

Public Hearing on Redistricting St. Augustine (July 12, 2011)

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Hearing Report

Date: July 12, 2011

City: St. Augustine

Location: Flagler College Auditorium

Time: 8:00am-11:00am

Number of Speakers: 35

Total Attendance: 98

The public hearing in St. Augustine took place at Flagler College (14 Granada St. St. Augustine, FL 32084). 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. Augustine Record-Union July 9-12, and an op-ed jointly authored by the Chairman Gaetz and Chairman Weatherford was published in the St. Augustine Record on July 6. 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 90 school board officials, over 180 county commissioners and administrators, more than 60 personnel under local supervisors of elections, and over 490 city elected officials in Northeast Florida. More than 230 public interest group leaders received invitations as well, encouraging the 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 7 senators and 26 representatives present at the hearing chaired by Senator Gaetz. Attendance cards were filled out by 53 people. Another 35 indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing, bringing the total recorded attendance to 98.

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



Please Provide Completed Form To:

Legislative Staff at the Meeting.

or

Email to: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov

and redistrictflorida@flsenate.gov.

or

Fax to (850) 487-6413



Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

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

*Field is required.

Prefix _____ *First Name John *Last Name Webber Suffix _____
Organization Name (If applicable) St. Johns Des but not representing
*Your Address P.O. Box 5263 *City St. Aug *State FL *Zip 32085
Your County St. Johns 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.

The FL State Senate in this area
3 seats should come out of Nassau, Duval
clay & St Johns counties. Part or all
of Baker & Putnam could be considered
2 congressional districts this area.
Minority responsive should be adequate
one state house representative
should have nothing but St. Johns
county. St. Johns county is
bigger than what is required
for a state house seat.

(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from Gina Burrell

Gina Burrell, 27 Seminole Dr, St. Aug 32084

When a group of us were asking St. Johns voters to sign our petitions in support of Amendments 5 & 6 (Redistricting), we had Republicans and Democrats do so. We got a few hundred petitions signed. They considered it a fairness issue. Neither political party should be in complete control. In Nov. 2010 Amendments 5 & 6 passed overwhelmingly with 63% of the vote statewide. Now in the Florida Constitution, these amendments prohibit political favoritism, requires that districts be compact, contiguous, and follow city or county lines where feasible.

Amendments 5 & 6 will stop the gerrymandering and splitting up a city. For example, ^(Have samples) in St. Augustine, Florida Senate District 8, Precinct 505 which has many black voters is removed from District 8. Florida House District 18 comes into St. Augustine to May Street Florida House District 20 continues from May Street South to the rest of St. Augustine. This breaks up Precinct 503 and is confusing for voters.

On May 31, 2011 U.S. Justice Dept, Civil Rights Section, Voting Rights approved these two amendments for pre-clearance stating they don't discriminate against minorities.

Why does it have to take the Florida Legislature so long to get redistricting done? Many other states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada & Oklahoma have already completed or almost completed their redistricting.

Submission from Julie Penrod-Glenn



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Florida Redistricting Suggestion Form

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

*Field is required.

Prefix MS *First Name Julie *Last Name Penrod-GLENN Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 255 ATLANTIC PALM DR ST. AUGUSTINE *Zip 32080

Your County ST. JOHNS 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.

Current Congressional, State House, State Senate Districts make no sense, are not representative of constituents & do not permit elected representatives to understand or know their constituents.

1) Release redistricting maps NOW - Delays appear to be deceptive

2) Discontinue flagrant spending Taxpayer \$\$ to delay implementation of Amendment 10

