

Public Hearing on Redistricting Sarasota (August 30, 2011)

Contents

Hearing Report.....	2
Submission from Paul A. Cajka.....	3
Submission from Sylvia Cwirko.....	5
Submission from Charles H. Dudley.....	6
Submission from John Eddins.....	7
Submission from Fred Falkner.....	8
Submission from Stephen Garrett.....	9
Submission from Virginia Hitchcock.....	11
Submission from Brian Hubbard.....	13
Submission from Eric Jones.....	14
Submission from Emmalou H. Kirchmeier.....	15
Submission from Kumar Mahadevan.....	16
Submission from David Matthews.....	17
Submission from Carolyn Montgomery.....	19
Submission from Les Pistick.....	20
Submission from Jane Plitt.....	21
Submission from Frances Rice.....	23
Submission from Norma Schatz.....	24
Submission from Peggy Simone.....	25
Submission from Paul A. Stamoulis.....	26
Submission from Jean Steiger.....	27
Submission from Geraldine Swormstedt.....	28
Submission from Karen Wehner.....	29
Submission from Glenda Wright.....	30
Submission from Mitchell Zavon.....	31
Petitions Submitted.....	32
Handouts.....	37
Displays Prepared by Florida Senate.....	39

Hearing Report

Date: August 30, 2011

City: Sarasota

Location: Harry Sudakoff Conference Center at New College

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Number of Speakers: 85 out of 106

Total Attendance: 332

The public hearing in Sarasota took place in the Harry Sudakoff Conference Center at New College (5845 General Dougher Place, Sarasota, FL 34243). 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, Bradenton Herald, Naples Daily News, and Ft. Myers News-Press 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 7 senators and 25 representatives present at the hearing chaired by Senator Gaetz. Of the 332 people who filled out attendance cards 106 indicated they wanted to speak at the hearing. At the time of adjournment 21 speakers remained. Senator Gaetz invited those speakers to supplement the record with their written comments or to submit comments via email.

Submission from Paul A. Cajka

FERRIN.JAY

From: Paul Cajka [pcajka@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 9:22 PM
To: FERRIN.JAY
Subject: RE: Redistricting Hearing in Sarasota

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Mr. Ferrin,

Thanks for the note. I read the coverage of the Sarasota event in Wednesday's Sarasota Herald-Tribune. They quoted four or five people including one former RPOS Chairman, Bob Waechter. I guess most of the attendees were most interested in the Congressional districts, although I was surprised by Senate District 21. That's worse than FHD 55. The 16th Congressional district is really strange, too. I used to live in Virginia and my example of an awful district was the 5th Congressional, where Cong. Bobby Scott represents parts of Richmond, Newport News and Norfolk.

Is there a transcript available of the 8/30 meeting or will one be available soon? Please pass on congratulations to the Honorable Messrs. Weatherford and Gaetz for leading the hearings process.

Sincerely,
Paul A. Cajka, Sr.
Republican Precinct Chairman, Sarasota District 18
RPOS District 12 Commander(24 City of Sarasota precincts)

> From: FERRIN.JAY@flsenate.gov
> To: pcajka@hotmail.com; Alex.Kelly@myfloridahouse.gov; Katie.Crofoot@myfloridahouse.gov;
> RedistrictFlorida@flsenate.gov

> Date: Mon, 29 Aug 2011 15:05:52 -0400
> Subject: Re: Redistricting Hearing in Sarasota

>
> Mr. Cajka,

> I am sorry to hear you will not be able to join us. I will make sure your concern is included in the record. Thanks.

> Jay Ferrin
> Senate Reapportionment
> 850-487-5205

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Paul Cajka <pcajka@hotmail.com>
> To: FERRIN.JAY <FERRIN.JAY@flsenate.gov>
> Sent: Mon Aug 29 14:50:43 2011
> Subject: RE: Redistricting Hearing in Sarasota

> Jay,

> Due to unforeseen family commitments I will not make the hearings in Sarasota on August 30. My main concern is Florida House District 55. Even though it seems mainly set up as a minority/Democrat given seat, it does not seem to serve anyone outside of St. Petersburg. FHD 55 seems to treat sections of Manatee, Sarasota and Hillsborough Counties as afterthoughts to just make numbers.

