

Public Hearing on Redistricting Downtown Miami (August 17, 2011)

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Hearing Report

Date: August 17, 2011
City: Downtown Miami
Location: Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus
Time: 10:00am-2:00pm
Number of Speakers: 59
Total Attendance: 146

The public hearing in Downtown Miami took place at Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus in the Wolfson Auditorium (300 N.E. 2nd Street, Room 1261, Miami, FL 33132). 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 Sun-Sentinel August 14 and 15, in The Miami Herald August 14 and 16, 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 12 senators and 27 representatives present at the hearing chaired by Senator Gaetz. Of the 146 people who filled out attendance cards 59 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 Brad Brown

BRAD BROWN

Florida State Conference NAACP Miami-Dade 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. *City Dist 25*
- 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.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY REDISTRICTING DATA

- In Miami-Dade County, by 2010, the black voting age population was 307,838; an increase of approximately 8.7 percent. The Hispanic voting age population was 1,295,007; an increase of approximately 27 percent.

Voting Age Population Data (VAP)

<u>Race</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Percentage*</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Percentage*</u>
Black	307,838	15.8%	283,029	16.7%
Latino	1,295,007	66.4%	1,013,394	59.8%

*Percentages are of the county's voting age population

Florida State Conference NAACP
Miami-Dade 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.

Submission from Elizabeth Pines

Testimony for Redistricting Hearing. Miami-Dade County 08/17/2011

Elizabeth Pines

Miami-Dade County resident for more than 30 years.

Board member with League of Women Voters of Florida, and an attorney.

Rep. Scott Randolph's has requested expenditure records related to the lawsuit the House has filed against the Fair Districts Constitutional Amendment.

Speaker Dean Cannon has refused to provide this information alleging it will divulge the Chamber's legal strategy.

Will it be necessary another lawsuit to have access to this public information?

Reps. Mario Diaz Balart and Corrine Brown filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Amendment 6.

The House has filed a Complaint in Intervention joining them and requesting that this amendment be declared UNCONSTITUTIONAL under the Elections Clause of the United States Constitution"

Amendments 5 & 6 were approved by an overwhelming 63% of Florida votes, and are now part of our Constitution, which legislators have pledged to support and defend.

Why is the legislature continuing to spend taxpayer dollars to oppose the will of the people? And how much are we spending on this?

We, the Public have a right to know, because we are paying for these attorneys' bill.

Further, we, the Public, are also asking this legislation to STOP this lawsuit.

TO SPEAKER CANNON:

WE REQUEST THAT YOU STOP WASTING OUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS IN UNNECESSARY LAWSUITS.

Let's get to work ON WHAT COUNTS!

Sen. Gaetz and Rep. Weatherford recently stated:

"The purpose of these PUBLIC hearings is to LISTEN to the constituents"

We'll listen to the public, the entire State has asked at these PUBLIC hearings to STOP THESE LAWSUITS. STOP CONTESTING WHAT WE VOTED FOR, And lets concentrate on what counts:

PLEASE, abide to our request:

1. ADOPT A WORKING TIMELINE: make October 3 the deadline of YOUR PROPOSED MAPS, this is 30 days after completion of these "public hearings";
2. COMMIT TO COMPLETE ALL COMMITTEE REVIEWS, allowing time for citizen review, by December 2011;
3. COMMIT TO A VOTE TO THE FINAL MAPS THE FIRST WEEK OF SESSION BY FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2012.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Submission from Michael W. Calsetta

FL State Redistricting Committee Hearings August 17, 2011

Miami/Dade College, Wolfson Campus

Statement by Michael W. Calsetta
P.O. Box 310434, Miami FL 33231

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

Representatives of special interest groups will come before you seeking to redraw legislative districts in such a way, as to favor "Multiculturalism." Some politically savvy citizens will be looking for ways around the Florida legislation, preventing "Gerrymandering" for political advantage, and still others will stress a NEED to separate themselves from the majority of their fellow citizens.

Our Founding Fathers carefully crafted a message to the world, when they created the United States. On our Great Seal is: *E Pluribus Unum* (translation from the Latin "Out of many, one.")

Those seeking to divide us into hyphenated- Americans, or "Party Before Principle" robots undermine our political system and make it all but impossible to obtain "Term Limits." Part of the reason we are such a financial mess is because politicians are more interested in re-election than the good of the nation. We must reform the system, if we are to obtain term limits.

