Mc War Willy &CA RHON State & *Zip 33487
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Your County Your Email 1651 (a. alvy 1650 County)
*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.
Stop the jernymandering! Rep. are supposed to Represent based
on geography not party,
(Over)
www.floridaredistricting.org www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

#### **Submission from Annette Evans**

Comments from Annette Evans, 3422 Pine Haven Cir Boca Ration (2ip 33431) · I heartily endorse the comments It the following:
. mr. Joseph (Cambean Assoc.) · Joan Kano ·Leaslators should · Florence (from AFT) realize that ill baically · Comine Miller shaped districts make · Margie Walden their ists more difficult. · Susan Bucher · The staff of the re-· woman from NAACP districting website are · Patricia O' Conner professional and I · Pain Coppeman approved. The timeline you have established ensures appreciate them. that incumberts will benefit. This means the will of the people is not being carried out (the 63% who voted for Amendments 5+6 · Some of have said public participation means allowing citizens to submit maps. Actually, historically governmental public hearings present a plan for citizens to review and comment on. The legislature should have produced 2 or 3 maps for the public to comment on. · Partisan line-drawing marginalizes moderate voters, which exacerbates our fractured politics. · Eliminating genymandering is important to main-taining true democracy. Not having geographically cohesive, contiguous districts disentranchises voters. . I am offended that Rep. Bill Hager left the dais for much of the hearing, and when he was there, he appeared to spend most of the time reading a magazine. · The Ennece was sarcastic to Rick Newholf.

#### **Submission from Peter Feaman**

#### TESTIMONY BEFORE REDISTRICTING MEETING

#### Self Intro.

Name, city, occupation, lived and worked in eastern Palm Beach County for last 28 years.

I'm not here to criticize, complain or posture. Why would I say that?

I've seen the League of Women Voters website where they posted talking points for these hearings. It demands you produce maps now. It criticizes the process. That's posturing. It was the League of Women Voters itself that first publicly proposed maps 10 years ago. It's in the redistricting archives of the Florida Senate. Now they won't propose maps.

With Amendments 5 and 6, you <u>must</u> take public input first because the wording of these Amendments is so difficult to comprehend – such as "existing political boundaries" and "compactness."

Why the change of position by the League? It's because Amendments 5 & 6 are so subjective they don't want to show their hand – or plans – yet they want the House and Senate to go first, so they can play "Gotcha!"

The only fair way to do this is to take public input first.

But, honestly, in today's political climate, there will be no map you can pass that will satisfy these critics.

They will file lawsuit after lawsuit until they can find a <u>court</u> to draw these maps, rather than <u>you</u>, our elected officials.

It's a shame that a group once founded on the principal of civic participation is <u>not taking advantage</u> of these public hearings to talk about specific ideas on how to redraw our legislative and congressional districts, but instead, show up just to criticize the process. A process they had no problem with 10 and 20 years ago.

Well, I <u>do</u> have specific suggestions for this geographical community of Palm Beach County.

#### Two Points:

 There is no question that in Palm Beach County there are 2 distinct economic communities.

AGRICULTURE drives the economy in the western half of the county.

The BEACH communities drive the economic engine east of the Florida Turnpike. 2 distinct economic concerns.

Our maps should keep our Eastern <u>beach communities</u> whole, as they have similar economic interests. And our Western <u>agriculture communities</u> should be connected to others of the same interest in South Florida.

2. In addition to diverse economies here, we have a diverse population.

Our African-American neighbors in Riviera Beach, Pahokee, Belle

Glade and South Bay are all now represented by a minority-majority district in the House. I know you cite Sections 2 & 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act as a consideration. These communities should remain united.

In conclusion, ignore the critics who make <u>no</u> suggestions of their own, finish your listening tour and do your best to draw maps that will best serve ALL Floridians, not political interest groups.

Thank you.

PRTER M. FEAMAN, P.A. Strange Countries Direct Advictor."

3615 W. Boymon Beach Flod. Boymon Besch, Fl. 33436 Tel: 561-734-5552 Fax: (561) 734-5554

pteaman@fermanlam.com

Besich Office: 7900 Glades Road, Suite 330 Besa Raton, FL 33434 A

PETER M. FEAMAN, P.A. www.feamanlaw.com

# **Submission from Robert Ganger**



# Please Provide Completed Form To: Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov.

Fax to (850) 487-6413



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Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record, *Field is required.
Prefix *First Name Kobert *Last Name Ganger Suffix
Organization Name (Irapplicable) FL Coalition for Preservation
*Your Address 235 NE 6 Ave *City Delvay Reach *State FL *Zip 3348
Your County Palm Beach Your Email rugarger @ bellsouth. net
*What type of map are you commenting on? 🗗 Congressional 🖨 State House 🗭 State Senate
*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting?
Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.
(Over) www.floridaredistricting.org www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

### 3 minute Draft Redistricting Remarks

My name is Robert Ganger. I am speaking on behalf of the Florida Coalition for Preservation, a local non-profit corporation, headquartered in nearby Delray Beach.

Our Mission is to champion responsible development on Florida's barrier islands and coastal communities. We are an apolitical organization, concerned primarily with preserving the fragile land and marine environment on the state's shorelines, and enhancing the quality of life for millions of people who enjoy our fabulous beaches and waterways.

I am here today to propose that the legislature make *no major changes* to Senate District 25 and House District 87 as part of the 2012 redistricting process.

Your Website indicates that one of the principles guiding definition of a "compact" district is (quote)..."how the communities relate to one another...in order to promote the creation of effective representational units" (end quote).

As a practical matter, there are close to 20 individual jurisdictions fronting the ocean in Senate District 25, including seven individual jurisdictions within House District 87.

Our Coalition is focused primarily on a handful of these jurisdictions spanning about a dozen linear miles of oceanfront ---Delray Beach, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Lantana and a sliver of Boynton Beach and Lake Worth. These municipalities increasingly want to work together to deal with shared issues that are unique to coastal communities---and particularly to populations located on the barrier island and near the intracoastal waterway.

These are issues that no one community can solve individually. They include beach erosion and renourishment; coping with rising sea levels; hurricane evacuation and storm remediation; access to potable water; curbing treated sewage outflows; maintaining a healthy dune and marine environment; providing adequate infrastructure and recreational facilities, and on and on.

Public interest groups, such as the Florida Coalition, are working with *each* of the individual coastal communities in hopes of creating multi-jurisdictional Master Plans to address common issues. In turn, we expect the coordinated support of State elected officials and departments, to help us protect our coastline—unquestionably one of Florida's most important state resources.

The beauty of current local districting is that it does provide an efficient and effective mechanism for citizens living on the coastline to be represented in State Government. Protecting the coastline is not a party issue—we just need a handful of key legislators whose highest priorities include keeping a watchful eye on the health of our waterfront resources.

Please consider the unique needs of coastal communities when reapportioning legislative districts, both here in South Florida and elsewhere in the state.

And one final word. Please assure our citizens that proposed redistricting maps are available for public comment well in advance of the next legislative session. The last thing we want to do is run to Tallahassee at the final hour, only to find that it is too late to plead our case.

Thank you.

480 Aug 16, 2011

#### **Submission from Susan Haynie**

#### Redistricting Comments - Susan Haynie, Boca Raton Deputy Mayor August 16, 2011

Good Morning Representatives, Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on the important issue of redistricting.

My name is Susan Haynie. I am a native Floridian and a 40-year resident of Boca Raton. Although I have the honor to serve as the Deputy Mayor of the City of Boca Raton, I am speaking this morning as an individual who has had the privilege and honor of serving as an elected official in this wonderful community since 2000. Welcome to our beautiful and vibrant city.

I would share two issues with you:

First Issue - The majority of the City of Boca Raton is within House District 87 with areas in the Northwest located with House District 86. A small portion of Southeastern Boca Raton, which abuts the Palm Beach County/Broward County line, is currently in District 91. These Boca Raton residents are not being adequately represented by a Broward-based Legislator who has limited interaction with the entities serving them such as: Palm Beach County: Commission, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, League of Cities, Metropolitan Planning Organization, School District, and Health District; Lake Worth Drainage District, City of Boca Raton, The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

Please place all of southeastern Boca Raton in Palm Beach County-based District 87.