> Sincerely,
> Paul A. Cajka Sr.
> Sarasota Cty Pct 18

>
>
> _____
>

> From: FERRIN.JAY@flsenate.gov
> To: pcajka@hotmail.com
> Date: Fri, 26 Aug 2011 16:23:40 -0400
> Subject: Redistricting Hearing in Sarasota

>
>
>

> Dear Paul Cajka:

>
>
>

> Thank you for registering to attend the public hearing in Sarasota on Tuesday, August 30th, starting at 6:00pm in the Harry Sudakoff Conference Center at New College. 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 <http://www.flsenate.gov/session/redistricting/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 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 Sylvia Cwirko

From: [Kelly, Alex](#)
To: [Crofoot, Katie](#);
cc: [FERRIN.JAY](#);
Subject: Sarasota
Date: Friday, September 02, 2011 4:39:54 PM

From: scwirko [mailto:scwirko@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2011 2:31 PM
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Subject: redistricting

I cannot attend this evening's meeting in Sarasota, but wish to make myself heard.

Sixty-three percent of Florida voters voted and approved state constitutional amendments to establish fair and equitable voting districts for congressional and legislative elections that should follow city, county, and geographic boundaries and not favor a political party or incumbent.

What we have in place now prevents competitive elections.

We have spoken with our votes already and should not have to reiterate at a public meeting.

What is it you don't get?

We will be paying close attention to any and all incumbents who are against this people's mandate, and will rally voters to vote against your special personal interests in the next election.

Sylvia Cwirko
Osprey, FL

Submission from Charles H. Dudley

District #	County	Additional counties (number of people)	Total
1	Dade South		696,345
2	Dade Central		696,345
3	Dade North 1		696,345
4	Dade North 2 (407,400)	South Broward (288,945)	696,345
5	Broward Central		696,345
6	Broward North 1		696,345
7	Palm Beach South (629,914)	Broward North 2(66,431)	696,345
8	Palm Beach North		690,220
9	Collier (321,520)	South Lee (82,387), Monroe (73,090), Hendry(39,140), Glades (12,884), Okeechobee (39,996), Highlands(98,786), Desoto (34,862)	702,665
10	Lee North (536,367)	Charlotte (159,978)	696,345
11	Sarasota (379,448)	Manatee (322,833)	702,281
12	Hillsborough West		696,345
13	Hillsborough East (532,881)	Polk West (135,733) Hardee (27,731)	696,345
14	Polk East (466,562)	Osceola West/Central(229,783)	696,345
15	Martin (146,318)	St. Lucie (277,787), Indian River (138,028), Osceola SouthEast (39,082),Brevard South (95,598)	696,345
16	Brevard Central/North (447,778)	Volusia South (245,567)	696,345
17	Volusia North (249,026)	Flagler (95,696), Putnam (74,364), St. Johns (190,139) Duval South (81,220)	690,445
18	Duval Central/North 1		696,345
19	Duval North 2 (86,898)	Nassau (73,314), Clay (190,865), Baker (27,115), Union (15,535)Colombia (67,531), Bradford (28,520), Suwanee(41,551), Hamilton (14,799), Alachua North (119,125) Taylor (22,570),Lafayette (9,870),	697,693
20	Pinellas South		696,345
21	Pinellas North (220,197)	Pasco (464,697), Hernando South (11,451)	696,345
22	Hernando Central/North(161,327)	Citrus (141,236),Sumter (93,420), Levy, 40,801), Alachua South (128,211), Marion North (97,989), Gilchrist (16,939), Dixie (16,422)	696,345
23	Orange South		696,345
24	Orange North (449,611)	Seminole South (246,734)	696,345
25	Seminole North (175,984)	Lake (297,052) Marion South (233,309),	696,345
26	Bay East (161,163)	Washington (24,896), Holms (19,927), Jackson (49,746), Calhoun (14,625), Gulf (15,863), Franklin (11,549), Liberty (8,365), Gadsden (46,389), Wakulla (30,776), Leon (275,487), Jefferson (14,761), Madison (19,224)	692,491
27	Escambia (297,619)	Santa Rosa (151,372), Okaloosa (180,822,,), Walton (55,043) Bay West (10,489)	695,345

Florida Congressional Re-districting plan based on 2010 Census with a deviation of 1% from the ideal district population of 696,345 (between 689,382 and 703,308). Where portions of counties are included in a district the actual population may vary between this range when census tracts, etc. are used to apportion parts of the population of a county.