I implore you to use REAL (not artificial) contiguous boundaries in redistricting. We must not permit Multiculturalism and/or Gerrymandering to continue to divide Florida, the way it is today.

A perfect example of a nightmare district is Congressional District 22. I know, because I worked there as "Another Democrat For Allen West," in 2010. (See Attachment).

"New redistricting standards in the Florida Constitution require the Legislature to draw lines based on factors unrelated to party and incumbency." These are noble thoughts and words to be put into action.

If you wish to see what is wrong with the current system, look to Congressional District 22.
If you truly wish to REFORM our political system look to congressional district 22, and finally,
If you wish to take corrective action, use the geographical growth rate, REAL contiguous boundaries and not divisive criteria that divide us, rather than unite us.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael W. Calsetta

Former President of the
Conservative Democratic Alliance

Submission from Terry Coble



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, INC.

August 17, 2011

Florida House of Representatives
Redistricting Committee
400 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Honorable Chair and Members of the Redistricting Committee:

My name is Terry Coble. I am the president of the LWV of Miami-Dade County, and a twenty-year resident of the city of Miami. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today.

This year's redistricting is an historic event because it is the first reapportionment to occur after the passage of Amendments 5 and 6, by which Florida voters enacted standards to guide the legislative redistricting process. These standards prohibit districts drawn to favor or disfavor incumbents or political parties or to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice.

While the League of Women Voters applauds efforts to seek the input of citizens, the present hearings are being held at the wrong time. They should be held **after** the legislature has drawn proposed maps so that the public can be heard on needed changes. The public has already spoken on redistricting by enacting Amendments 5 and 6 last November. It is now up to the legislature to assume its constitutional duty to begin applying these new standards **without delay**. Although Rep. Weatherford is on record as promising hearings after maps are drafted, there has been no commitment to hold these hearings throughout the state, as is the case for the hearings now being held.

The proposed timeline for legislative redistricting is also far too long. Maps should be approved by the legislature in early January 2012 so as to allow for mandatory reviews and probable legal challenges while also giving enough notice of legislative districts so that challengers can timely declare their candidacies. Otherwise, the process will favor incumbents in violation of the requirements of Amendments 5 and 6.

The League of Women Voters urges the legislature to adopt a timeline for redistricting that makes sense given existing candidate qualifying and primary dates and that includes hearings throughout the state **after** maps have been proposed. We hope that you will respond to this request in a manner appropriate to the seriousness of the issue. Again, thank you for the opportunity to present these remarks.

Respectfully,

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REDISTRICTING · 2012

ABOUT REDISTRICTING

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

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

REDISTRICTING LAW

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

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

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

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

THE NUMBERS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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



REDISTRICTING 2012

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

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

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

LEGAL REVIEWS

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

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

REDISTRICTING MILESTONES

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



SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

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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>.

