

# Public Hearing on Redistricting Wauchula (July 26, 2011)

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## Hearing Report

Date: July 26, 2011

City: Wauchula

Location: Hardee County Civic Center

Time: 8:00am-11:00am

Number of Speakers: 13

Total Attendance: 34

The public hearing in Wauchula took place at the Hardee County Civic Center (515 Civic Center Dr., Wauchula, FL, 33873). 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 Lakeland Ledger July 23-26 and in the Wauchula Herald-Advocate July 21. Each chamber's website published public notices, and social media websites invited the public to the hearing as well. Senate staff sent invitations to more than 60 school board officials, over 70 county commissioners and administrators, more than 25 personnel under local supervisors of elections, and over 410 city elected officials in Central 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 2 senators and 26 representatives present, and Senator Gaetz chaired the hearing. Of the 34 people who filled out attendance cards, 13 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 Susan Smith

Susan Smith

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Where Are the Maps?

On November second two thousand ten  
We took a big vote to end all the sin  
So gerrymander you may do no more  
Though it will frighten you to your very core  
The voters have spoken; on this they were clear  
Now you do what's fair or your reputation you smear.

You went to Tally with a strong direction,  
To draw the maps without thought to your next election.  
But instead of complying you wait and wait,  
To further delay the inevitable date,  
To draw the maps, the missing maps  
Which might well exist but are kept under wraps.

So on this merry quest we go  
From hearing to hearing in hopes they will show  
But alas there are no maps to see  
So I guess the joke is on voters like me.

But maybe I'm wrong so I'll give one last shout  
To find the darn maps and remove all the doubt  
That these hearings are phony,  
All for show dog and pony  
By denying our viewing of maps you create  
You diss Florida voters whose anger won't abate

So where are the maps, both compact and fair  
I cannot find them here or there  
I cannot find them near or far  
I cannot find them in the car  
I cannot find them at the beach  
I cannot find them so to you I beseech

WHERE ARE THE MAPS???

