

# Public Hearing on Redistricting Largo (August 30, 2011)

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## Hearing Report

Date: August 30, 2011

City: Largo

Location: The EpiCenter at St. Petersburg College

Time: 8:00am-11:00am

Number of Speakers: 66 out of 81

Total Attendance: 161

The public hearing in Largo took place in the EpiCenter at St. Petersburg College (13805 58th St. N., Largo, FL 33760). 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 St. Petersburg Times, Tampa Tribune, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, and Bradenton Herald on Sunday, August 28. 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 45 school board officials, over 70 county commissioners, administrators, and personnel under local supervisors of elections. Over 270 city-level elected officials in Southwest Florida and more than 220 public interest group leaders received invitations encouraging leaders and the groups they represent to attend the hearing.

The hearing was streamed live on The Florida Channel's website, recorded, and subsequently re-aired. There were 8 senators and 25 representatives present at the hearing chaired by Representative Weatherford. Of the 161 people who filled out attendance cards 81 indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing. At the time of adjournment 15 speakers remained. Representative Weatherford invited those speakers to supplement the record with their written comments or to submit comments via email.

## Submission from Mike Anderson

**I am a retired Social Studies teacher. I thank you for permitting me to express my thoughts on redistricting today in this public form.**

**In Monday's St. Peterburg Times, Senator Gaetz is quoted as saying that there needs to be a rationale for why new districts are drawn. Today, I intend to give you my rationale for supporting one of the plans for redistricting. I hope my comments will be part of the road map; Senator Gaetz spoke of in the process of drawing new districts for this State. I applaud you for gathering the broadest range of opinion on this subject as you have visited numerous communities in Florida.**

**I am here to support the Congressional map submitted on 7/8/2011 by John Libby of Duval County. It is plan (HPUBC0003). I believe the plan faithfully follows the Fair Districts amendments to the State Constitution as well as the requirements of the Federal Voting Rights Act. In 2009, in a NC case, the US Supreme Court in Barlett v. Strickland interpreted the Voting Rights Act to only protect the voting power of minority groups when they constitute a majority of the electorate in a legislative district. In this NC case, their constitution required that legislative districts respect county boundaries similar to the passed Fair Districts amendments in Florida.**

**Mr. Libby provides District Summary Statistics to accompany his map. In four Congressional Districts, all from Southeast Florida, minority districts were proposed. In districts 23, 25, & 27, Hispanics constitute at least a majority of the voting age population. In district 26, African-Americans constitute a majority.**

**In two other Congressional Districts, one from Southeast Florida and the other from the Orlando area, the combined minority populations constitutes a majority of the population. Those are districts 24 and 12. These are minority access districts. In one other Southeast Florida district, the combined minority population is 48.9% of the population. That is district 22.**

**Florida's African-Americans and Hispanics represent 25.7% of the State's registered voters. Seven Congressional Districts as proposed by Mr. Libby would give a minority a competitive chance to win, which is 25.9% of the State's Congressional delegation.**

**In five other Congressional Districts, non-Hispanic Whites constitute 55.1%-59.8% of their districts. Those are districts 4, 9, 10, 13, and 19. Those districts include: Jacksonville, Tampa, East Hillsborough, West Orange, and North Palm Beach. A minority or a minority backed candidate would be competitive in those districts.**

**The Census found 42% of Florida's population is comprised of minorities. Under Mr. Libby's plan, 12 districts would be competitive to elect a minority or a minority backed candidate. That is 44.4% of the delegation.**

**I also like Mr. Libby's plan because it provides for five Congressional Districts along the Suncoast. Pasco and Hernando would have a Congressional District. So, too, Manatee and Sarasota would have a Congressional District. Pinellas and Hillsborough would be split into three different districts.**

**I like Mr. Libby's approach. He starts from Pinellas' northern line to go south. He carves out one Congressional District all within Pinellas with common interests. The extra population, 220,197 citizens are mainly from St. Pete. He puts them with citizens mainly from Tampa to create a Tampa Bay district that historically existed in the 1940s. The district would be urban and similar in interest. Some of Hillsborough's remaining population form a new district east of Tampa. This district would have common interests, too.**

**In conclusion, I believe Mr. Libby's map is in compliance with the State's Constitution and amendments while it is also meets the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and the Courts. I hope that you will use this map as a model in adopting the new Congressional lines for 2012. Thank you.**

**Mike Anderson**

## Submission from Dave Eggers

**From:** [Kelly, Alex](#)  
**To:** [Crofoot, Katie;](#)  
**cc:** [FERRIN.JAY;](#)  
**Subject:** Largo  
**Date:** Friday, September 02, 2011 4:23:43 PM

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[See below](#)

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**From:** Cpointe88@aol.com [mailto:Cpointe88@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2011 11:41 AM  
**To:** RedistrictFlorida; MyDistrictBuilder  
**Cc:** DEggers@DunedinFl.net  
**Subject:** August 30 Community Meeting

House Members and Senators,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion, but unfortunately I couldn't wait to be called as I had to leave at 10:00 am. I believe the many voices that did speak while I was there certainly touched on many valid concerns and were respectful in the process. The one comment that did stand out to me was the apparent "disconnect" between those who serve and the residents and frankly there seems to be at times a disconnect between local representatives and the state house and senate. Nonetheless I applaud the efforts and genuine good intentions that most of you have and thank you for the time you give the residents of Florida.

My City Commission asked me to pass along our unanimous support of allowing the City of Dunedin to fall within one district so that we as a community would have a united voice at the state house, state senate or congressional districts.

With that said several items spoken that morning ring loud and true to me and I wanted to voice my personal support for the concepts.