<u>Second Issue</u> - The Coastal communities within Palm Beach County are truly communities of interests with separate needs and concerns from the rest of Palm Beach County. The unique attributes that define these coastal communities fall into three categories:

#### Barrier Island Issues -

Our barrier island communities have unique environmental concerns requiring strong knowledgeable representation at the State and Federal levels. Issues regarding beach re-nourishment, dredging, inlet management, dune preservation, sea turtle and manatee protection programs, disaster planning and evacuation issues must constantly be addressed with advocacy and funding.

#### North-South Transportation Corridors (railroads, waterways, roads)-

Our coastal communities share two railroads, the FEC and CSX, and the issues surrounding them such as safety concerns, railroad crossings, train horn issues, station placement and redevelopment opportunities; The Intracoastal Waterway connects our coastal communities with its unique issues surrounding boating safety and signage, bridge/waterway and canal issues and inlet management; Our vital north/south roadway corridors, A-1-A, Federal Highway, Dixie Highway, I-95 present multiple issues surrounding providing services for these important transportation systems. Safety, maintenance, multi-modal planning, signals, signage and traffic flow as well as issues surrounding our first responders and working with the FDOT for vital funding requires strong and knowledgeable representation at the State and Federal level.

#### Governance/Development Patterns/Downtowns/Insurance Issues -

The coastal communities of Palm Beach County are all incorporated municipalities which provide a system of local governance for our State and Federal representatives to interact with. Coastal Palm Beach County is fully developed with multiple downtowns sited along our historic transportation corridors. Infill redevelopment, and the challenges it places on our existing infrastructure, is the future development pattern of our coastal communities which is a vastly different development pattern than that of our western areas. Property insurance issues for properties located east of I-95 continue to be a challenge for our coastal communities and require strong and knowledgeable representation at the State and Federal level.

I respectfully request that you give consideration to the aforementioned special and unique attributes of the coastal communities of Palm Beach County and that they be kept together as communities of interest as you redefine our districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning.

### **Submission from Linda Johnson**

LINDA JOHNSON VICE President

Florida State Conference NAACP
Palm Beach 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

#### Florida State Conference NAACP Palm Beach County Talking Points

representatives of their choice." In addition, districts shall be compact and contiguous.

#### Palm Beach County Redistricting Data

 In Palm Beach County, by 2010, the black voting age population was 159,187; an increase of approximately 67 percent. The Hispanic voting age population was 180,155; an increase of approximately 81 percent.

#### Voting Age Population Data

Race/Ethnicity	2010	Percentage*	2000	Percentage*
Black	159,187	15.1%	180,155	17.1%
Latino	98,342	11%	99,253	11.1%

<sup>\*</sup>Percentages are of the county's voting age population

#### 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.

#### **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 are very confusing and contradictory. I sympathize with legislators who must finally decide and appliand 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 LakesGlades 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 Mrs. Robert Kotecki

From: bkotecki@comcast.net
To: bkotecki@comcast.net
MyDistrictBuilder;

Subject: Please keep Congress FL House (8) (FL 22) and the 3 and 25) districts the same

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 1:14:32 PM

#### To Whom It May Concern:

I moved to Miami with my family in 1956.

I am a graduate of the University of Florida.

Since 1976, I have resided with my husband in coastal northeast Palm Beach County where our 3 sons were born & raised.

Currently we reside in Palm Beach Gardens on the Intracoastal.

It is imperative that our districting reflect the coastal area, since the needs & challenges of western Palm Beach County are totally different from the coastal area.

It would be irresponsible to lump all of the county together or redistrict based on northern & southern considerations, since the different interests would not be fairly represented.

Please keep Congress FL House (8) (FL 22) and the 3 and 25) districts the same.

Thank you for considering the interests of those of us who live here fulltime!

Sincerely,

bkotecki@comcast.net

Mrs. Robert Kotecki 561-627-2422 Redistricting... Public Hearing, FAU, Tues. Aug. 16

Steven Laine... Full time resident: 1978

A displaced prune picker... little bit wrinkled...

Former Asst. to the Secy. USDA, DC

Worked in DC 3 days, President quit.. Ford in my F.

37 years ago last week... Gerald Ford became Pres.

A great deal has changed in the following years and the results have been mixed...

Been active in civic groups in the community...
and church related activities... PDG Rotary Int...
Currently S. FL Sub Base Cdr. Live in a condo and
am a Board member as well as Govt. Liaison for our
condo as well as the BHA, Boca Highland Beach
Condo Assoc. which comprises of 62 condos along
A1A from the PBC line to the south and the North
end of Highland Beach. Approx. 10K condo
residents make up the resident population.

BHA interest range from Beach Renourishment to Fire Alarm Issues as well as Sea Grape lesues Charles which block views of the ocean from some properties... Contacts are maintained at the local, county, state and Federal level with agencies which impact these and other issues.

BMA is vitally Interested in Redistricting: Want to thank you for holding these 25 plus hearings thru out Florida

Has to be a real grinder...

Looking at the districts reminds me of:

The Rorschach Inkblot test. You know, a pschologist shows the patiant an inkblot and asks what the patient sees in it ... and every patient sees something different. We each look at the district and see it from different perspectives.

The analogy is there for us to consider.

ReDistricting is not a pretty picture and has lots of issue consequences as we are all aware. As previously indicated, everyone has a different concept of its meaning...

My district 91 has special interests in the beaches of our communities... Our immediate district (87) to the north of us is analogous in some respects... With Distr. 91 having just six or so precincts in PBC and the remainder in Broward County, it seems a bit contrived for both districts for many reasons...

Having been exposed to AG a bit, I look at other central FL districts which really look like ink spots... And I understand the rural nature of the land and the lack of habitation and whatproblems insue in constructing...

A real challenge to retain some continuity and to be representative in large geographical areas. As an example and one close to home just west of us is... District # 78, really a challenge to cover and serve constituents.

Perhaps the Inkblot test should be reviewed and a

hard look at what you/ and we are really trying to achieve be the objective of this difficult undertaking and exercise... to be fair to all concerned and to build goodwill and better relationships for everyone!

Thanks for taking the time to let me share with you a few of my thoughts and again for all you do to make it possible for all of us to enjoy the wonderful place the Good Lord has created.

God Bless You All!

#### **Submission from David Lewin**

#### Florida State Legislature Redistricting Palm Beach County

I'm pleased to submit for consideration and discussion, the following simple suggestions for redistricting Palm Beach County (PBC) representation in the Florida State Senate and House of Representatives:

I would propose that after the 2010 redistricting process, in accordance with Fair District amendments 5 and 6. PBC be represented by three (3) Florida State Senators. PBC is currently partly represented by five (5) Senators.

I would propose that after redistricting, there should be nine (9) PBC House of Representatives. There are currently eleven (11) Representatives partly representing PBC.

I base these suggestions on the following facts:

#### Senate

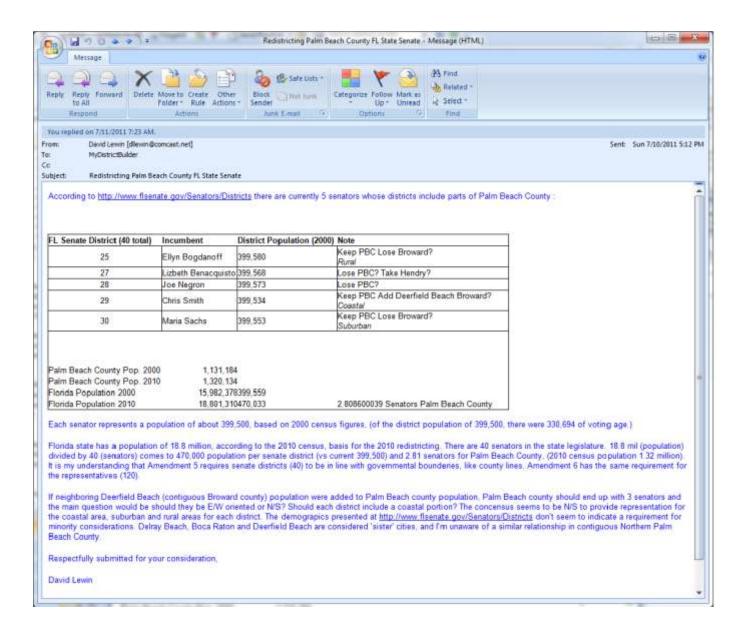
Florida 2010 census total population of 18,801,310 divided by 40, the total Senate districts, means that each Senate District would consist of a population of 470,033, (current district population 399,559). PBC 2010 census total population of 1,320,134, divided by 470,033 should mean that the County would have 2.81 Senators. If Deerfield Beach, Broward County, population were included, PBC would have three State Senators.