Submitted by: Charles H. Dudley
 595 Oak Bay Drive
 Osprey, FL 34229
 cdudley131@verizon.net; 941-918-974

Submission from John Eddins



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.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 Mr. *First Name John *Last Name Eddins Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 7728 37th St E City Sarasota *State FL *Zip 34243

Your County Manatee Your Email heddins@neo.vr.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.

Our Community needs good representation, and Amendments 5 and 6, passed by over 60% of Floridians, protect the rights of minorities to participate in the political process and elect the representatives of our choices. Many people complain about State House District 55 because it covers 4 counties: Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties. But, I happen to like this district because it gives our community a representative of our choice. Undoing this district would worsen our position as voters.

I also think in the state senate and Congress, being districts where we can also elect the representative of our choice is a good

(Over)

www.floridaredistriking.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from Fred Falkner

COMMENTS ON REDISTRICTING IN FLORIDA

To: Sponsors of the Hearings on Redistricting

From: Fred Falkner, 5125 Cantabria Crest, Sarasota, FL 34238

Most Floridians don't have much respect for Florida state legislators, Democrat or Republican, and deservedly so. Most are viewed as the pawns of the Republican and Democratic parties whose primary focus is to get control of state government and retain it. The primary lynchpin in gaining control is to ensure election of candidates and re-election of incumbents by creating voting districts that are "safe" for a given party. In the past the principles of fairness and sense of common good have been disregarded to allow gerrymandering to create an unbalanced number of artificially created voting districts favoring voters of one political persuasion or another. That sends legislators to Tallahassee who pander to one political persuasion, have no interest in the validity of minority views, no need to compromise, and no incentive to vote on the right thing to do rather than party line. The legislators' primary concern is to get re-elected by their artificially constituency, not produce legislation and policies for the general good.

There is now a provision in the Florida State Constitution that requires that compact districts for state and federal elections be drawn up in a fair manner using existing geographic and governmental boundaries as much as possible. The voters of this state approved this legislation to prevent gerrymandering, and so we do not ask, but demand, that the elected officials in the Florida State Legislatures obey the law just as they expect us to do so.

Submission from Stephen Garrett

Stephen Garrett
Sarasota

Fellow citizens, ladies and gentlemen of our Legislature:

My name is Stephen Garrett; I've lived in Florida only about 3 years. In that time my Congressional district has been represented by three different persons of two political parties. I don't consider this a bad thing - but I'll speak more of that later.

I've lived and worked in 10 states so far, and had long-term assignments in a half-dozen more, from the Midwest to the Northeast to the West Coast to the Southeast. I've also lived and worked in Europe, in two countries, for five years. I've seen a great many different ways to organize purposeful social effort and have it succeed.

I'm a management scientist; I work in measurements, and models, and management problems. I craft robust models using meaningful measures to help decision-makers make wise, informed decisions. I did doctoral work at the Wharton School, where I also earned my MBA; I earned an MS and Bachelor's, summa cum laude, in Engineering from Michigan. I've worked in for-profit companies, regulated businesses and defense contractors, public agencies, and not-for-profits.

I attended an earlier hearing in this series without commenting. I heard many concerns expressed: that the redistricting respect and honor our Federal civil rights laws, and that it respect and honor the voters' wishes for compact districts; I'd like to echo those concerns. I also heard concerns that these goals were in conflict. I'd like to urge you to recognize that this is a false dichotomy. Meeting both goals may be challenging, but it is assuredly possible.

But beyond that, I want to challenge you to honor the diversity within the districts you draw - not of age, or profession, or race, or religion, nor any other demographic, but diversity of ideas. Our nation is in desperate need of intelligent, considerate civic debate; and the surest way to squelch it is to craft districts in which the outcome of a general election is a foregone conclusion.

Uncompetitive districts demean and debase the value of each incremental vote, rendering it virtually meaningless. Competitive districts raise up the value of incremental votes, and encourage citizen participation.

Uncompetitive districts give our children the example that those in power can act to protect their own interests at the expense of the people's. Competitive districts place the people's interests first, and encourage our children and all citizens to reflect on what truly constitutes their interest.