- 1) Despite the challenges of districting, I believe you should leave communities alone and combine them with neighbors and not have the irregularly shaped districts like District 45. "Community" needs to be central to any philosophical approach.
- 2) I am a Republican but these districts need to be done without consideration to party. Naive perhaps but the people of this country expect no less especially in today's world. An independent group mindful of certain precepts might be a good way to start fruitful discussion.
- 3) Regardless of whether you believe in amendment 5 and 6, the residents of Florida have spoken. No matter your rationale you need to stay away from spending tax dollars in lawsuits to stop the implementation of the amendments. Keep it simple

is the message spoken that day....don't over complicate.

4) Perception is reality and no matter how good your intentions are messages are being sent that can not be ignored. The process is not allowing realistic plans to be developed in a realistic time frame (Timeliness issues) for our residents and new candidates. Is this being done to reassure your own re-election? I don't believe that in every case but it does arouse many questions. In an era in which we need to regain the PUBLIC CONFIDENCE we all need to go overboard to ensure that not only we are doing things the right way but that we give that impression also!

5) There were a lot of really good comments made by well intentioned residents with deep emotional reactions to the jobs you are doing. ***Listen*** to all of the ideas and glean from them sustenance so that you can grow the respect back that each of you deserve.

I know your job is difficult with the 630,00/470,000 and 156,000 sized districts requirements but remember the process is as important as the outcome. Like it or not we do have a republic which means you all represent us, Republican and Democrat alike, and you need to take the lead on this redistricting. Because with the restrictions you have, there are only so many ways you can align the districts and be fair and preserve the communities that make up this great state and country. "United communities we stand and divided communities we disenfranchise" I am sure someone said that sometime along the way.

Again best wishes to all of you and do your jobs well. God Bless you individually, as a collective body of the people and your families.

With the utmost of respect,

Dave Eggers

Mayor  
City of Dunedin  
542 Main Street  
Dunedin, FL 34698

727-298-3001  
DEggers@DunedinFL.net  
www.DunedinGov.com

## Submission from Peggy Goodale

REDISTRICTING/FAIR DISTRICTS

8-30-2011

I think these hearings are distracting us from what we as citizens need to be concentrating on, electing officials who support policies that encourage a healthy community and country. There is a primary election in St Petersburg today that many of us could be involved in working the polls and making those last minute phone calls if we weren't here at this hearing with NO MAPS to review. You have the data to draw the new districts and the voters made it clear in 2010 that we want these districts to be Contiguous and Compact and as Equal in Population as possible. And where feasible, you need to make use of Existing City, County and Geographical boundaries. And they may Not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party.

Keeping the REDISTRICTING issue in the news is going to FAVOR the INCUMBENT. Candidates and supporters need to know where the districts are NOW in order to get their petitions signed and finances in order and this slow process is not going to give them enough time. The incumbent can just sit back and enjoy the Florida weather while his/her challenger is frantically gathering their resources.

The process of creating FAIR DISTRICTS that the majority of citizens voted for is taking TOO LONG and is costing us TOO MUCH MONEY. Not only does this event cost time and money but it appears that the Florida legislature is spending millions of taxpayer dollars to fight the will of the people to have FAIR DISTRICTS by filing lawsuits against the amendments.

Why are they spending all this money during this time that people are suffering financially, when our schools are insufficiently funded and social services are being cut and when we really need to be concentrating on a jobs program? Why? It appears that incumbents do not want to lose their seats and their supporters will stop at nothing to help them stay at the expense of our Florida citizens.

I say stop this cruel nonsense and draw the maps and go through the process in a fair and economical manner and HONOR the WILL of the PEOPLE of FLORIDA.

  
Peggy Goodale  
7232 118<sup>th</sup> Circle North  
Largo, FL 33773

## Submission from Clive Kofi Hunt

Clive Kofi Hunt (727) 643-5435  
9100 MLK St N  
clivehunt@yahoo.com

To lead is to serve, We the People do not have adequate resources or knowledge to effectively draw legal and relative maps. Even if we were part of some organization that could take the time and had the resources to collect sufficient knowledge to draw competent maps, legally only the legislature can draw maps, so our maps would be invalid. This entire process has shown us that asking us to contribute in the political process for a point of ignorance is flawed. You who are given adequate resources by our tax dollars should present flexible maps to us and allow us to disagree or agree with you in reasonable democratic discussion and debate. Once maps are produced and challenged I want you to engage in that reasonable discussion and debate with those persons or individuals of that state of Florida who have logical arguments. I also would like all of the information regarding the legal challenges to Amendment 6 to be provided to the broader public through any means necessary for voter scrutiny of your desire to bring litigation against one of the fair districts amendments.

Dr. Jim Jackson  
251 23rd Ave South  
Saint Petersburg Fl 33705

Good morning;

Whenever I buy a house in a new community I do due diligence on the house: make sure I do all of the inspections, check out the neighborhood, the comps, the history and the walkability of the neighborhood as it is always buyer beware.

What I didn't think about it is also voter beware. Because there was a rumor you had no maps yet I thought I would bring a visual made on a shoestring budget, literally, shoestrings since I am an educator in the county to show you how the districts I currently live in make no sense.

The red push pin is me. I live in South St Pete, house district 55, state senate district 18 and congressional district 11. Those districts cover parts of 3 and 4 counties and divided by this big body of water Tampa Bay. It makes it

Tuesday, August 30, 2011 AOL: Jjacksol

very hard for me when I want a face to face meeting with two of my representatives who live in Tampa.

I want districts to be contiguous, compact and not to have geographical barriers

Furthermore 3 years ago I decided to run for election to be a delegate to a presidential convention for the first time in my life. Even though I live in South Pinellas surrounded by people I know I had to get my supporters to make the trip on a march sat morning in 2008 to tampa since that was where house district 11 elections were taking place.. I perservered and won.