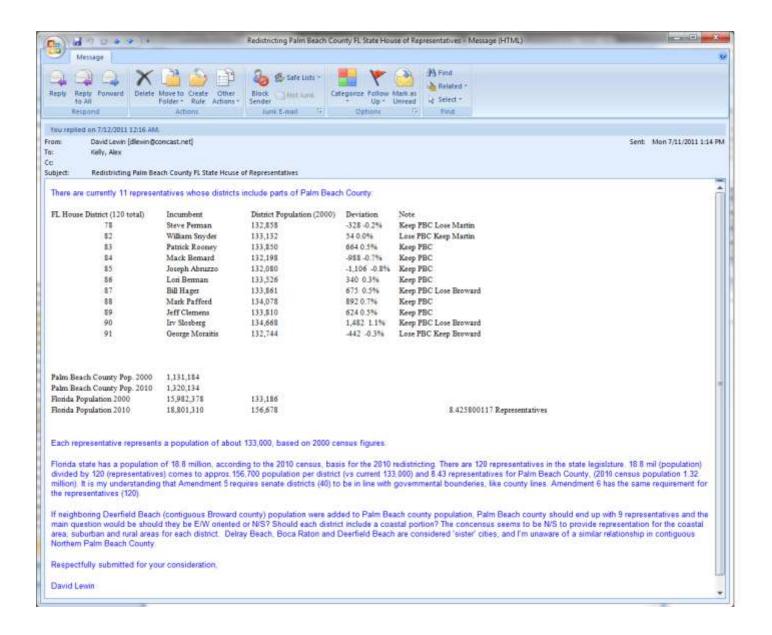
I would suggest that redistricted Senate district boundaries are drawn much along the lines of current boundaries for Districts 25, 29, and 30, and incorporate the PBC areas currently represented by districts 27 and 28.

#### House

Florida total population 18,801,310 divided by 120 the total House districts, means each House District would represent a population of 156,678, (current district population 133,186). PBC population of 1,320,134, divided by 156,678 should mean that PBC would have 8.43 Representatives. If Deerfield Beach, Broward County, population were included, PBC would have 9 House Representatives.

I would suggest that redistricted House district boundaries are drawn much along the lines of current boundaries for districts 78, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, and 90, and incorporate the PBC areas currently represented by districts 82 and 91.





### **Submission from Margaret Mackey**

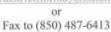


#### Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov,





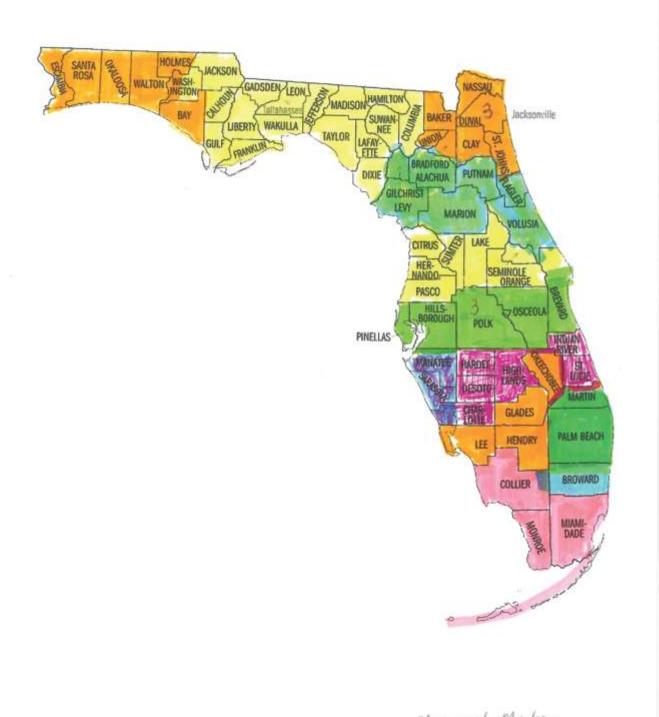
### Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on www.floridaredistricting.org and www.flsenote.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record, "Field is required. \*Last Name Macked Prefix MS \*First Name / MAYCALEN \*Your Address 3930 Scacles Your Email Macking 11/ Wal \*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting? 💆 Yes Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request. ibmitted 3 majes and save them to a rep of

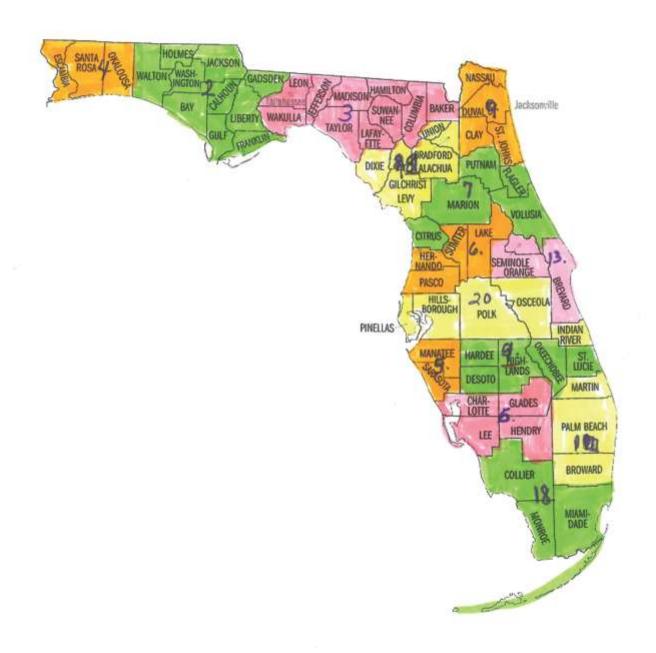
www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

# FL CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



# FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVES



Margaret Mackey

# FL SENATE



Margaret Mackey

# **Submission from Pat Magrogan**

From: Pat Magrogan
To: MyDistrictBuilder;

Subject: KEEPING DISTRICTS TOGETHER

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 9:19:22 AM

Please keep Palm Beach County districts together for the protector of the residents and their assists.

#### Submission from Yolanda Mercedes

#### FERRIN.JAY

From: Yolanda Mercedes [latino77712@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, August 22, 2011 10:41 AM

To: MyDistrictBuilder

Subject: ATTN: Redistricting committee

### ATTN: Redistricting committee

My name is Yolanda Mercedes, and I am a resident of 5245 Coconut Blvd 33411 in Palm Beach County Florida. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer my input to the redistricting committee.

I'm writing today to speak for many Hispanics and other minorities who live in neighborhoods in The Acreage, Royal Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Lantana, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, and other cities here in Palm Beach County. As our district lines are currently drawn, we have an opportunity to elect a candidate of our choice – a candidate that looks like us and that understands the needs of minorities in Palm Beach County – at the county level, at the State Senate level, and at the Congressional level.

But, at the State House level, something is wrong. At the State House level, minorities living in the neighborhoods I mentioned earlier are not empowered because we cannot elect a candidate of our choice with the way the House lines are drawn right now. I ask you to rectify this problem and draw State House lines that let Hispanics and other minorities have the same opportunities to elect candidates of our choice like we have at all other levels of government. Our community has many pressing and important needs, both economically and socially, that require representation in the State House from someone who understands and is a part of our community. Making this change will empower minorities locally and help us have a stronger voice in Tallahassee.

1

# Thanks for the opportunity

Yolanda Mercedes-Flores 5245 Coconut Blvd The Acreage-Royal Palm Beach. Palm Beach, Fl. 33411 PH 561-594-9920

#### **Submission from Howard Parmet**

#### FERRIN.JAY

From: Marmaid12@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2011 3:42 PM

To: MyDistrictBuilder Subject: Redistricting

To: the Florida Legislature

RE: Redistricting

Thank you for taking the time to receive input from citizens BEFORE drawing maps. I appreciate the legislature taking the time to listen to it's citizens.

Please consider the Palm Beach County coastal districts of FL 22, and FL state 25 and 83. They all are coastal communities and share similar concerns. They differ from the remainder of Palm Beach County. The concerns that they share include property insurance, hurricane preparedness, tourism, coastal erosion, and ports.