## 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.

### 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)  
[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>.

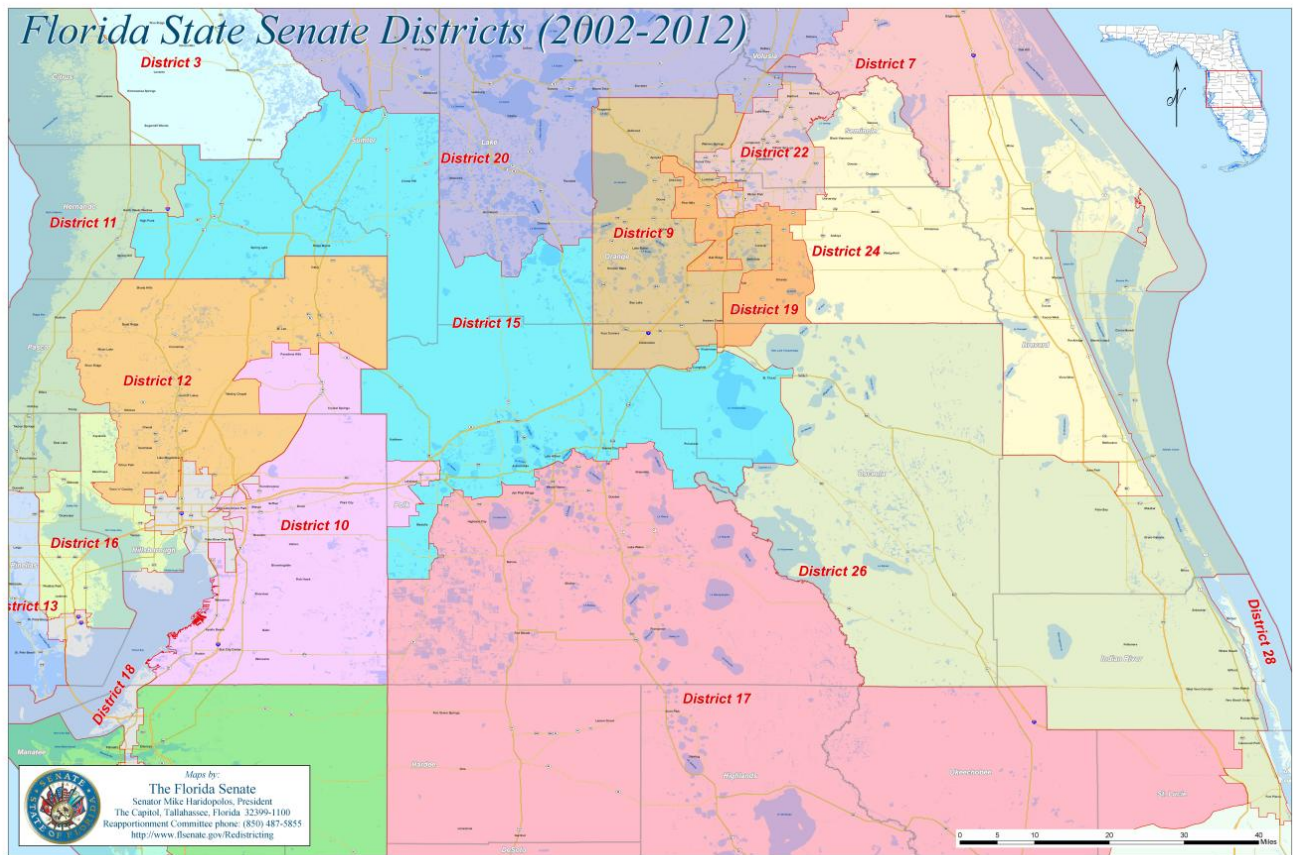
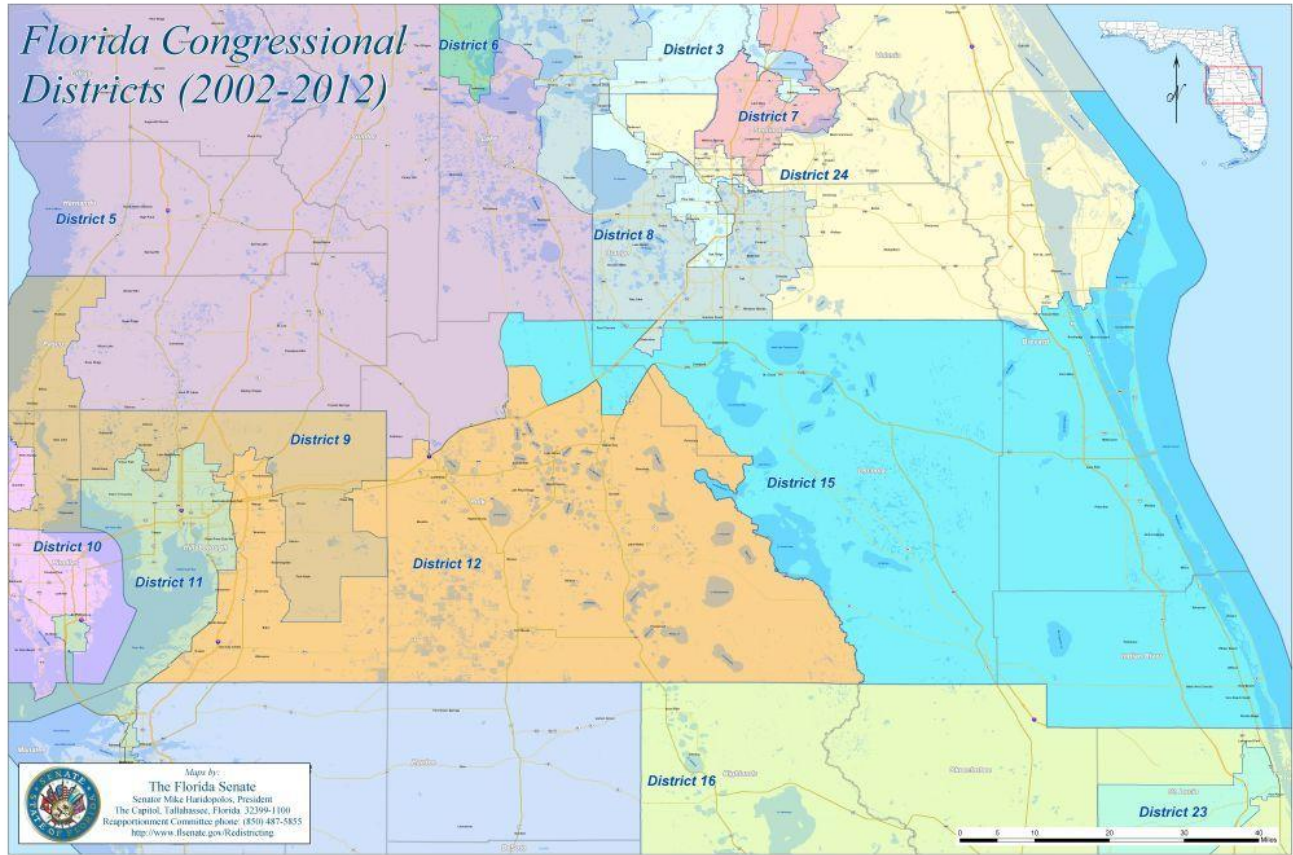
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection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