Last year I ran for public office so I know you folks have tough skins. I may run again next year but I don't know where my district will be. Please make the maps. Make them compact. Keep them within geographical boundaries for the best representation.

Tuesday, August 30, 2011 AOL: Jjacks01

# Submission from Jocelyn Lawrence



## Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: [mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov)  
and [redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov](mailto: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.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org) and [www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting) or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.*

\*Field is required.

Prefix Ms \*First Name Jocelyn \*Last Name Lawrence Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Address 1750 Lakewood Dr. S City St. Pete \*State FL \*Zip 33712

Your County Pinellas Your Email jlawrence19@yanoo.com

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

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

**Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.**

My name is Jocelyn Lawrence. I have been a resident of Pinellas County/St. Petersburg area for over 25 years. The black community of St. Petersburg request that you maintain the current legislative and congressional districts that give our community the ability to elect the representatives of our choice. These districts and our representatives give us a voice, without a voice we cant be heard.

(Over)

[www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org)

[www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting)

# Submission from Karen Lawrence



## Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: [mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov)  
and [redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov](mailto:redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov),

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



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\*Field is required.

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ \*First Name KAREN \*Last Name LAWRENCE Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Address 1730 LAKEWOOD DR S \*City ST. PETERSBURG State FL \*Zip 33712

Your County PIKE Your Email KarenFL54@MAC.COM

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

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

**Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.**

My name is Karen Lawrence. I am a 20  
plus year resident of Lakewood Estates  
in South St Petersburg, FL.

I am requesting that the State House,  
State Senate and Congressional Districts  
be maintained as closely as possible  
because they work for us. Currently we  
have the opportunity to elect representatives  
of our choice. If you change the districts  
you will not be following the constitution  
which protects minority voting rights.

Do the right thing and follow the constitution  
please don't take my community's voice  
away.

(Over)

[www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org)

[www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting)

# Submission from Vince Lawrence



## Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: [mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov)  
and [redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov](mailto:redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov),

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



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\*Field is required.

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ \*First Name VINCE \*Last Name LAWRENCE Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Address 1730 LAKE WOOD DR S \*City ST PETERSBURG \*State FL \*Zip 33712

Your County PINELLAS 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.**

I AM A RESIDENT OF LAKE WOOD ESTATES

IN ST. PETERSBURG FL SINCE 1983.

I AM REQUESTING THAT THE DISTRICTS REMAIN  
AS THEY ARE FOR THE MINORITY COMMUNITY  
OF SOUTH ST. PETERSBURG, FL

(Over)

[www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org)

[www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting)

# Submission from John Richard Piper

Statement on Redistricting Presented to the Florida Legislature's Town Meeting on the Topic

by John Richard Piper

Professor Emeritus of Government, The University of Tampa

August 30, 2011

Largo, Florida

The voters of Florida have spoken clearly. They overwhelmingly passed the two Fair Districts amendments (5 and 6) in the 2010 elections, laying down rules to govern the redrawing of our district lines in accordance with the 2010 census figures for both the Florida Legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives in Florida.

Unfortunately, since then, the Republicans who control the Legislature have flouted the will of the people and continue to do so. They have engaged in legal challenges to the amendments, refused to reveal their own redistricting plans (despite the fact that virtually every other state has done so and that drawing up of such plans is easily accomplished utilizing their own sophisticated software) and continue to waste taxpayers' money on a phony "listening tour." I believe that this hearing and others like it across our state are primarily aimed at delaying the redistricting process and making it very difficult – almost impossible – for candidates who want to challenge incumbents in the 2012 elections. This is worse than wasteful game-playing. It threatens to destroy the democratic process in Florida.

I call upon the Florida Legislature to:

- 1) comply with Amendments 5 and 6,
- 2) present us promptly with redistricting plans that meet the legal criteria of these and other laws governing the process,
- 3) seek genuine feedback on their proposals (providing clear maps to which people can react),
- 4) enact appropriate redistricting in time for candidates to prepare their campaigns effectively for the 2012 elections.

Time is running short to get the redistricting process on track for 2012. I sincerely hope that the Legislature will act expeditiously and fairly to do so. The future of representative government in Florida is at stake.

Map interface showing district boundaries and a data table below.

Census Only	District ID	Pop Dev	TPC910	%AllHisPop10	%AllHisPop19	%AllHisPop16	%AllHisPop13	%HisPop10	%HisPop19	%HisPop16	%HisPop13	%HisPop10	%HisPop19	%HisPop13
Save Data Grid	1	1126	157803	37	38	8	7	50	57	37	32	0	0	
District	2	886	157533	4	3	5	4	87	86	4	3	0	0	
Changed	3	1184	157861	8	6	8	7	77	80	7	6	0	0	
Working	4	1300	157977	6	4	9	7	78	81	5	4	0	0	

<http://floridaredistricting.cloudapp.net/MyDistrictBuilder.aspx>

8/28/2011

(House)  
 (Piper Pinellas House)  
 27.809756 / -82.784689  
 District: xxx

Click Lat/Long  
 Zoom: 9  
 District: xxx

File Build View Preferences Help Contact Us Reports

New Save Open Open Current Districts How to Submit a Plan Print

Unassigned
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**Select Geography to Display**

Show Districts

Show/Zoom Range/Layer Name

7 20 House2002

7 20 Senate2002

7 20 Congress2002

GeoID10

Name

Pop10

White10

Black10

Census Only	District ID	Pop Dev	TPOP10	%AllBlkPop10	%AllBlkVAP10	%AllHispPop10	%AllHispVAP10	%SRWPop10	%SRWVAP10	%NHBPpop10	%NHBVAP10	%HBPpop10	%HBVAP10	%HBP
Save Data Grid	5	69	156746	8	6	11	9	76	80	8	6	0	0	
District	6	1114	157791	3	3	6	5	85	88	3	2	0	0	
Changed	7	-156677	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Working	8	-156677	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pop Dev	5609													