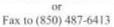
Thank you, Howard Parmet Palm Beach Gardens 25 year resident

# **Submission from Cynthia Plocelman**



# Please Provide Completed Form To: Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov.





# Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

www.floridaredistricting.org www.flsenate.gov/redistricting	
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3 COMPACT, CONTIGGOS, FULPARTIAL - REQUIRED	
BOES NOT WATTER IF SITTING ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE TO VIRUNG AGAINST EACH OTHER!	
O OBEY HE LAW -FAIR DISTRICT'S ADMENDMENT	
Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.	
*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting?   Yes   No	
*What type of map are you commenting on?   Congressional   State House   State Senate	
Your County PALM BEACH Your Email CPlocKE MAN	
*Your Address 34 FRANKLIN By *City WPB *State FL *Zip 3340	
Prefix *First Name CyNTHIK *Last Name Place MAN Suffix  Organization Name (If applicable) Audubon Society OF THE EVERGLADES	
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By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on www.floridaredistricting.org and www.floridate.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.	

#### **Submission from Bob Roath**

#### FERRIN.JAY

From: Bob Roath [bobonsurf@gmail.com]
Sent: Bob Roath [bobonsurf@gmail.com]
Friday, August 19, 2011 5:50 AM

To: MyDistrictBuilder

Cc: Marilyn Parmet; R G Russell

Subject: I appreciate your consideration of the following:

I am requesting the coastal districts of Palm Beach County to be kept together as these districts in Congress (FL 22) and the FL House (83 and 25) all share similar interests. They are coastal districts and are concerned about similar issues like hurricane preparedness, property insurance, tourism and beach erosion, to name a few. They differ in their concerns from the remainder of Palm Beach County.

Resident,

Bob Roath

--

Robert S. Roath 199 Regatta Drive Jupiter, FL 33477 561 745-1644 203 858-8848 cell bobonsurf@gmail.com

# **Submission from John Robarts**



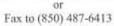
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#### Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

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Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov and redistrictflorida@fisenate.gov,





# Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

By submitting this form, I acknowledge that my comments and suggestions may be displayed on <a href="https://www.floridaredistricting.org">www.floridaredistricting.org</a> and <a href="https://www.floridaredistricting.org</a> and <a href="https://www.f

Prefix Mc *First Name John *Last	Name Robarts Suffix
Organization Name (If applicable)	
*Your Address 6223 Pond Tire G *City	
Your County Palm Beach Your Email j	erobarts byanoo, com
*What type of map are you commenting on?	sional 🖾 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.
I'm siffing in an auditorin	m at FAU. It's 11:30 AM
and half way through the	
	out in the room (or for that
matter, the donkey) - In +	his case the elephant is
more appropriate since H	Le Republican Party dominates
	I holds a solid majority
	constitutional offices. They
have accomplished this	
There are 600,000 to 7	150,000 more registered
Democrats in the state.	How did they accomplish
this majority position?	in a word, It was
gerry mandering. It loop	Ks like they plan to use
	to continue their Success.
The time schedule that	
	ably lead to all incumberati
being swept back in	to office a reward that
www.floridaredistricting.org	www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

many have not earned
Change the timeline to one that will allow the
2012 elections to proceed logically and effectively.
Release the maps that have been drafted
I don't think that anyone at this hearing
Yeally believes that these haven't been
draffed.
If you make these changes and
create districts that make sense, you
will be seen as politicians who did the
right thing.

#### **Submission from Allen Robbins**

The submissions received from Allen Robbins at the Boca Raton Public Hearing included letters, emails, pictures, talking points, and the copyrighted publications <u>"Redrawing the Map On Redistricting 2010</u>: The Philadelphia Study" and <u>"The Gerrymandering Index"</u>.



We need your signature on our two petitions to protect against politicians from manipulating the system to preserve their own power and the dominance of one party over another.

Your signature will help end the political free-for-all and replace it with a system that requires natural fairness and competition in legislative and congressional elections.

**SIGN TO FIX A BROKEN SYSTEM** 

Paid for by FairDistrictsFlorida.org

#### FAU REDISTRICTING HEARING –Tuesday 16 Aug. 2011

I'm here today to talk about the software MyDistrictBuilder the Senate District Builder and how it relates to Amendments 5 & 6.

There are three web base programs that are called District Builder the one that has Geospatial analysis is a national Public Mapping Project, which is a open-source redistricting application that supports both Amendments 5 & 6 language.

The other two Florida web based programs in have failed to include this vital component.

(http://www.azavea.com/research/company-research/redistricting-2010-whitepapers/).

The state has been notified on several occasions.

A reply was sent back indicating that they would NOT include a "Show Plan Summary" and they did say, "We did not plan to include a compactness measurement tool." We find this very unacceptable.

We know that "No mathematical formula is likely to adequately correct for all of the geographical and social variability that can result in irregular district shapes." However, when the authors wrote Amendments 5 & 6 they implicitly implied that the processes include a geometric measure of compactness as part of the process.

When they say "you do not need Reock, Convex Hull, Polsby-Popper and Schwartzberg scores to know what makes sense for creating compact districts". What they really mean is no one in court can challenge a subjective term it looks OK to me.

I did have a close look in the Agreement for Consulting Service Contract on how the MyDistrictBuilder was created.

In Attachment "A" a five-page document, which outlines what the program has to accomplish.

In MyDistrictBuilder Section Glossary the term Geospatial formula was also left out and it was also left out in the Senate Help section on Definitions.

**Nowhere in Attachment "A"** did it say that the program has to be compliant with Amendments 5 & 6. In fact it failed to mention the term Gerrymandering and how to prevent it from happening.

Both state programs are very basic map-drawing programs. It also looks like an end run around geometric calculations.

The people of Florida are fed up with the partisan politics from all sides, and now is the time to end the games.

We are requesting that both "Azavea white paper" and the "Redrawing the Map on Redistricting 2010 - The Philadelphia Study" be add to the states web page right next to The

Brennan Center For Justice which failed to explane the word "Gerrymandering"

We want fair districts drawn therefore we demand that MyDistrictBuilder and the Senate District Builder software be either fixed or replaced so the mandate of the people is followed to the letter of the law and to make sure the DOJ and the Florida Supreme Court have full access to geospatial analysis to measure relative compactness, which was a mandate from 3,150,000 plus people who voted for in Amendments 5 & 6.



May 5, 2011

To: Governor Rick Scott; Florida's State Senate; Florida's State House; Manuel Diaz, the Chairman of Fair Districts Florida and President Barack Obama.

In an overwhelming display of non-partisan voting, 63% of Florida's 2010 voters clearly spoke their mind to do away with highly partisan gerrymandering in an effort to have fair elections and redraw the electoral districts in a fashion coinciding with Florida State Constitution Amendments 5 & 6.

The purpose of Amendments 5 & 6 are to allow communities to remain cohesive and inclusive, for districts to be non-partisan, racially or economically skewed. That they should be compact, contiguous and grid-like except when that grid would divide a community, existing city, county or geographical boundary.

The Palm Beach County Democratic Party urges you to follow Amendments 5 & 6 to the literal letter of the law. There is no room for interpretation that could allow partisan gerrymandering to persist.

Further, the Palm Beach Democratic Party calls for Fair Districts Florida (as the authors of Amendments 5 & 6) to act as an independent, non-partisan committee to monitor and oversee the redistricting process to insure that the true intent of Amendments 5 & 6 are implemented.

Last week, the Florida House of Representatives – Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee had a hearing to define "compactness" and they are ignoring the intent of Amendments 5 & 6 by using semantics to justify use of districting software without geospatial analysis.

The Gerrymandring Index1 provides a District "Shape & Compactness Score" as well as a clearly detailed definition of "Compactness: Dispersion and Indentation". Just as assessing credit without a credit rating would be ludicrous, so assessing compactness without a compactness rating would be equally futile.

Finally, the Palm Beach County Democratic Party calls for an upgrade to the Districting Software to include geospatial analysis so that the true intent of Amendments 5 & 6 are accomplished.

Partisan gerrymandering equates to voter suppression which cannot be permitted any longer. We the 63% of voters, should not have to go through the court system as a solution to this problem.

#### Respectfully submitted,

#### The Palm Beach County Democratic Party Legislative Committee:

Wendi Lipsich & Mae Yates Co-Chairs, Florence Fidell, Adele Kaserman, Frieda Martey, Rick Neuhoff, Allen Robbins, Ken Sommers and Bill Weg.