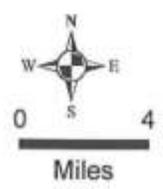
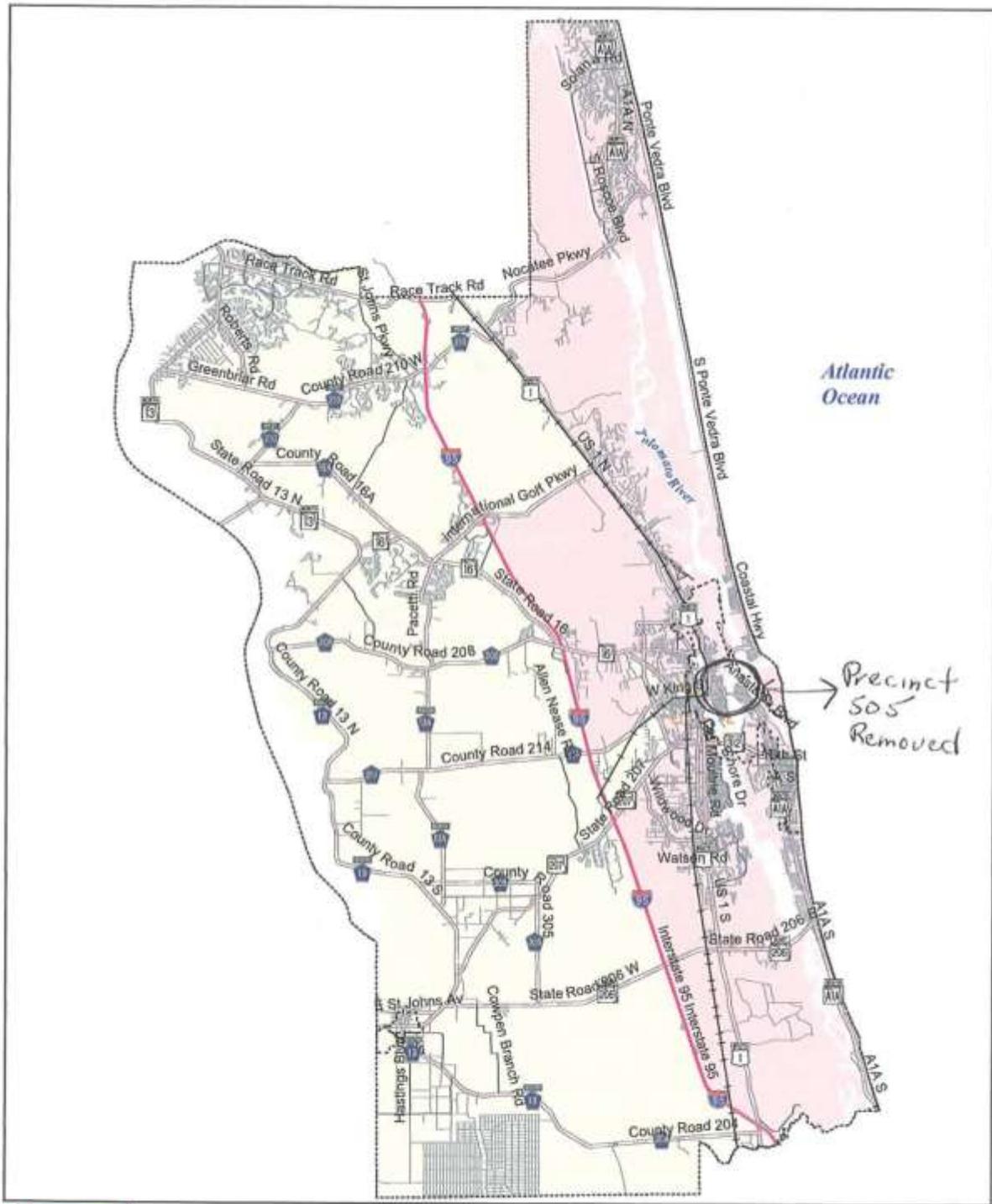
3) Implement Amendment 10 - ask voters demanded

(Over)

www.floridaredistriking.org

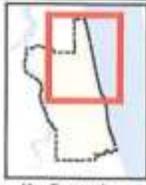
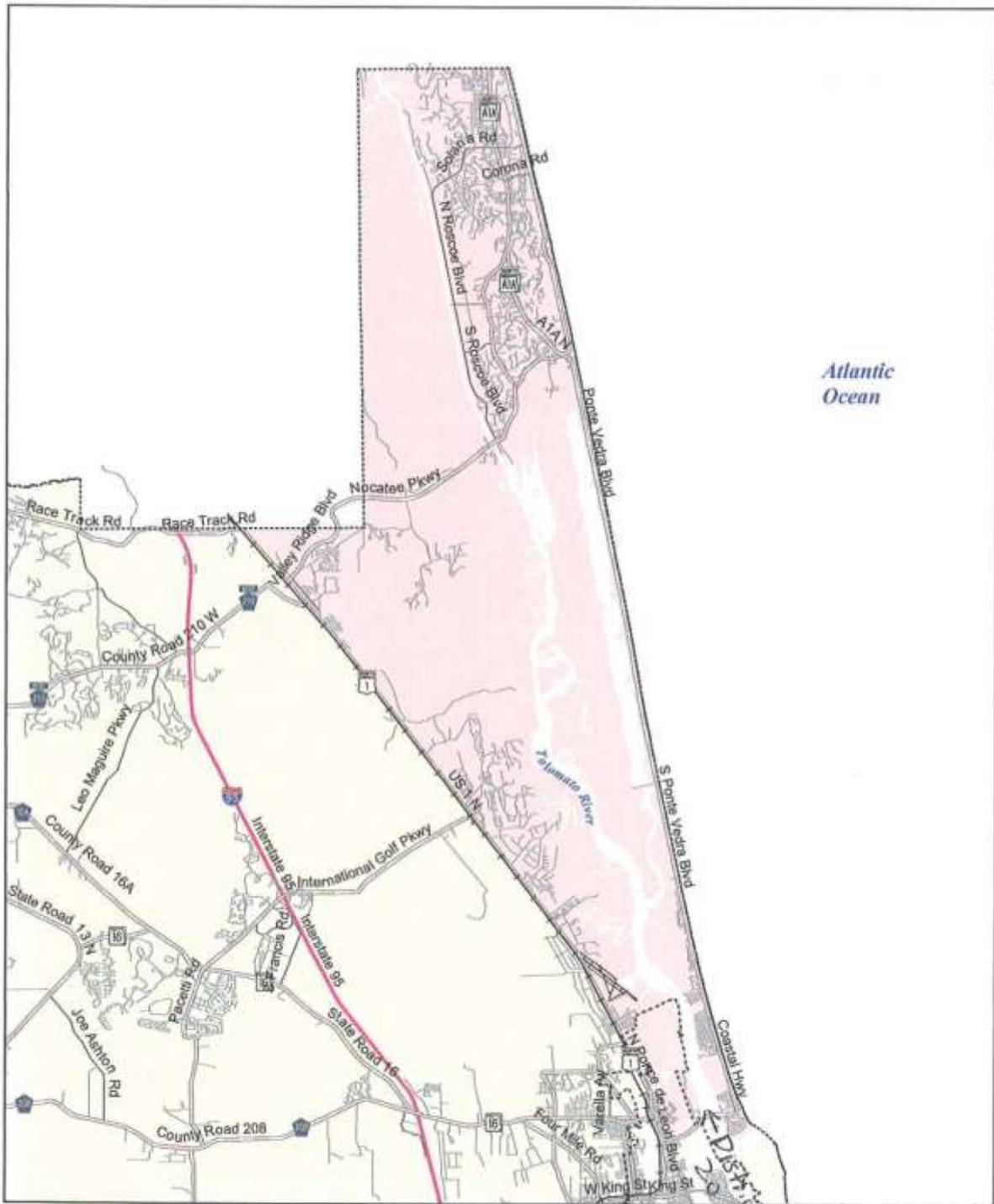
www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from Penny Halyburton