<http://floridaredistricting.cloudapp.net/MyDistrictBuilder.aspx>

8/28/2011

(Senate)

Click Lat/Long

This site is in development, but the site is functional. Data is from the 2010 Census. To submit a plan click on the 'File' tab and then the submit button. For more info contact mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov

Pinellas Senate District

27.288480 / -82.778734

Zoom: 10

File Build View Preferences Help Contact Us Reports

Unassigned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Show District  
 Show/Hide/Zoom Range / Layer Name

Road Aerial Labels

Show Labels  
 Dataset: System-Beginner  
 Choose Display and Format

7	20	House2002
7	20	Senate2002
7	20	Congress2002

GeoID10
Name
Pop10
White10
Black10

System-Beginner	District ID	Pop Dev	TPOP10	%BlackPOP10	%HispanicPOP10	%BlackVAP10	%HispanicVAP10	%AsianPOP10	%WIndiesPOPACS	%HaitianPOPACS	BlackDW10	BlackVAP10	DifBOMV-BVAP	H
Save	1	-490	469542	14	6	12	5	3	0	0	49284	46844	2440	
District	2	-28082	447000	6	9	5	7	2	0	0	20426	20136	260	
Changed	3	-470032	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Working	4	-470032	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pop Dev	-	-28082	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

<http://floridaredistricting.cloudapp.net/MyDistrictBuilder.aspx>

6/21/2011

(Congress) Click/Lat/Long Zoom: 9 28.047883 / -82.637698

(Tampa Bay Cong. Districts)

The state is in redistricting jurisdiction. Data is from the 2000 Census.  
 To address the jurisdiction, File and edit the administration.  
 For more information, visit the website: florida.house.gov

File Build View Preferences Help Contact Us Reports

New Save Open Open System Plan Submit Print

Unassigned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Show:  District  District  District  District

Show Fill / Zoom Range / Layer Name

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 7 20 Senate2002  
 7 20 Congress2002  
 7 10 County

GeoID  
 Name  
 TopPopID  
 WhiteID  
 BlackID  
 HispanicID

System-Engineer

DistrictID	PopDev	TPOP10	%BlackPOP10	%HispPOP10	%Black49P10	%Hisp49P10	%AsianPOP10	%WhitePOP10	%WhitePOPACS	%HispanicPOPACS	BlackMV10	BlackVP10	DIRDMV-2010	H
Save	1	850	667155	9	15	8	18	3	1	0	45282	45386	-54	
District	2	147	666451	18	28	17	26	3	2	0	56150	56213	2657	
Changed	3	618	666652	12	8	10	7	3	0	0	64480	62053	2457	
Working	4	-666626	40718	8	30	7	24	1	0	0	2058	2205	-146	
PopDev	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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<http://floridaredistricting.cloudapp.net/MyDistrictBuilder.aspx>

6/22/2011

## Submission from Laurie Sullivan

### FERRIN.JAY

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**From:** Laurie Sullivan [lauriesul@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2011 12:22 AM  
**To:** FERRIN.JAY  
**Subject:** Re: Redistricting Hearing in Largo

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

My thoughts about redistricting: We need fair districts, not districts that favor the Republicans. It seems to me that Republicans are doing everything they can think of to fix it so they can win the next election. It is so obvious, it is not even funny. I think that you need to remove the word fair, as there is nothing fair about it. In this time of budget crunching I view this as a colossal waste of money. It appears that the majority of the people in charge of this are republican and they want to arrange things so they will be assured of a win. It seems to me that they are saying this is going to make everything fairer and easier for all of us. When in fact they are making things easier for the Republicans to win, and harder for the Democrats by generating confusion and frustration, so that those who want to vote will give up, as many financially challenged individuals are Democrats. On election day they will be running all around looking for their voting district. How could you say that is fair? How could you say that is easier? Laurie Sullivan

**From:** FERRIN.JAY <[FERRIN.JAY@flsenate.gov](mailto:FERRIN.JAY@flsenate.gov)>  
**To:** 'Laurie Sullivan' <[lauriesul@yahoo.com](mailto:lauriesul@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 8:00 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Redistricting Hearing in Largo

Ms. Sullivan,

I am sorry to hear you will not be able to attend the hearing. If you would still like to provide input about the redistricting process please submit your comments via email. Your thoughts will be included in the record as if they were shared with us at the hearing. Thanks for your interest in the process, and please let me know if you have any further questions.

Jay D. Ferrin  
Senate Committee on Reapportionment  
103 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
(850) 487-5205

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

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**From:** Laurie Sullivan [<mailto:lauriesul@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2011 3:06 PM  
**To:** FERRIN.JAY  
**Subject:** Re: Redistricting Hearing in Largo

I believe i will have to withdraw my name, LAURIE sullivan

**From:** FERRIN.JAY <[FERRIN.JAY@flsenate.gov](mailto:FERRIN.JAY@flsenate.gov)>  
**To:** "lauriesul@yahoo.com" <[lauriesul@yahoo.com](mailto:lauriesul@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2011 4:19 PM  
**Subject:** Redistricting Hearing in Largo

Dear Laurie Sullivan:

Thank you for registering to attend the public hearing in Largo on Tuesday, August 30th, starting at 8:00am at the St. Petersburg College EpiCenter. We look forward to hearing from you about new congressional, state senate, and state house maps that will work for your community and meet requirements of federal and state law.