1 - The Gerrymandring Index, a whitepaper from Azavea / Cicero (Oct 2006 rev. 2010)

Subject: District Builder Question

From: Robbins <allenhip2@bellsouth.net>
Date: Wed, 23 Feb 2011 14:29:36 -0500

To: DB.Help@flsenate.gov, "GUTHRIE.JOHN" <GUTHRIE.JOHN@flsenate.gov>

CC: Mark Alan Siegel <masiegel@gate.net>, Terrie Rizzo <terrierizzo@yahoo.com>, Richard Ingman

<ingman100@yahoo.com>, sean.phillippi@gmail.com

To: John Guthrie

From: Allen Robbins

I was unable to find in District Builder an index rating that prevents Gerrymandering, if I missed it let me know.

Their are a number of standards or formulas that give a user rating for geospatial analysis.

I read your help section very carefully and found no reference to this type of geospatial analysis to measure relative compactness of electoral districts that gives it a **spicific rating** as part of the (Analyze Plan) or (Show Plan Summary) section of District Builder.

I'm sending you a white paper that address this problem.

- cc. Mark Alan Siegel
- cc. Terrie Rizzo
- cc. Richard Ingman
- cc. Sean Phillippi

Gerrymandering\_Index\_Whitepaper.pdf | Content-Type: application/pdf | Content-Encoding: base64

1 of 1 8/2/11 9:41 AM

# Richard Ingman & Associates

1400 South Ocean Boulevard, Suite N804 Boca Raton, Florida 33432

March 3, 2011

Mr. John Guthrie Staff Director Florida State Senate Select Committee on Apportionment & Redistricting 404 S. Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Mr. Guthrie:

I am following up on the email sent to you on February 23, 2011 by my associate, Allen Robbins; he has yet to receive a reply.

For the redistricting process, a software known as District Builder will be used. Modern redistricting software has a feature which gives a mathematical geospatial rating, also called a "compactness rating" to each proposed district. A tightly drawn district, in which each voter lived at the minimum possible distance from the center, would get a high rating. An "octopus" district with tentacles all over the map (like many of our current districts in Florida) would get a very low rating.

We have not found any such "compactness rating" feature in District Builder. If it exists, we would greatly appreciate your help in finding it. If not, then we must strongly protest. A mathematical "compactness rating" would raise the level of debate and help determine if the proposed new districts meet one of the design requirements in the new amendments to the Florida constitution. A common tool for this important evaluation should be included in the final version.

l look forward to your prompt response	
All the best,	
Richard Ingman	
RI/mas	

Subject: Fw: Geospatial analysis in District Builder

From: "Richard.Mary Ingman" <ingman100@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, 3 Mar 2011 07:40:05 -0800 (PST)

To: Mark Alan Siegel <masiegel@gate.net>, Allen Robbins <allenhip2@bellsouth.net>, Sean Phillippi

<sean.phillippi@gmail.com>

CC: Terrie Rizzo <a href="mailto:derrierizzo@yahoo.com">derrierizzo@yahoo.com</a>

Hi:

Thank you for your input on our letter to John Guthrie. I incorporated your suggestions, and attach my email, to which is attached my formal letter. (I did not know, Mark, that I was Richard Ingman & Associates, but what fine Associates!!)

#### Richard

— Forwarded Message ——

From: Richard.Mary Ingman <ingman100@yahoo.com>
To: John Guthrie <GUTHRIE.JOHN@flsenate.gov>
Sent: Thu, March 3, 2011 10:37:23 AM
Subject: Geospatial analysis in District Builder

Dear Mr Guthrie:

Thank you for registering me as a user of District Builder.

I have examined the program. In common with Mr. Allen Robbins (who sent you an email on 2/23), I cannot find any geospatial analysis feature, which would give a mathematical rating to the relative physical compactness of proposed districts.

Since we are sure that modern redistricting packages contain this feature, we would appreciate very much if you would point out how to access it.

I attach a letter to this same effect, which I am also sending my mail.

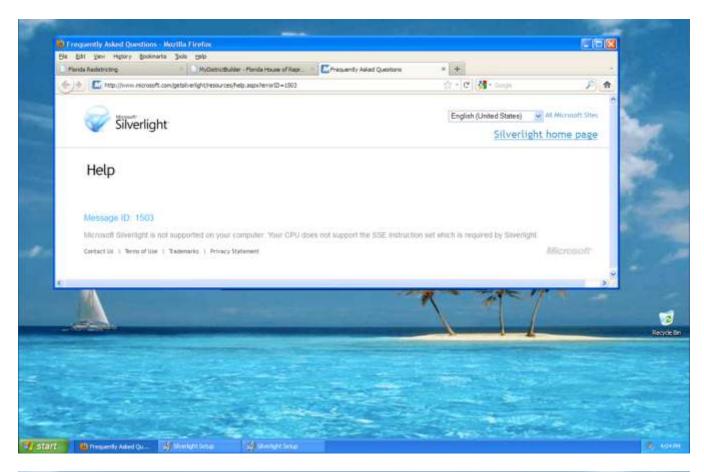
I look forward to your response.

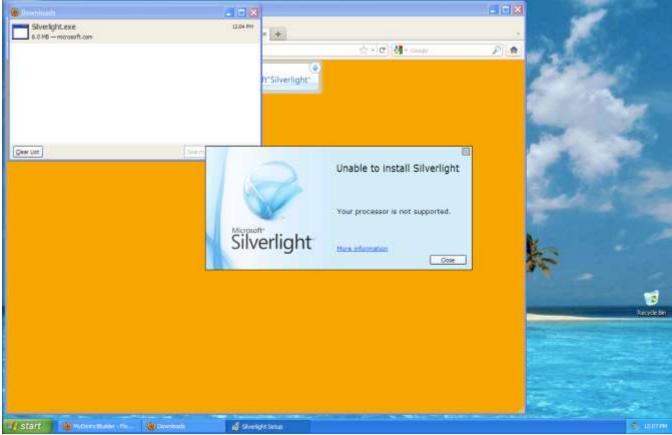
Thank you.

Richard Ingman

Guthrie 030311.pdf Content-Type: application/pdf Content-Encoding: base64

1 of 1 8/2/11 9:50 AM





#### **Submission from Herman Robinson**



#### Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

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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.floridiardistricting.org and www.flschale.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record. \*Field is required. \*First Name / TOK MULLS Prefix Organization Name (If applicable) \*Your Address 114 Ocean Breeze \*City Lake World "State P1 "Zip 33460 Your Email HCRFLA 99 @ Yalo - Com \*What type of map are you commenting on? 🖾 Congressional 🖾 State House 🚨 State Senate \*Would you like to receive email updates regarding Florida Redistricting? Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request. have to establish some respect for (Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

## **Submission from Stacy S. Ruwe**

#### FERRIN.JAY

From: Stacy Ruwe [Ruwess@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2011 3:59 PM

To: MyDistrictBuilder Subject: redistricting

#### Dear Legislator,

I write to request that the coastal districts of Palm Beach County to be kept together as these districts in Congress (FL 22) and the FL House (83 and 25) all share similar interests. They are coastal districts which are concerned about similar issues like hurricane preparedness, property insurance, tourism and beach erosion, to name a few. I believe that they differ in their concerns from the remainder of Palm Beach County. I have lived in FL since March 2006 in Palm Beach Gardens. Thank you for listening to my concerns before redistricting.

Sincerely yours, Stacy S. Ruwe 512 Les Jardin Drive Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

# **Submission from Shirley L. Schaff**

#### FERRIN.JAY

From: Shirley L Schaff [shirley.schaff@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 12:10 PM

To: MyDistrictBuilder
Subject: Redistricting

#### Florida Legislature:

Thank you for listening to the citizens in the redistricting matter. I have lived in Palm Beach County for 18 years and ask that you keep Congressional districts 22 and Florida House 83 and 25 together. They all share similar concerns in hurricane preparedness and beach erosion and need to remain together.

Thank you for your time.

Shirley L Schaff West Palm Beach

#### **Submission from Mark Schneider**



#### Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

OF

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.florwioredistricting org and www.flsenate.gov/redistricting or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record. Prefix DR \*First Name MARK \*Last Name SCHNEIDERSuffix Organization Name (If applicable) \*Your Address 5165 PALAZZO \*City BOYNTON B, \*State FL \*Zin 33437 Your County P. 3 Your Email \*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.