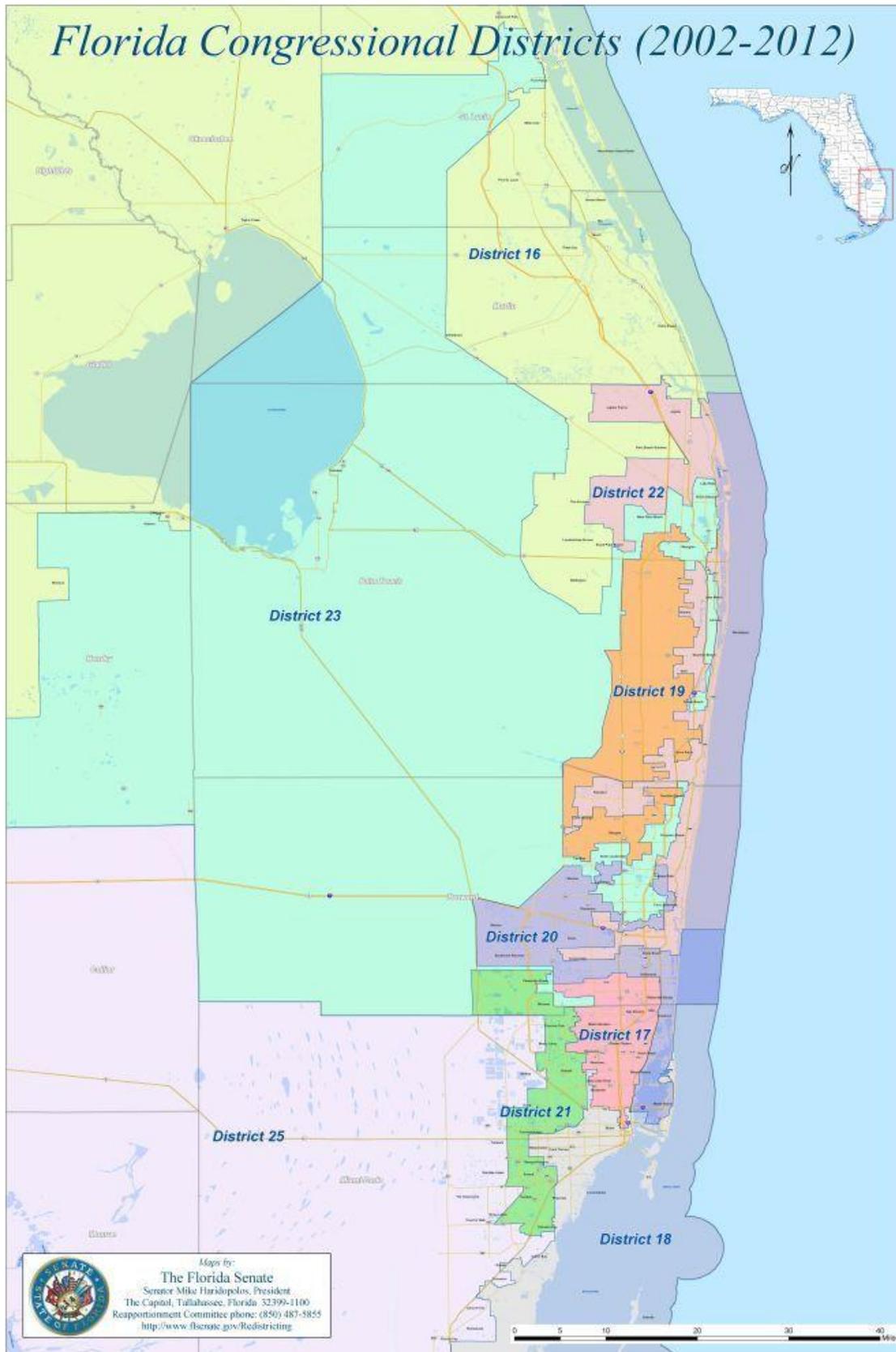
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection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