**When you arrive at the hearing location, please go first to the registration table. Legislative staff will have your attendance card pre-printed with the information you provided online, but they need to confirm your attendance.**

If you need directions or parking information, please visit our [Public Hearings](#) 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 [www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting) and [www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org) 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

# Submission from Pauline Thornhill



## Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: [mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov)  
and [redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov](mailto: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.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org) and [www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting) or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.*

\*Field is required.

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ \*First Name Pauline \*Last Name Thornhill Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Address 5340 Carolina Way SW \*City St. Petersburg, \*State FL \*Zip 33712

Your County Pinellas Your Email N/A

\*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.**

My name is Pauline (Cutliff) Thornhill. I have lived in  
St. Petersburg for past "70" yrs. I have lived to see many  
changes occur. As an American black female  
would like to express my opinion. Please, leave the  
districts or keep them as they are  
Let us come an reason together or with one another. Gospel.  
Thank you!

(Over)

[www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org)

[www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting)

# Submission from Veronique Thornhill



## Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: [mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov)  
and [redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov](mailto:redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov).

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



## Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

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\*Field is required.

Prefix Ms. \*First Name VERONIQUE \*Last Name THORNHILL Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Address 5340 Carolan Way \*City St. Petersburg \*State FL \*Zip 33710

Your County PINELAS Your Email nikkit\_7904@yahoo.com

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

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

**Please provide detailed comments regarding your redistricting suggestion or request.**

If redistricting occurs or is drawn according to FL legislature is suggesting, then the minority community will suffer votes. The minority communities should not be disestablished in such a manner that it would make it impossible to vote in other districts. The St. Petersburg black community are strongly united and change to "compact" districts will disrupt this unity and cause a negative impact to our community.

(Over)

[www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org)

[www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting)

# Submission from Essence Watson



## Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: [mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov)  
and [redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov](mailto:redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov).

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



## Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

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\*Field is required.

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ \*First Name Essence \*Last Name Watson Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Address 1709 5th Terrace \*City Largo \*State FL \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your County Largo FL 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.**

my name is essence Watson and I want to thank you for coming to Pinellas County to listen to us. The black community of St. Petersburg also that you keep our community empowered by continuing to unite us with other similar communities. It gives us the opportunity to elect the representative of our choice in the state house, state senate and congress. Without this opportunity, not only would our ~~representative~~ position as minority voters ~~be~~ but you will be in direct violation of state and federal law.

Thank You

(Over)

[www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org)

[www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting)

# Submission from Javonte Wright



## Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: [mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov)  
and [redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov](mailto: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.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org) and [www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting) or other public websites maintained by the Florida Legislature. Note: the entirety of this form is public record.

\*Field is required.

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ \*First Name JAVONTAE \*Last Name WRIGHT Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Address 514 KINGSTON ST \*City ST PETERSBURG \*State FL \*Zip 33711

Your County PINELLAS 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.**

I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU KEEP THE WAY THAT THE DISTRICTS ARE CURRENTLY DRAWN. AS A MEMBER OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY HERE IN ST. PETERSBURG AND I HAVE HAD THIS DISCUSSION WITH MANY FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ALSO RESIDE IN SOUTH ST. PETERSBURG. WE ARE HAPPY WITH THE WAY THE DISTRICTS ARE CURRENTLY DRAWN. IN THE STATE HOUSE, STATE SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS WE ARE ABLE TO JOIN WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE TAMPA BAY AREA TO ELECT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR CHOICE. ALL WE ARE ASKING IS THAT YOU BE CONSIDERATE OF OUR LEGAL RIGHTS. IF THE DISTRICTS DO NOT REMAIN AS THEY ARE THE MINORITY COMMUNITY IS MOST CERTAINLY PLACED AT A DISADVANTAGE.

(Over)

[www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org)

[www.flsenate.gov/redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/redistricting)

## REDISTRICTING · 2012

### ABOUT REDISTRICTING

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

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

### REDISTRICTING LAW

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

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

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

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

### THE NUMBERS

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

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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



## REDISTRICTING 2012

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

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

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

### LEGAL REVIEWS

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

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

### REDISTRICTING MILESTONES

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



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT**

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



**HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

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

*Visit*

[www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org) and  
[www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting](http://www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting)  
 to learn more about creating and  
 submitting your own house, senate,  
 and congressional maps.

## Draw and Submit Your Own Districts

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**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](http://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>.