(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Members of the Florida House and Senate:

I'd like to address the impact of redistricting on the representation of racial minorities and on the implementation of policies addressing the needs of minority communities. In the previous Senate, 3 of 15 senators from South East Florida were black, as were 4 of 23 members of the House. Two of the black senators were elected from majority-minority districts, while one was elected from a majority-majority district. Three of the black House members were from minority-majority districts, while one was from a majority-majority district.

The ability of minority legislators to be elected from majority-majority districts, argues that the redistricting process should not cluster minorities as heavily in specific districts as they are currently. Black minority-majority districts are comprised of an average of roughly 60% black voters. The black electorate outside these districts averaged around 10%. The latter districts are commonly called "bleached" because of the effect of clustering minorities in specific districts.

The process of bleaching districts in the redistricting process may guarantee representation by minorities in the legislature. This representation, I suggest, would be preserved were the bleaching reduced. Further, the domination of the legislature by highly bleached districts more or less guarantees that the legislative process ignores the needs of minority communities. As a case in point, consider the failure of the current legislature to support penal reforms that would lessen the disproportionate impact of incarceration on minority communities—despite these reforms having impeccable conservative backing from Florida TaxWatch.

Therefore I encourage you to bleach less in drawing your new maps. Less bleaching should lead both to greater minority representation, and, more importantly, to a greater legislative attention to matters of vital concern to minority communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to alert you to this pressing issue.

Mark A. Schneider, Boynton Beach, 561-752-0946

### Submission from John R. Smith

SPEAKER: SMITH JOHN R. SMITH

#### REMARKS #1

Hello. My name is John R Smith. I own a financial services company and I Chair the Business Political Action Committee of Palm Beach County.

The business leadership here is very aware that "communities of interest" exist in Palm Beach County. We believe their interests must be recognized and preserved by the legislature, and we believe this can be accomplished without violating the new standards from Fair Districts. We have communities here that have more in common with each other, than they do with other geographic or demographic interests.

Your goal must be to unite distinct "communities of interest", such as the large coastal community of interest, agricultural districts, and inner-city or minority districts. These communities need and deserve representation which reflects their unique needs, which can only be preserved if redistricting is fair.

The coastal communities especially must be considered a "community of interest". It is important they be kept together in state legislative and Congressional districts, so that they have the opportunity to elect people who understand their unique and specific concerns. They have different concerns than the more inland parts of the County. Their unique needs and interests include property insurance, hurricane storm surge protection, the environment, and tourism, all of which are particularly important to folks who live along the coast.

Likewise, the agricultural communities in the western part of the county are the engine that drives their local economy, and are the primary source of jobs. They are a "community of interest" with a completely different economic make-up than coastal communities. Their interests need to be recognized. For example, joining both the agricultural communities and coastal communities into the same district would ultimately disenfranchise both of them in Tallahassee.

The county also has thriving African-American communities, such as in Riviera Beach, Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay, which is a third "community of interest." Those cities should remain in the "majority minority" House seat (Mack Bernard) they have today. Also, African-Americans in Riviera Beach should remain in the "majority minority" Senate district (Chris Smith) as they are today. This is necessary in order to ensure that the minority citizens in these communities don't lose their voice by being included in districts dominated by non-minority voters.

Thank you for taking our needs into consideration.

# **Submission from Joy Stone**

#### FERRIN.JAY

From: Joy Stone [stonebug@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 12:09 PM

To: MyDistrictBuilder Subject: Redistricting.

Dear Sirs:

I have lived in Palm Beach County my whole life, 60 years. I'm currently residing in the town of Jupiter.

I request that you keep our coastal districts intact, Congress FL 22 and FL House 25 and 83. These residents have unique concerns - beach erosion, tourism, hurricane preparedness, environmental concerns such as turtle protection, oil spills, etc.

Thank you for listening to the people.

Blessings, Joy Stone 16 W Riverside Dr. Jupiter 33469

stonebug@mac.com

#### Submission from Diane Van der Meer

August 16, 2011

My Name is Dianne Van der Meer and I am a member of the clergy. I hold a post graduate degree in Higher Education Administration, Policy and Planning from Boston University and I am currently a doctoral student, at Union University, in Higher Education and Social Justice. I am speaking as a concern citizen.

My contact Information: email: vandermeerdee@vahoo.com. Phone 857-753-7737.

The transparency to which these re-districting public forums are held around the state is plausible. However, legislators do have the moral duty of ensuring Justice and Fairness, for its entire constituency, to the best of their ability.

In determining whether to move forward with any proposed redistricting plans, legislators, by virtue of their office, owe it to the people of Florida, "to do the right thing." While I recognize from a political view, justice as fairness exemplifies what brings the greatest satisfaction to the majority, I am of the view, that, to truly be able to "do the right thing," the voice of minority groups must be very present in this equation; or, the process and any good intent of these re-districting forums will be nothing but a farce. Legislators must ensure that the voice of the minority population is not denied by virtue of limiting their scope to elect their own representation to the legislature.

To this end, as the current debates, once again, bring Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act to the table; it becomes the duty and social responsibility of you as legislators to protect the voice of freedom, to which minority groups could have adequate representation that is not tampered with, but preserved, in the spirit of democracy.

Dianne Van der Meer

Boca Raton, Florida Precinct 4128 August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

# Submission from Margie J. Walden

Communities Abbey Village Addison Reserve C.C. Addison Trace Aspen Ridge Bel-Aire Boca Delray C.C. Bonaire Village Bridgeview **Bristol Pointe** Camelot Village Cloister Del Mar Coco Wood Lakes Country Lake Crosswinds of Delray Deauville Village Delaire C. C. Deiray Harbor Club Delray Lakes Estates **Delray Summit** Delray Villas I Delray Villas III Delray Villas IV/V Delray W. Townhouses **Emerald Pointe** Floral Lakes Four Seasons Gleneagles C. C. Hamilton House Hamlet C. C. Heritage Park West High Point of Delray Beach High Point West I High Point West 2 Hunter's Run C.C. Huntington Lakes (5) **Huntington Pointe Huntington Towers** International Club Kings Point Lakes of Delray Las Verdes Legacy at Sherwood Forest Lexington Club Mizner Master Assoc. HOA Monterey Lake Morningstar Newport Cove Palm Beach Bath & Tennis Palm Greens 1 Palm Greens 2 Pelican Harbor Pines of Delray E. Pines of Delray N. Pines of Delray W. Pine Ridge of Delray Beach Pinewood Cove Polo Trace C. C. Rainberry Bay Master Rainberry Bay Homes Rainberry Bay Villas Rio Poco Saturnia Isles Shadywoods Tierra Del Rey Tierra Verde at Delray Beach Tropic Bay Tropic Isle Valencia Falls Valencia Palms Villa Borghese Vizcaya Waterways

# Alliance of Delxay Residential Associations, Inc.

13900 Jog Road, Suite 203 - 212

Delray Beach, FL 33446

Phone (561) 495-9670 FAX# (561) 495-0888

Visit our Website: www.allianceofdelray.com

August 16, 2011

The Alliance of Delray is a community based organization comprised of 81 condominium and homeowner's associations in Delray Beach representing more than 100,000 residents. We work towards building a strong community by addressing issues that improve our quality of life.

63% of Florida voters supported fair redistricting and it seems that this process is not being carried out fairly by our State Legislators. The 100,000 residents that the Alliance of Delray represents have a great concern about the following:

- The deletion of the compactness and geospatial analysis from the My District Builder software-an important component that ensures equal population in each district and helps make sure districts are not drawn to favor or disfavor a particular political party
- The lack of proposed plans and maps distributed to the public for comment prior to these public meetings
- Only allowing comments from the public on proposed maps during committee meetings that will be held in Tallahassee during session
- Utilizing taxpayer funds in a pending lawsuit to overturn Fair Districting amendments that were approved by 63% of the population
- Establishing an unrealistic timeline for approval that will prevent the completion
  of the entire process in time for all incumbent and new candidates to declare
  their candidacy and for the Supervisor of Elections to prepare ballots.