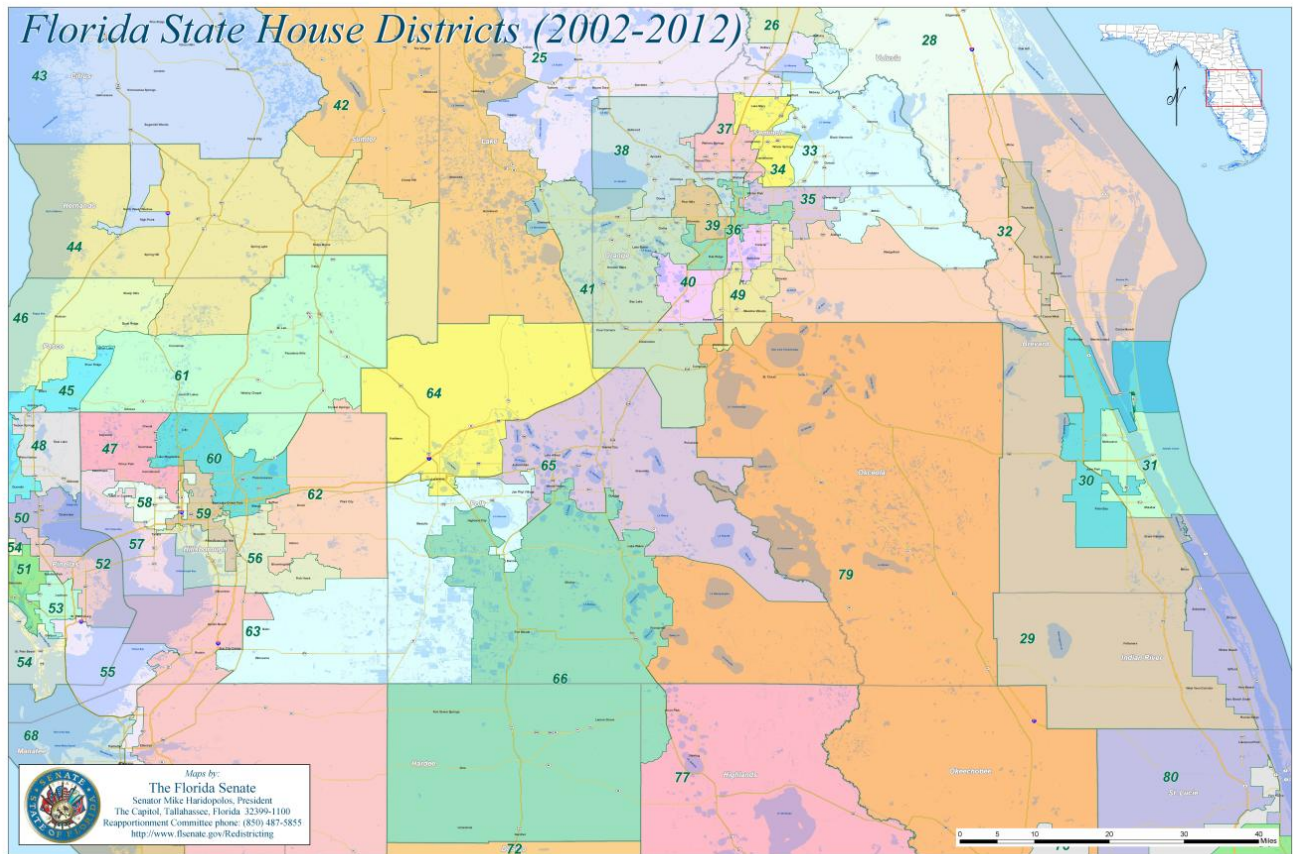
Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