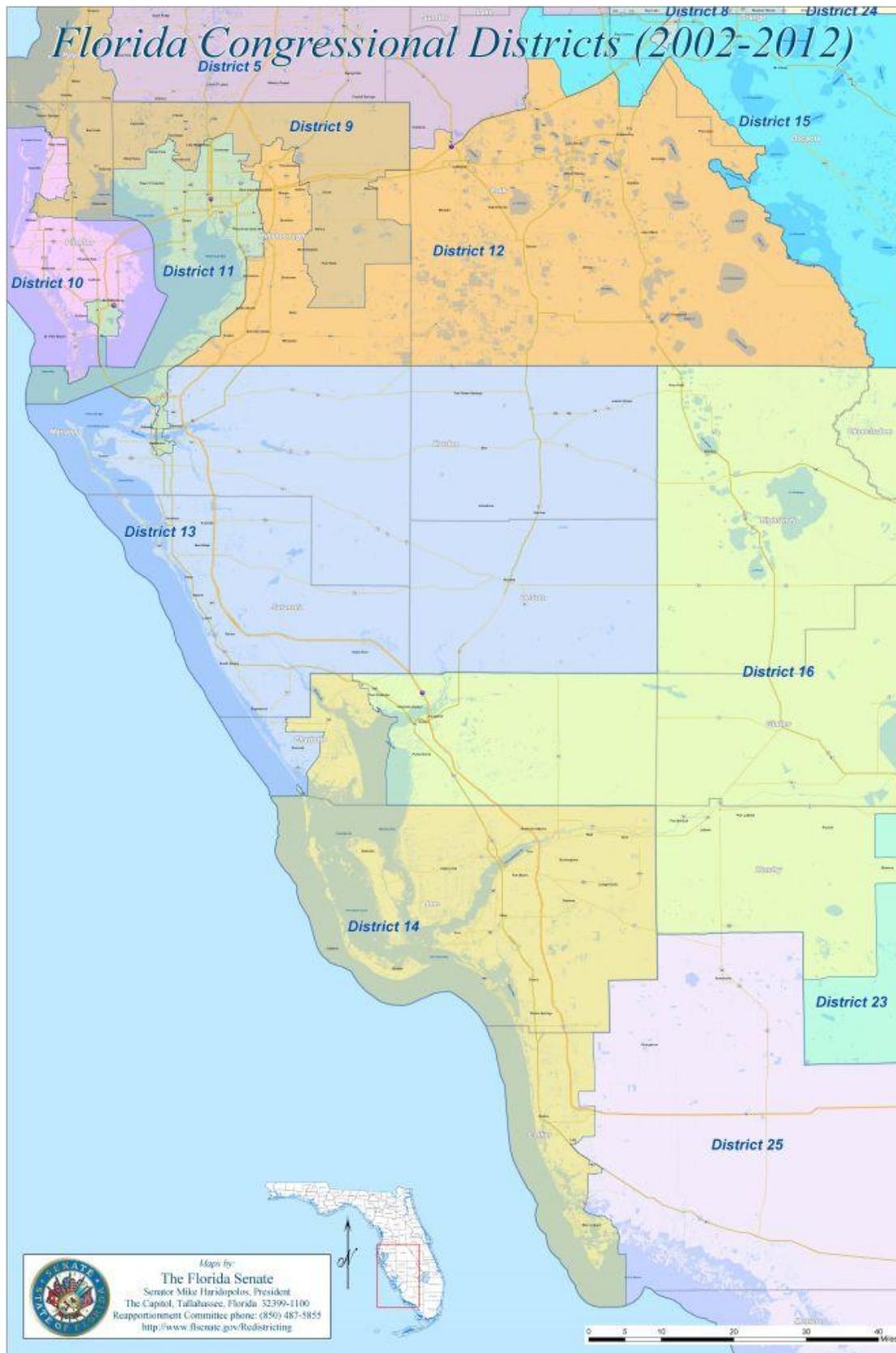
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection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

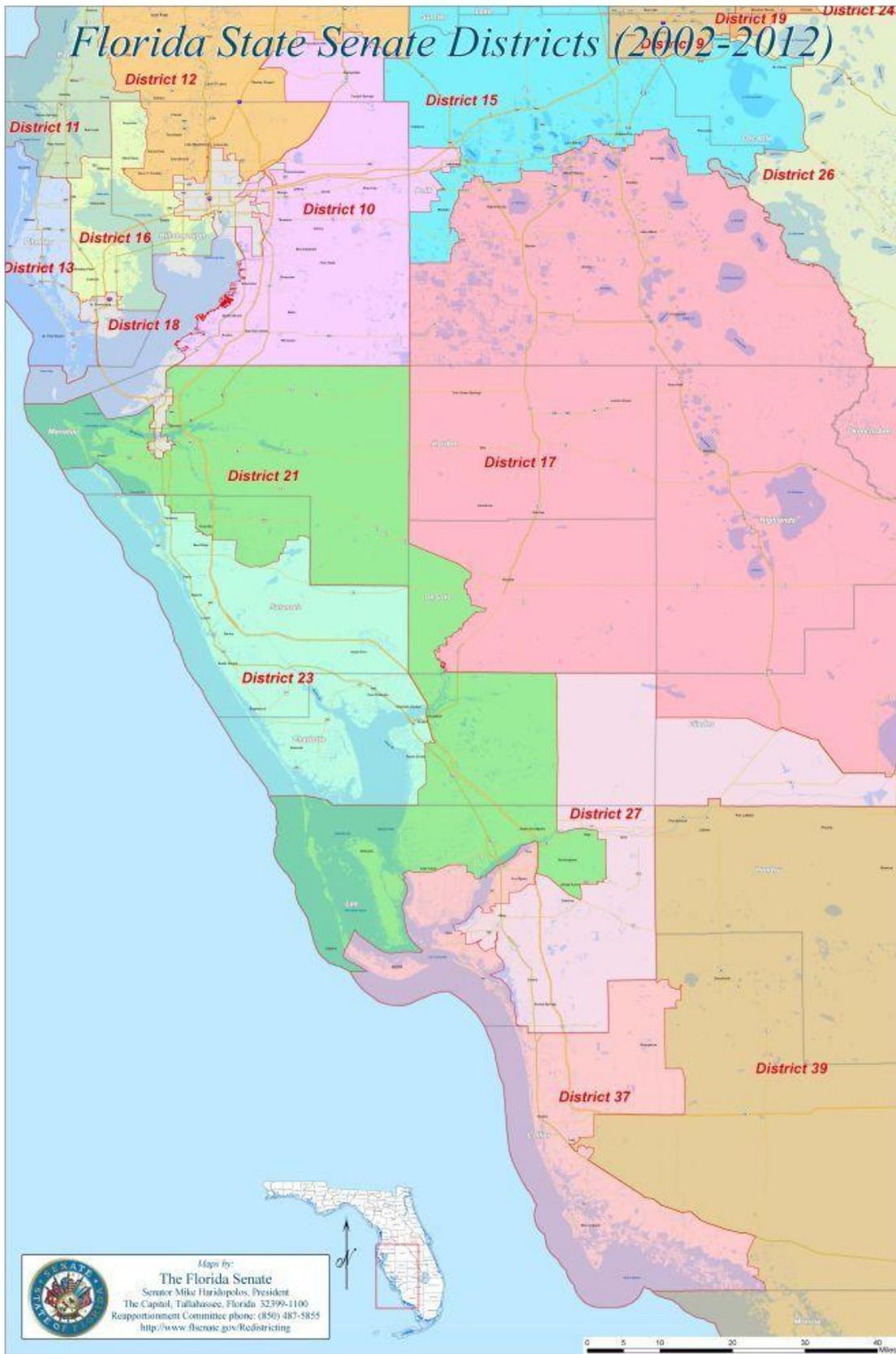
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see [www.floridaredistricting.org](http://www.floridaredistricting.org). The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose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