Therefore, these meetings are not really about the public being able to comment on bona-fide proposals or maps. Instead, these meetings have become forums for the public to complain, question and share their lack of confidence about the fairness of amendments that were passed by close to 2/3 of all registered Florida voters. Moreover, it seems that redistricting will only be decided by the Florida Supreme Court after the 2012 election is completed.

So as we are facing extremely high unemployment and services being cut we are all counting the millions of dollars being spent on holding these meetings and suits pending on the constitutionality of these amendments. This is not good governance and the waste is unconscionable. The Alliance of Delray members will be watching very closely and are prepared to make our voices heard through every possible channel during this entire process to ensure the enactment of fair districts.

Margie J. Walden Exec, VP

Officers

Robert Schulbaum, President
Margie J. Walden, Executive Vice President
Lori Vinikoor, First Vice President,
Mort Mazor, Vice President, Barbara Zee, Vice President,
Evelyn Spielholz, Secretary, Stan Kalish, Treasurer
Directors

Norma Arnold, Ed Berger, Edwin Goldwasser, Stan Goodman, Harold Kleiner, Charles Laufer, Phyllis Levine, Susan Zuckerman Joshua Gerstin, Legal Counsel

Assistants to the President-Richard Herman, Carol Klausner, Marianne Weisman

Whisper Walk (5)

#### **Handouts**

# REDISTRICTING · 2012

#### ABOUT REDISTRICTING

After each decentral Centron, the Legislature redeases the districts from which worker elect their public officials. In general, districts are redeave to accommodate population changes and crosses that district populations are as usually equal in number as pacticable.

There will be opportunities for entiren participation during public hearings, interior assummers meetings; and the 2012 Session.

#### THE NUMBERS

In 2012, the Legislature will redow the states congressional districts awall as districts for Florida House and Florida Sessite sais. The number of congressional districts in Florida will increase from 25 to 27. The number of Florida House seats must be between 30 and 120, while the number of Florida Sesite seats must be between 30 and 46. Currently, the Florida House and Florida Senate contain 120 increbers and 40 members, respectively. If these manifects are maintained, this average population of a Florida Florida Genetic will be 150,07%, while the average population of a Florida Senate district will be 470,033. Each compressional district will contain approximately 670,045 people.



#### REDISTRICTING LAW

Die United States Constitution, the federal Vering Rights Act of 1965, and the Flimila Constitution work regulative districting. Under the United States Constitution, district populations must be as manly especial practicable. In addition, sace that not be the predominant factor in deaving bose, unless the use of eace is narrowly tailored to achieve a coupelling interest.

The Voting Rights Act requires the creature of a district that partitions for racied minorities where (f) a minority population is gaugaphically compact and authoristly in mercus to be a majority in a single district, (j) the minority population is politically coheren. (b) the majority-vers and Sciently is a blick to enable it wouldn't in defeat the minority partierned authorities and (d) under all of the chromitaneas, the minority population has been opportunity than others to participate in the political process and client regressitatives of the chross

The Vening Rights Act applies additional supervisions to district that include any part of Collier, Hardisa, Hendry, Hillademongh, or Mauros Coursey. In these districts, the Vening Rights Act probabits purposeful discrimination and protects against retringension—or backshaling—in the additive of racial minorities to elect approximatives of their choius. To ensure samplesons with those requirements, the relativistic grain must be submitted to and preclosed by a indeed court or the United States Department of Jactice before it may be enforced.

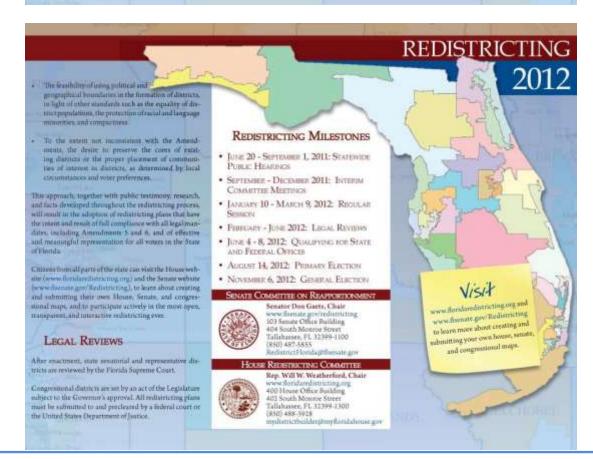
The Florida Constitution requires that districts be configured. A district to configure it all of its territory is in actual contact, unintercepted by the territory of another district. Contact at a corner or right angle is houtficent, but territory may cross bodies of water. The Constitution allows state legislative districts to overlap, other partially or entirely.

In November 2010, the roters abbeld Amusulments 5 and 6 to the Farmin Construction. Those Amusulments probable fine drawing that intentionally forces or distance a politic and party or an incumbent. The Amusulments also afford perfection to racial and language minorities. Districts may not be dearn (1) seth the meter or must be despited or abtolging the segual opportunity of notal or language minorities to participate in the political process, or (2) to dominate their ability to short approximatives of their discer. Finally, unless it would undistry with federal law or the standards described above, the Amuslumints require that district populations be as marrly equal as practicable, and that district be compact and, where families, follow existing political and population bearing political and population.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- The full implementation of the protections afforded by the Amendments to racial and language minosition, including continuous of the Legislature's longertal/fished policy to proceed or enhance the number of performing minority dictions.
- The various measures of compactness, from grometric calculations to a broad consideration of bow communities relate to one another, for example though commerce, transportation, and communication—in order to promote the creation of affective representational units.



# 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.

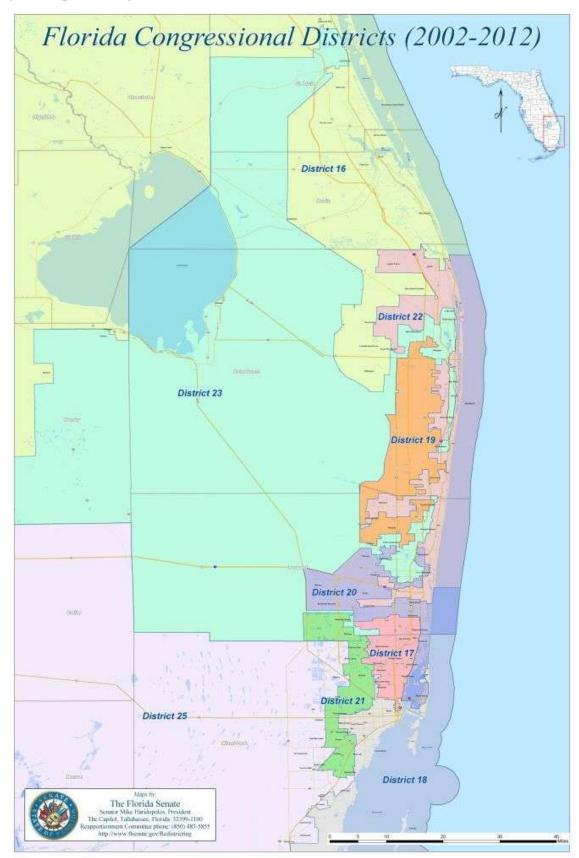
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <a href="http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans">http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans</a> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal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

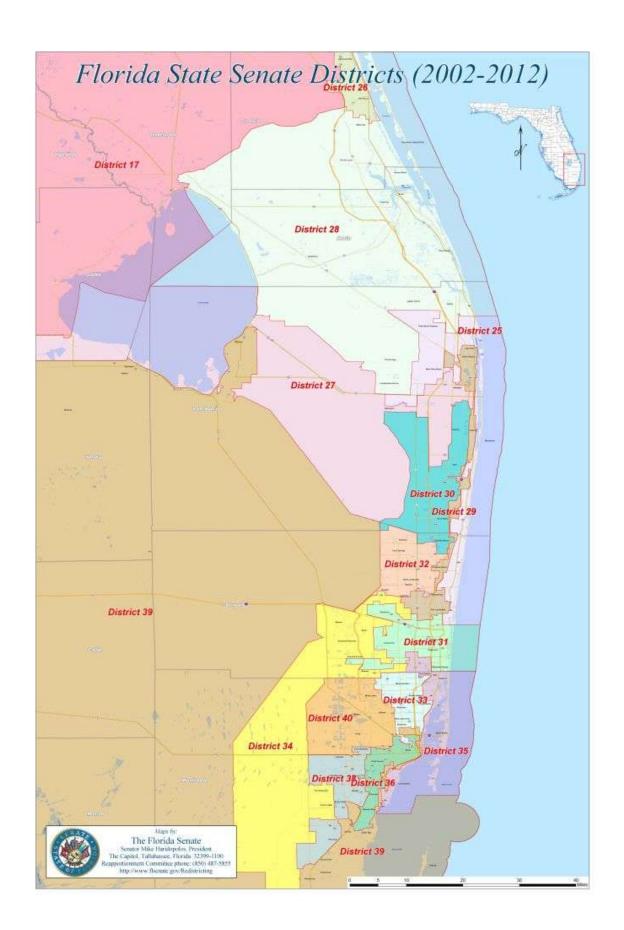
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about "MyDistrictBuilder," see <a href="https://www.floridaredistricting.org">www.floridaredistricting.org</a>. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens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