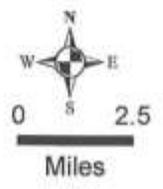
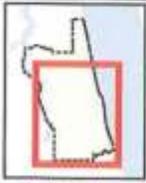
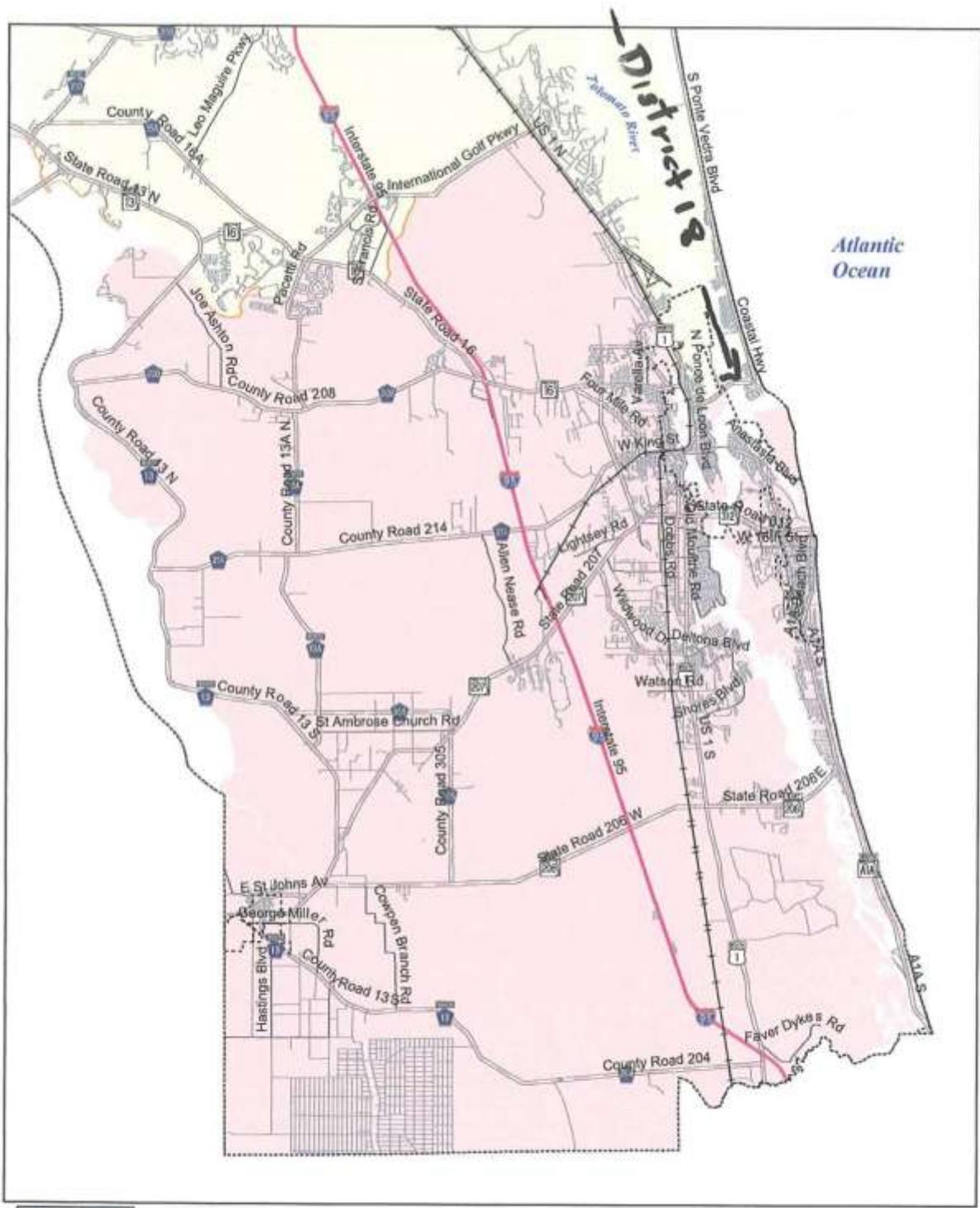
Florida Senate
 District 8
 within St. Johns County