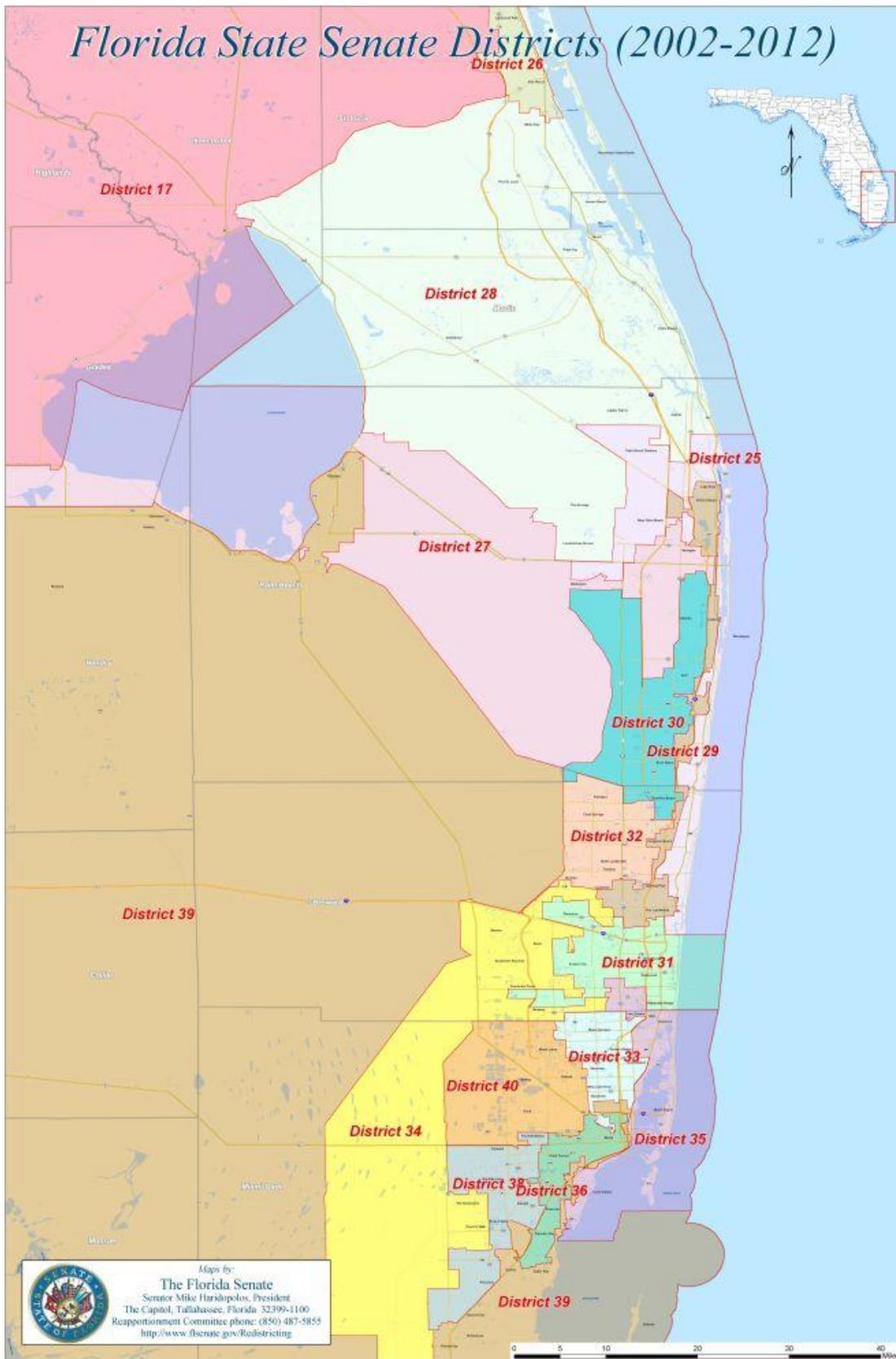
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see www.floridaredistricting.org. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose which better meets their needs.

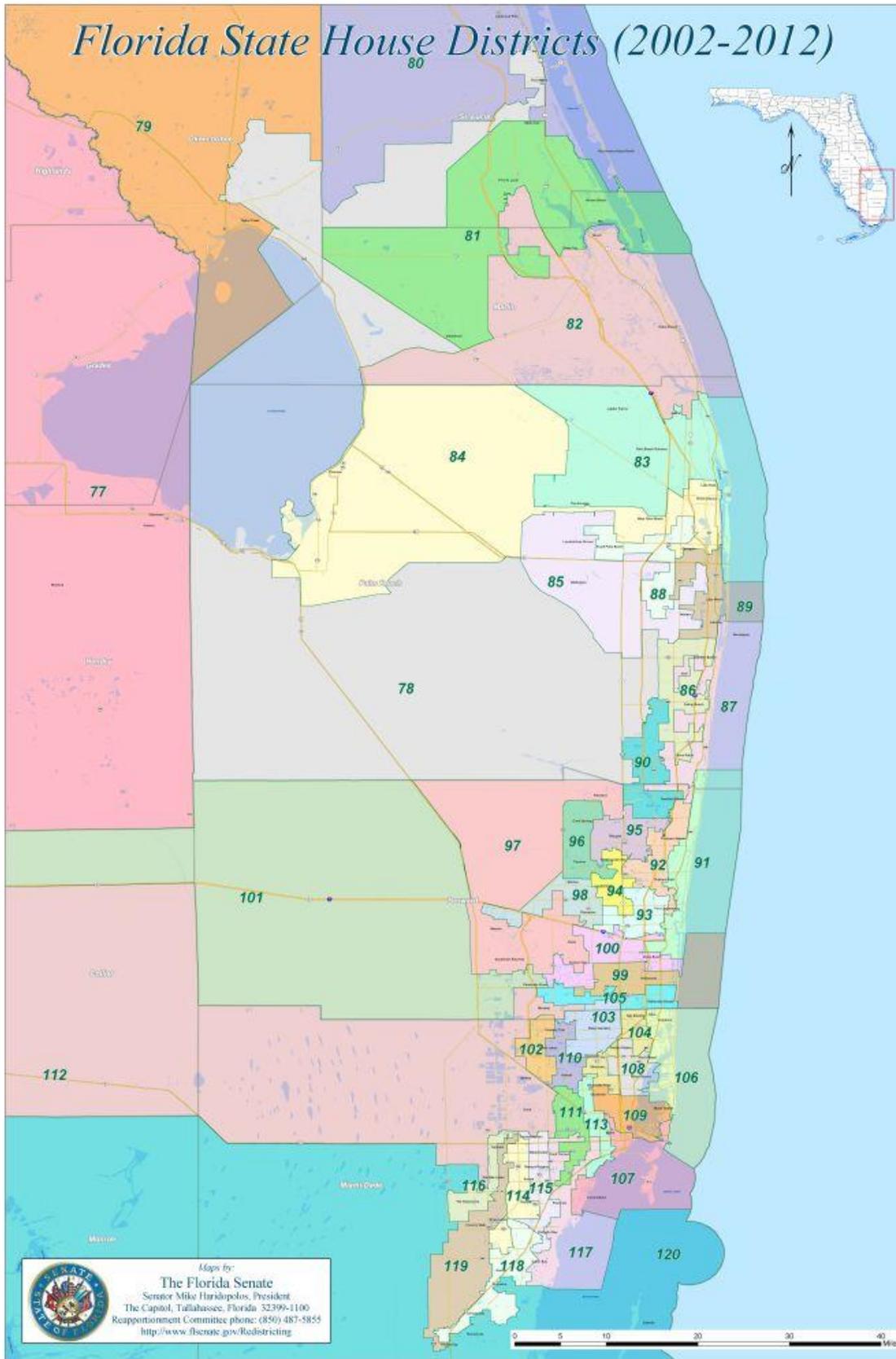
Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