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







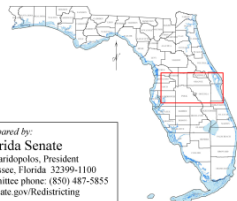
## Population deviations of current districts (2010 Census)—Central Florida

Congressional District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
3	Corrine Brown	659,055	696,345	-37,290	-5.4%
5	Richard Nugent	929,533	696,345	233,188	33.5%
7	John Mica	812,442	696,345	116,097	16.7%
8	Daniel Webster	805,608	696,345	109,263	15.7%
9	Gus M. Bilirakis	753,549	696,345	57,204	8.2%
12	Dennis Ross	842,199	696,345	145,854	20.9%
15	Bill Posey	813,570	696,345	117,225	16.8%
24	Sandy Adams	799,233	696,345	102,888	14.8%

State Senate District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
9	Andy Gardiner	527,435	470,033	57,402	12.2%
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%
15	Paula Dockery	560,770	470,033	90,737	19.3%
17	JD Alexander	456,960	470,033	-13,073	-2.8%
19	Gary Siplin	477,068	470,033	7,035	1.5%
22	David Simmons	419,763	470,033	-50,270	-10.7%
24	Thad Altman	524,254	470,033	54,221	11.5%
26	Mike Haridopolos	481,892	470,033	11,859	2.5%
28	Joe Negron	545,085	470,033	75,052	16.0%

State House District		2010 Pop.	2010 Ideal	2010 Deviation	
				Count	%
25	Larry Metz	179,031	156,678	22,353	14.3%
29	Tom Goodson	160,290	156,678	3,612	2.3%
30	Ritch Workman	180,594	156,678	23,916	15.3%
31	John Tobia	138,215	156,678	-18,463	-11.8%
32	Steve Crisafulli	177,523	156,678	20,845	13.3%
33	Jason T. Brodeur	196,662	156,678	39,984	25.5%
34	Chris Dorworth	144,119	156,678	-12,559	-8.0%
35	Dean Cannon	154,735	156,678	-1,943	-1.2%
36	Scott Randolph	157,126	156,678	448	0.3%
37	Scott Plakon	135,554	156,678	-21,124	-13.5%
38	Bryan Nelson	162,248	156,678	5,570	3.6%
39	Geraldine F. "Geri" Thompson	132,191	156,678	-24,487	-15.6%
40	Eric Eisnaugle	149,664	156,678	-7,014	-4.5%
41	Stephen L. Precourt	252,332	156,678	95,654	61.1%
42	H. Marlene O'Toole	214,866	156,678	58,188	37.1%
44	Robert C. "Rob" Schenck	171,652	156,678	14,974	9.6%
45	Richard Corcoran	146,618	156,678	-10,060	-6.4%
46	John Legg	142,772	156,678	-13,906	-8.9%
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%
64	Kelli Stargel	165,492	156,678	8,814	5.6%
65	John Wood	179,502	156,678	22,824	14.6%
66	Ben Albritton	162,026	156,678	5,348	3.4%
77	Denise Grimsley	147,455	156,678	-9,223	-5.9%
79	Mike Horner	187,203	156,678	30,525	19.5%
80	Debbie Mayfield	148,503	156,678	-8,175	-5.2%

Prepared by:  
**The Florida Senate**  
 Senator Mike Haridopolos, President  
 The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100  
 Reapportionment Committee phone: (850) 487-5855  
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**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)**