Penny Halyburton
 SJC Supervisor of Elections
 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101
 St. Augustine, FL 32095
 Telephone: (904) 823-2238
 Toll Free: (877) 475-2468
 Fax: (904) 823-2249
 www.sjcvotes.us



Florida House
 District 18
 within St. Johns County

Penny Halyburton
 SJC Supervisor of Elections
 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101
 St. Augustine, FL 32095
 Telephone: (904) 823-2238
 Toll Free: (877) 475-2468
 Fax: (904) 823-2249
 www.sjcvotes.us



Florida House
 District 20
 within St. Johns County

Penny Halyburton
 SJC Supervisor of Elections
 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101
 St. Augustine, FL 32095
 Telephone: (904) 823-2238
 Toll Free: (877) 475-2468
 Fax: (904) 823-2249
 www.sjcvotes.us

Submission from William C. McCormick

Statement Submitted by William C. McCormick At the Redistricting Hearing, St. Augustine, FL, July 12, 2011

I will begin my statement with a quotation of George W. Bush. "One way to reduce the influence of ideological extremes is to change the way we elect our members of Congress. In 2006, only about 45 of 435 House races were seriously contested. Since members in so-called safe districts do not have to worry about challenges from the opposite party, their biggest vulnerability is getting outflanked in their own party. This is especially true in the era of bloggers, who make national targets out of politicians they deem ideologically impure. The result is that members of Congress from both parties tend toward the extremes as insurance against primary challenges.

"Our government would be more productive and our politics more civilized if congressional districts were drawn by panels of nonpartisan elders instead of state legislators. This would make for more competitive general elections and a less polarized Congress. Making the change would require politicians to give up some of their power, never an easy task. But for future presidents looking to tackle a big problem, this would be a worthy one to take on."

George W. Bush "Decision Points", pp. 306-307, copyright 2010

Using that statement as my starting point, I want to emphasize these five points:

- The voters of Florida (63%) have spoken, saying they want our Florida legislature and Governor to follow the wording and intent of the specific guidelines set forth in amendments 5 and 6.
- They want those guidelines followed in establishing the new districts in a timely manner well before the 2012 elections
- Voters clearly understand the polarizing and paralyzing effects that gerrymandered districts have on the political process.
- They also understand the power that legislative leaders have in affecting policy and funding. As one of our county's state reps stated in a public debate in this county prior to the vote on these amendments, junior legislators accomplish little when they come to Tallahassee and those in the minority party accomplish even less. He cited the example of one powerful committee chairman who introduced an amendment to a bill against the wishes of the leadership. The next day that legislator wasn't even on that committee, let alone its chairman.
- You are among your party's leaders and certainly if party leaders choose to circumvent the wishes of the vast majority of Florida voters, they will surely be reminded of that should they seek reelection or election to higher office.

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 change 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.

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 156,078, while the average population of a Florida Senate district will be 470,633. Each congressional district will contain approximately 696,345 people.



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 voters act 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 enacted.

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 that legislative districts to overlap, either partially or entirely.

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

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. In 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 population, 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.