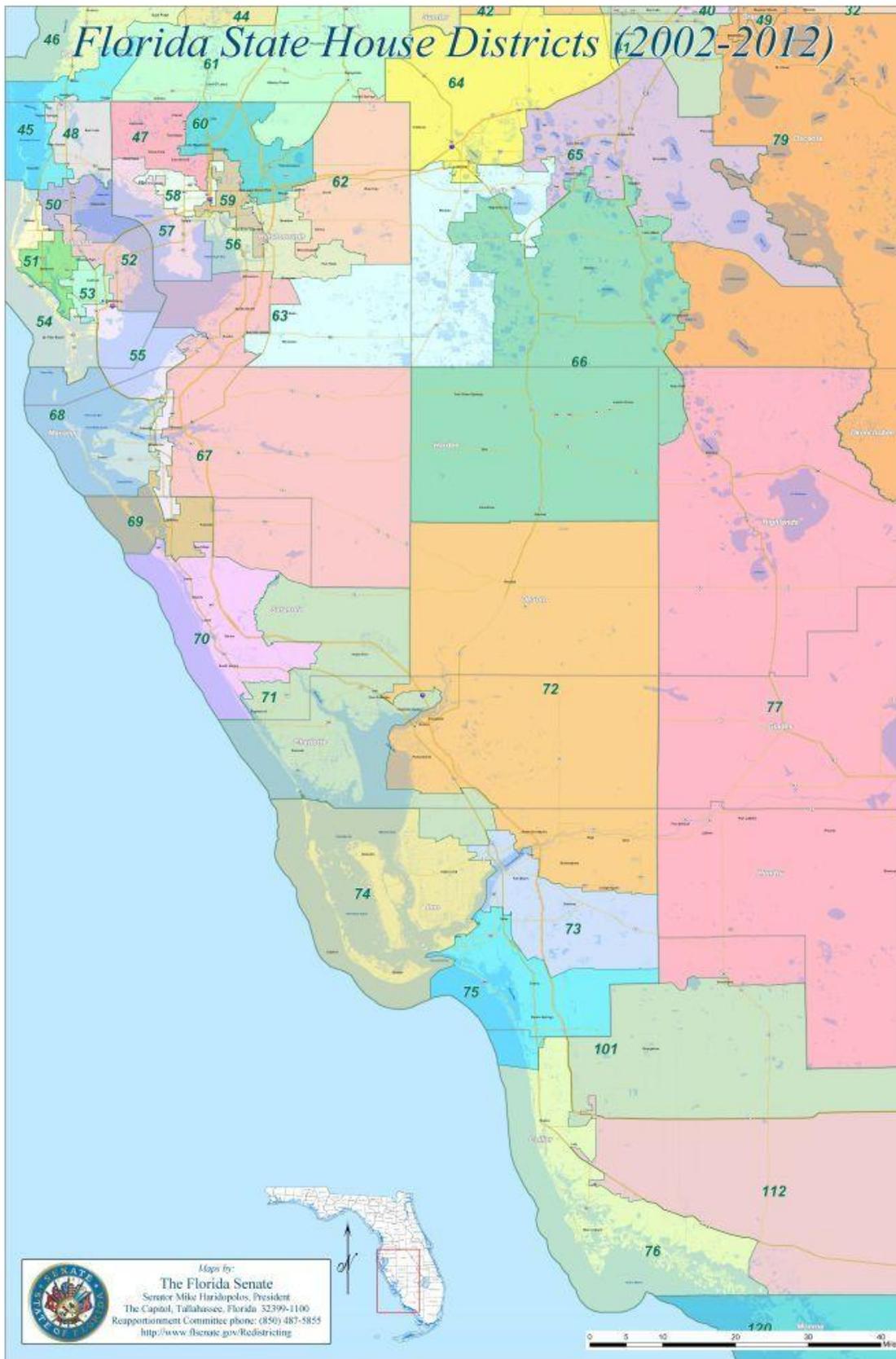
Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

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)—Southwest Florida

Congressional District	2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
			Count	%
9 Gus M. Bilirakis	753,549	696,345	57,204	8.2%
10 C.W. Bill Young	633,889	696,345	-62,456	-9.0%
11 Kathy Castor	673,799	696,345	-22,546	-3.2%
12 Dennis Ross	842,199	696,345	145,854	20.9%
13 Vern Buchanan	757,805	696,345	61,460	8.8%
14 Connie Mack	858,956	696,345	162,611	23.4%
16 Tom Rooney	797,711	696,345	101,366	14.6%
23 Alcee L. Hastings	684,107	696,345	-12,238	-1.8%
25 David Rivera	807,176	696,345	110,831	15.9%