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 Gwynnolen "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. Bow, 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%

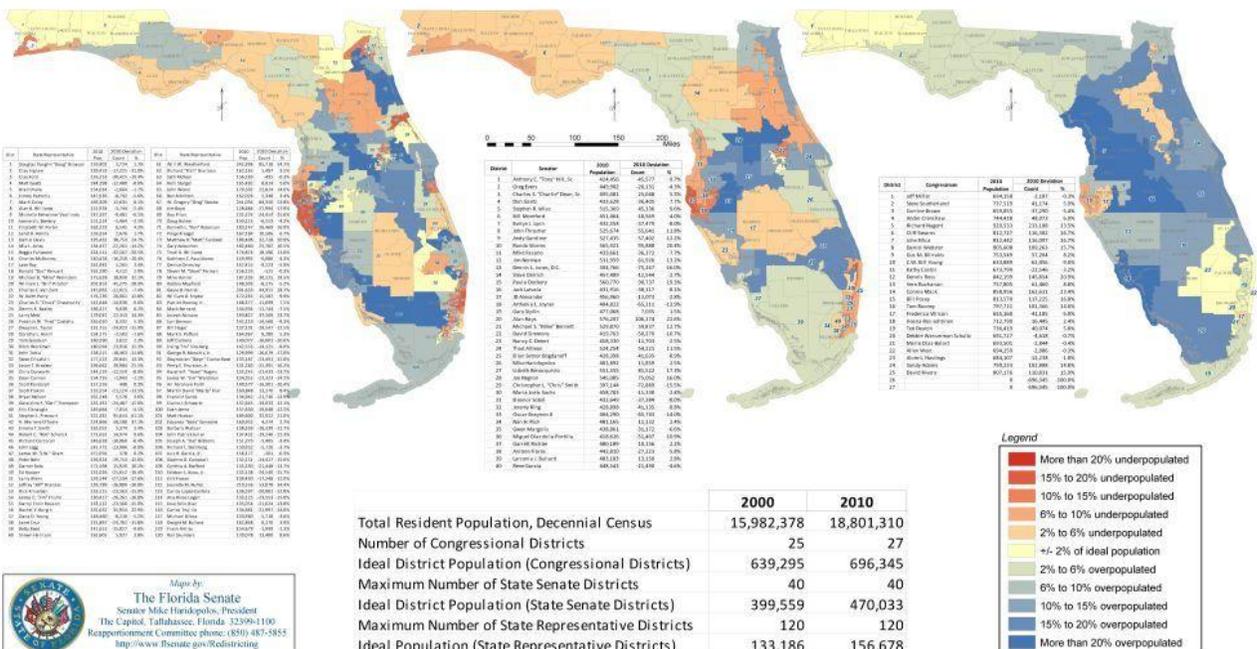
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<http://www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting>



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)



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