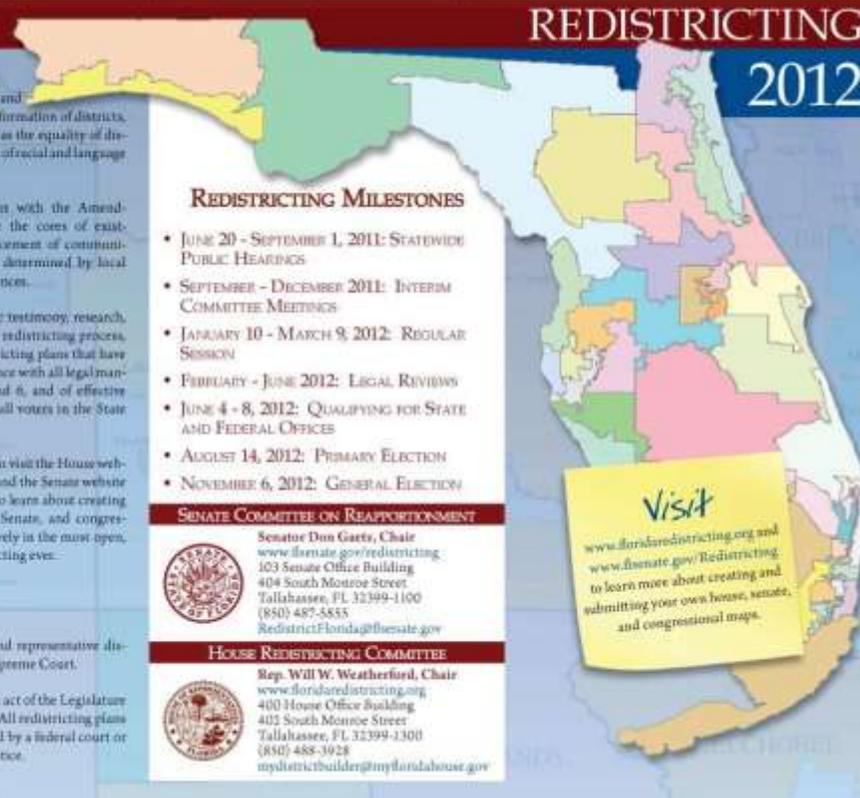
This approach, together with public testimony, research, and facts developed throughout the redistricting process, will result in the adoption of redistricting plans that have the intent and result of full compliance with all legal mandates, including Amendments 5 and 6, and of effective and meaningful 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.floridasenate.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 Gault, Chair
www.floridasenate.gov/redistricting
 103 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 (850) 487-5555
RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov

HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

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

Visit

www.floridaredistricting.org and
www.floridasenate.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>.

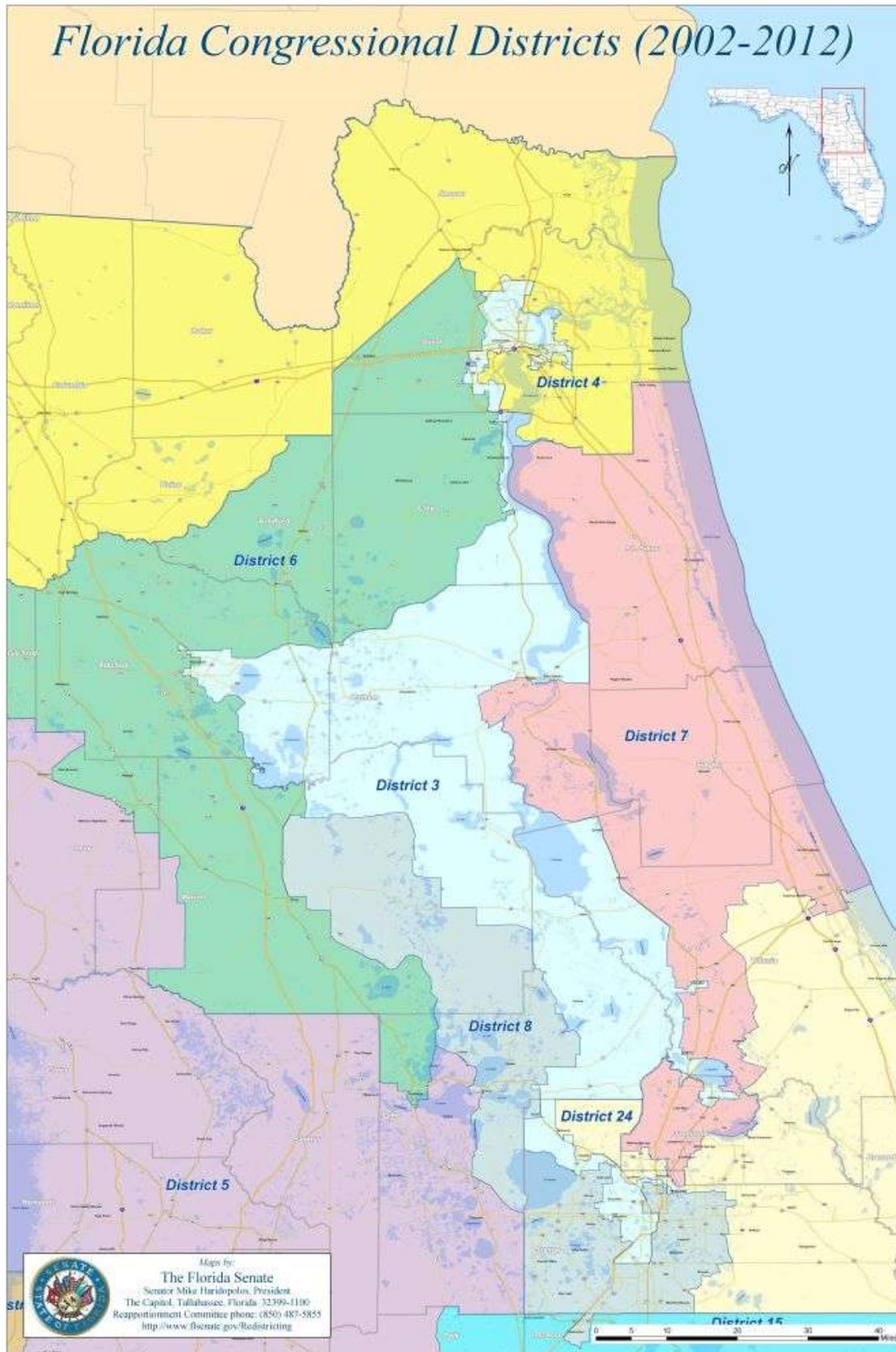
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection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