State House District	2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
			Count	%
45 Richard Corcoran	146,618	156,678	-10,060	-6.4%
47 James W. "J.W." Grant	157,056	156,678	378	0.2%
48 Peter Nehr	136,924	156,678	-19,754	-12.6%
50 Ed Hooper	131,026	156,678	-25,652	-16.4%
51 Larry Ahern	129,144	156,678	-27,534	-17.6%
52 Jeffrey "Jeff" Brandes	139,789	156,678	-16,889	-10.8%
53 Rick Kriseaman	133,115	156,678	-23,563	-15.0%
54 James C. "Jim" Frishe	130,417	156,678	-26,261	-16.8%
55 Darryl Ervin Rouson	133,112	156,678	-23,566	-15.0%
56 Rachel V. Burgin	192,632	156,678	35,954	22.9%
57 Dana D. Young	148,460	156,678	-8,218	-5.2%
58 Janet Cruz	131,897	156,678	-24,781	-15.8%
59 Betty Reed	141,651	156,678	-15,027	-9.6%
60 Shawn Harrison	162,605	156,678	5,927	3.8%
61 Will W. Weatherford	242,396	156,678	85,718	54.7%
62 Richard "Rich" Glorioso	162,165	156,678	5,487	3.5%
63 Seth McKeel	156,183	156,678	-495	-0.3%
67 W. Gregory "Greg" Steube	241,034	156,678	84,356	53.8%
68 Jim Boyd	128,684	156,678	-27,994	-17.9%
69 Ray Pilon	132,224	156,678	-24,454	-15.6%
70 Doug Holder	150,125	156,678	-6,553	-4.2%
71 Kenneth L. "Ken" Roberson	183,147	156,678	26,469	16.9%
72 Paige Kreegel	167,184	156,678	10,506	6.7%
73 Matthew H. "Matt" Caldwell	189,406	156,678	32,728	20.9%
74 Gary Aubuchon	182,460	156,678	25,782	16.5%
75 Trudi K. Williams	174,874	156,678	18,196	11.6%
76 Kathleen C. Passidomo	149,992	156,678	-6,686	-4.3%
77 Denise Grimsley	147,455	156,678	-9,223	-5.9%
101 Matt Hudson	189,600	156,678	32,922	21.0%
112 Jeanette M. Nuñez	210,556	156,678	53,878	34.4%

State Senate District	2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
			Count	%
10 Ronda Storms	565,921	470,033	95,888	20.4%
11 Mike Fasano	433,661	470,033	-36,372	-7.7%
12 Jim Norman	531,959	470,033	61,926	13.2%
13 Dennis L. Jones, D.C.	394,766	470,033	-75,267	-16.0%
16 Jack Latvala	431,916	470,033	-38,117	-8.1%
17 JD Alexander	456,960	470,033	-13,073	-2.8%
18 Arthenia L. Joyner	404,822	470,033	-65,211	-13.9%
21 Michael S. "Mike" Bennett	529,870	470,033	59,837	12.7%
23 Nancy C. Detert	458,330	470,033	-11,703	-2.5%
27 Lizbeth Benacquisto	551,555	470,033	81,522	17.3%
37 Garrett Richter	480,189	470,033	10,156	2.2%
39 Larcenia J. Bullard	483,183	470,033	13,150	2.8%

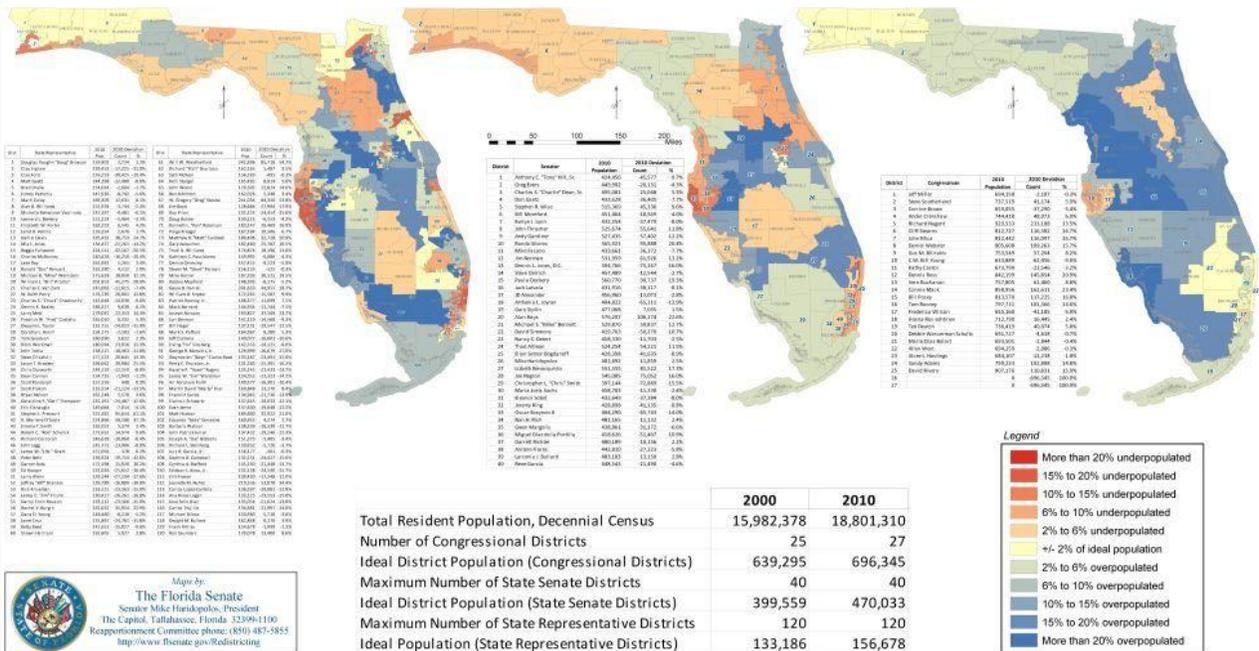
Prepared by:  
The Florida Senate  
Senator Mike Hankspoker, President  
The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100  
Reapportionment Committee phone: (850) 487-5855  
http://www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting



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

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

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



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