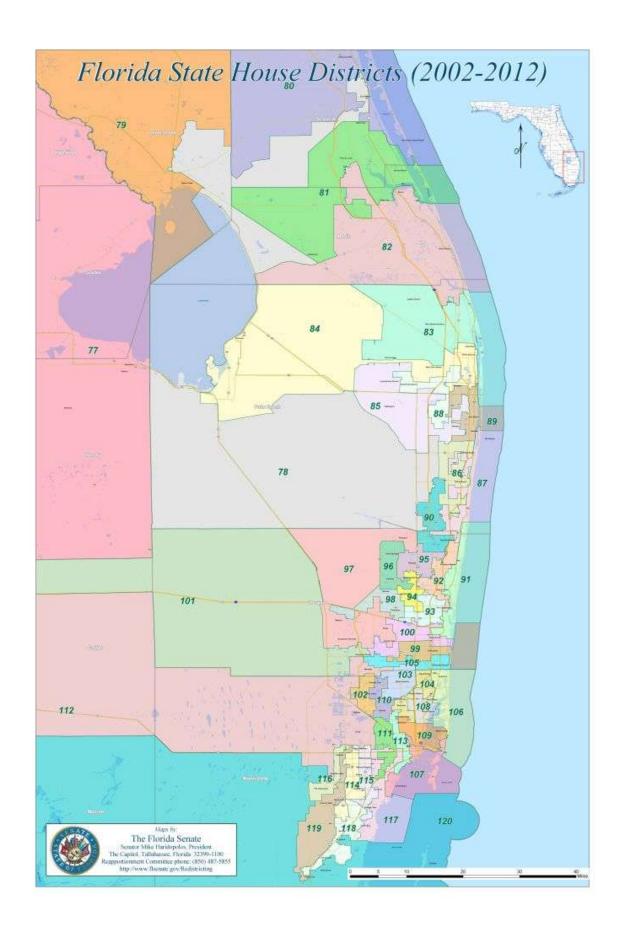
Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

With innovative technologies and joint <u>public hearings</u>, the Florida Legislature is promoting the most open, accessible, and interactive redistricting ever.

# **Displays Prepared by Florida Senate**







Congressional District		2010	2010	2010 De	viation		State House District	2010	2010	2010 De	viation
	ongressional District	Pop.	Ideal	Count	%		State nouse District	Pop.	Ideal	Count	%
16	Tom Rooney	797,711	696,345	101,366	14.6%	78	Steven M. "Steve" Perman	156,153	156,678	-525	-0.3%
17	Frederica Wilson	655,160	696,345	-41,185	-5.9%	80	Debbie Mayfield	148,503	156,678	-8,175	-5.2%
18	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	712,790	696,345	16,445	2.4%	81	Gayle B. Harrell	201,633	156,678	44,955	28.7%
19	Ted Deutch	736,419	696,345	40,074	5.8%	82	William D. Snyder	172,265	156,678	15,587	9.9%
20	Debbie Wasserman Schultz	691,727	696,345	-4,618	-0.7%	83	Patrick Rooney, Jr.	168,377	156,678	11,699	7.5%
21	Mario Diaz-Balart	693,501	696,345	-2,844	-0.4%	84	Mack Bernard	144,934	156,678	-11,744	-7.5%
22	Allen West	694,259	696,345	-2,086	-0.3%	85	Joseph Abruzzo	193,827	156,678	37,149	23.7%
23	Alcee L. Hastings	684,107	696,345	-12,238	-1.8%	86	Lori Berman	142,110	156,678	-14,568	-9.3%
25	David Rivera	807,176	696,345	110,831	15.9%	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%
- 8		2010	2010	2010 De	wiation	90	Irving "Irv" Slosberg	142,553	156,678	-14,125	-9.0%
3	State Senate District	Pop.	Ideal	Count	%	91	George R. Moraitis, Jr.	129,999	156,678	-26,679	-17.0%
25	Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff	428,398	470.033	-41.635	-8.9%	92	Gwyndolen "Gwyn" Clarke-Reed	133,187	156,678	-23,491	-15.0%
26	Mike Haridopolos	481,892	470,033	11,859	2.5%	93	Perry E. Thurston, Jr.	131,283	156,678	-25,395	-16.2%
27	Lizbeth Benacquisto	551,555	470,033	81,522	17.3%	94	Hazelle P. "Hazel" Rogers	135,245	156,678	-21,433	-13.7%
28	Joe Negron	545.085	470,033	75.052	16.0%	95	James W. "Jim" Waldman	134,355	156,678	-22,323	-14.2%
29	Christopher L. "Chris" Smith	397.144	470,033	-72,889	-15.5%	96	Ari Abraham Porth	140,377	156,678	-16,301	-10.4%
30	Maria Lorts Sachs	458,703	470,033	-11,330	-2.4%	97	Martin David "Marty" Kiar	169,848	156,678	13,170	8.4%
31	Eleanor Sobel	432,649	470,033	-37,384	-8.0%	98	Franklin Sands	134,942	156,678	-21,736	-13.9%
32	Jeremy Ring	428,898	470,033	-41,135	-8.8%	99	Elaine J. Schwartz	137,645	156,678	-19,033	-12.1%
33	Oscar Braynon II	404,290	470,033	-65,743	-14.0%	100	Evan Jenne	137,630	156,678	-19,048	-12.2%
34	Nan H. Rich	481.165	470,033	11,132	2.4%	101	Matt Hudson	189,600	156,678	32,922	21.0%
35	Gwen Margolis	438,861	470,033	-31,172	-6.6%	102	Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzalez	160,952	156,678	4,274	2.7%
36	Miguel Diaz de la Portilla	418,626	470,033	-51,407	-10.9%	103	Barbara Watson	138,339	156,678	-18,339	-11.7%
38	Anitere Flores	442,810	470,033	-27.223	-5.8%	104	John Patrick Julien	137,432	156,678	-19,246	-12.3%
39	Larcenia J. Bullard	483,183	470,033	13,150	2.8%	105	Joseph A. "Joe" Gibbons	151,273	156,678	-5,405	-3.4%
40	Rene Garcia	448,543	470,033	-21,490	-4.6%	106	Richard L. Steinberg	150,952	156,678	-5,726	-3.7%
40	nene darca	440,545	470,033	22,430	4.070	107	Luis R. Garcia, Jr.	156,177	156,678	-501	-0.3%
						108	Daphne D. Campbell	132,251	156,678	-24,427	-15.6%
	567776	Con				109	Cynthia A. Stafford	135,230	156,678	-21,448	-13.7%
	A CALLERY	199				110		132,138	156,678	-24,540	-15.7%
						111		139,430	156,678	-17,248	-11.0%
	4 . 4	100				112	Jeanette M. Nuñez	210,556	156,678	53,878	34.4%
		BLA	}			113	Carlos Lopez-Cantera	136,597	156,678	-20,081	-12.8%
		DE 1-7	1			114		133,125	156,678	-23,553	-15.0%
	To Manager Con.	C. A.	- 3			115		135,054	156,678	-21,624	-13.8%
	Prepared by: The Florida Senate	W.				116		134,681	156,678	-21,997	-14.0%
	sennor Mike Haridopolos, President	2000	7			117		150,960	156,678	-5,718	-3.6%
	Capitol, Tallabassee, Florida 32399-1100 tionment Committee phone: (850) 487-5855	6	2			118	Dwight M. Bullard	162,848	156,678	6,170	3.9%
	ttp://www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting					119	Frank Artiles	154,679	156,678	-1,999	-1.3%
						120	Ron Saunders	170,078	156,678	13,400	8.6%