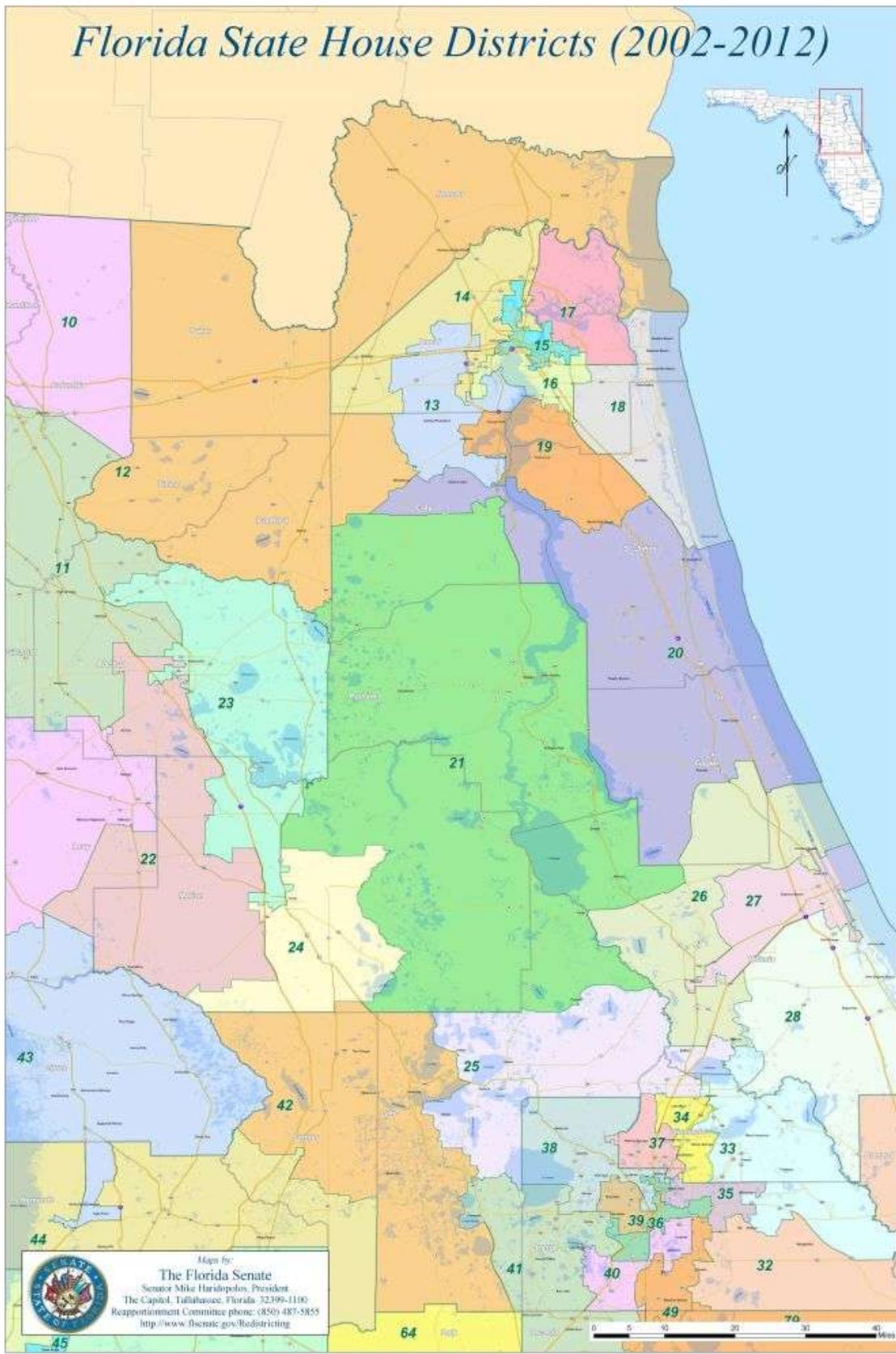
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see www.floridaredistricting.org. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose which better meets their needs.

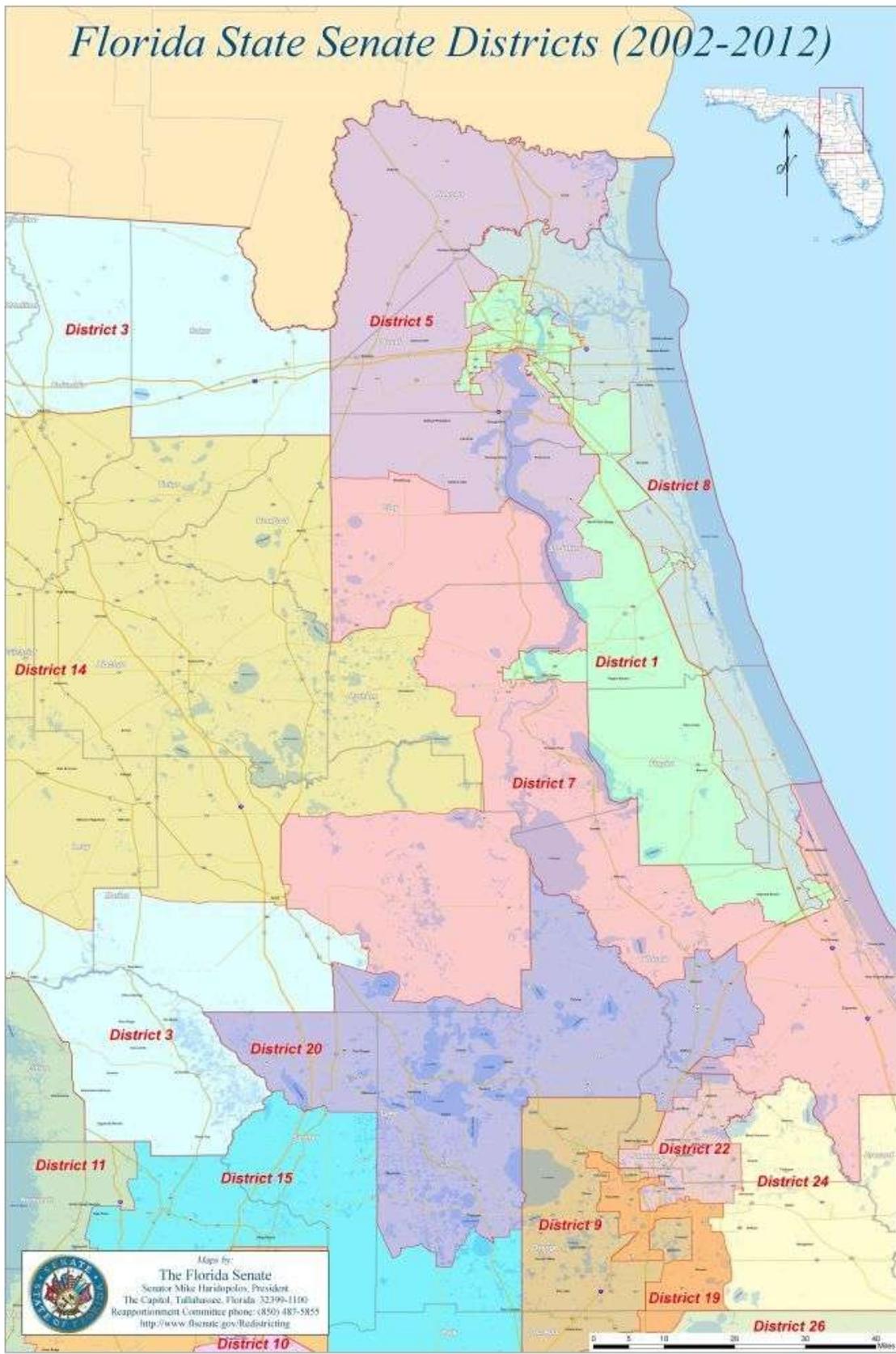
Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

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)—Northeast Florida

Congressional District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
3	Corrine Brown	659,055	696,345	-37,290	-5.4%
4	Ander Crenshaw	744,418	696,345	48,073	6.9%
5	Richard Nugent	929,533	696,345	233,188	33.5%
6	Cliff Stearns	812,727	696,345	116,382	16.7%
7	John Mica	812,442	696,345	116,097	16.7%
8	Daniel Webster	805,608	696,345	109,263	15.7%
24	Sandy Adams	799,233	696,345	102,888	14.8%

State House District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
10	Leonard L. Bembry	151,214	156,678	-5,464	-3.5%
11	Elizabeth W. Porter	163,223	156,678	6,545	4.2%
12	Janet H. Adkins	159,354	156,678	2,676	1.7%
13	Daniel Davis	195,431	156,678	38,753	24.7%
14	Mia L. Jones	134,417	156,678	-22,261	-14.2%
15	Reggie Fullwood	124,511	156,678	-32,167	-20.5%
16	Charles McBurney	140,428	156,678	-16,250	-10.4%
17	Lake Ray	161,943	156,678	5,265	3.4%
18	Ronald "Doc" Renuart	161,190	156,678	4,512	2.9%
19	Michael B. "Mike" Weinstein	175,628	156,678	18,950	12.1%
20	William L. "Bill" Proctor	201,953	156,678	45,275	28.9%
21	Charles E. Van Zant	145,063	156,678	-11,615	-7.4%
22	W. Keith Perry	176,739	156,678	20,061	12.8%
23	Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut IV	142,648	156,678	-14,030	-9.0%
24	Dennis K. Baxley	166,317	156,678	9,639	6.2%
25	Larry Metz	179,031	156,678	22,353	14.3%
26	Fredrick W. "Fred" Costello	165,010	156,678	8,332	5.3%
27	Dwayne L. Taylor	131,755	156,678	-24,923	-15.9%
28	Dorothy L. Hukill	154,175	156,678	-2,503	-1.6%
33	Jason T. Brodeur	196,662	156,678	39,984	25.5%
34	Chris Dorworth	144,119	156,678	-12,559	-8.0%
38	Bryan Nelson	162,248	156,678	5,570	3.6%
42	H. Marlene O'Toole	214,866	156,678	58,188	37.1%
43	Jimmie T. Smith	162,052	156,678	5,374	3.4%
44	Robert C. "Rob" Schenck	171,652	156,678	14,974	9.6%

State Senate District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
1	Anthony C. "Tony" Hill, Sr.	424,456	424,456	-271,889	-39.0%
3	Charles S. "Charlie" Dean, Sr.	495,081	696,345	-201,264	-28.9%
5	Stephen R. Wise	515,369	696,345	-180,976	-26.0%
7	Evelyn J. Lynn	432,554	696,345	-263,791	-37.9%
8	John Thrasher	525,674	696,345	-170,671	-24.5%
11	Mike Fasano	433,661	696,345	-262,684	-37.7%
14	Steve Delrich	457,489	696,345	-238,856	-34.3%
15	Paula Dockery	560,770	696,345	-135,575	-19.5%
20	Alan Hays	576,207	696,345	-120,138	-17.3%

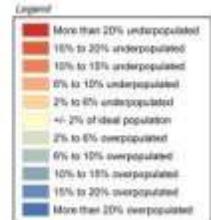
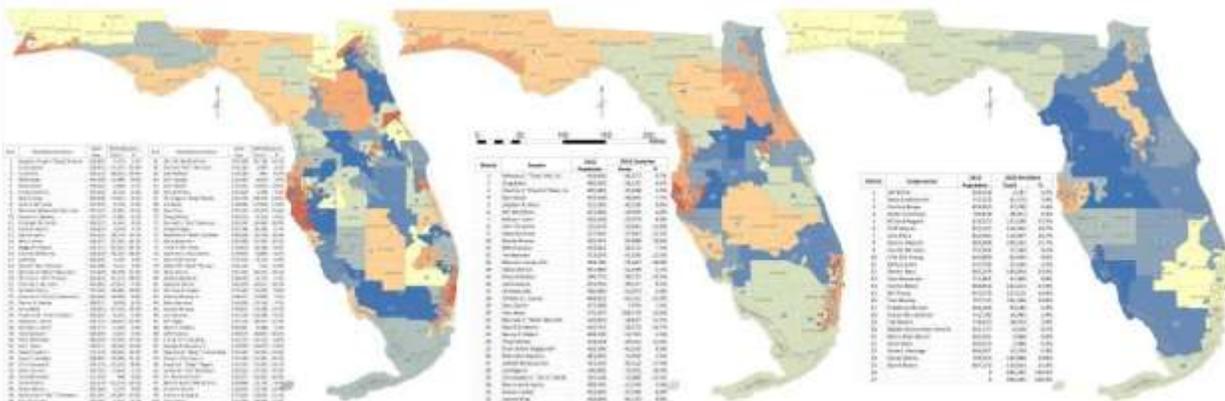


Presented by
The Florida Senate
 Senator Mike Harshbarger, President
 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
 Representative's Committee phone: (904) 487-1811
<http://www.flstate.gov/legislat/>

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

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

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



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

Map by
The Florida Senate
 Senator Mike Harshbarger, President
 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
 Representative's Committee phone: (904) 487-1811
<http://www.flstate.gov/legislat/>