Uncompetitive districts breed distrust, cynicism, and apathy. Competitive districts enliven debate, engage voters, and bring accountability to the fore.

Many may say - you yourselves may say in private - that these are fine ideals, but that you can and will choose to create districts to enhance your own security in office. My friends, I suggest that such thinking shows acceptance of another false dichotomy. I suggest that security in office is completely compatible with competitive districts.

I submit to you that true job security for a public servant rests in consistent delivery of exemplary public service, thereby making it possible for her or him to consistently win vibrant, competitive, well-contested elections.

Ladies and gentlemen, you indict yourselves if you fail in this. Your unwillingness to craft competitive electoral districts would be the clearest possible evidence of your own suspicion that you are unworthy of office - that you would not win a tough, well-contested election in a competitive district. I fear that you may instead choose to craft districts that - if you'll forgive me - any jackass or, respectively, pachyderm could win.

Show your belief in your own worthiness, and show your belief in your constituents whose government this is. Craft districts that are respectful, honorable, legal, compact - and competitive.

Thank you.

Submission from Virginia Hitchcock

Sarasota Redistricting Hearing (8/30/11)

Good evening. My family and I moved to Sarasota from Washington, DC, 12 years ago.

Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to get public opinion on this very important issue. The long haul of 26 hearings is almost over for you.

Unlike many here, I agree with your decision to get public input first, as this is an important first step in creating ownership for any process of change. If you had come with proposed maps, you would have had nothing but unhappy people asking you why you didn't seek their opinion first.

I have been so impressed with the Mydistrictbuilder system that was developed for state officials and offered to the public for input.

When you take all this input and opinions and begin to create your proposed districts, I hope you will follow certain principles. The most basic is to follow the wording of the amendments passed by 63% of our citizens to create compact, contiguous districts - of approximately equal populations - that follow county and city boundaries as well as voting tabulation districts (VTDs) and natural boundaries. When I created my own US Congressional map, I had thought that it would be easy - just combine counties of low populations or divide counties of large populations to arrive at the target numbers. I was wrong. First of all, it's not that easy to create compact districts on the county level when some of our counties are definitely not compact. How did they come up with Lake county anyway?

My basic building unit was the VTD. Even though the redistricting software allows changes on the block level, I would hope that you would likewise leave the VTDs untouched. The 2002 Congressional district map did not respect the VTDs. I think that local supervisors of elections must have the autonomy to create the VTDs that serve their populations best.

For the areas south of the heavily developed I-4 corridor, I differentiated coastal, urban areas from rural central ones. In these areas the transitions between open land and dense housing developments are very distinct, and I think that the inhabitants of each have markedly different issues and concerns. I suspect that the concerns of residents of the rural areas have often been overshadowed by those of the more densely populated coastal regions. Presumably it would make elected officials more effective - and make their jobs easier - if they represented people with like concerns.

However, I didn't consider the racial or ethnic make-ups of the proposed districts. I was impressed by a comment from an earlier hearing where the speaker gave the image of a judge being separated by a curtain from those whose fate he was deciding but could not see. Likewise, the classical image of Justice is blindfolded. I think it is time for Florida to have a system that is color-blind and see how it works.

[hearing presentation had to stop here because of 2-minute time limit]

Finally several friends have asked why I have bothered to spend so many evenings staring at the computer, arranging and rearranging voting districts, and then coming here tonight. They say that the decisions have already been made and that this process is just a sham. I do hope they are wrong.

And please persuade Speaker Cannon, Representatives Brown and Diaz-Balard, and any other naysayers not to spend any more of their time and our hard-earned tax dollars challenging these amendments in the courts. We wish to choose our representatives, not have our representatives choose us. I respectfully submit that if they persist in their efforts, they may find themselves unemployed after the next election.

Please just do as we have asked. We really need to have our faith in government restored. I so hope that this redistricting process, which has charted new territory so far in its transparency, will result in new districts that live up to the promise of process and to the hope of all Floridians for a better, more representative, and more effective government.

Thank you.

Virginia Hitchcock
1639 Peregrine Point Court
Sarasota, FL 34231
941/922-5303
chotapeg@comcast.net

Submission from Brian Hubbard



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 Brian *Last Name Hubbard Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 2047 30th St *City Sarasota *State FL *Zip 34234

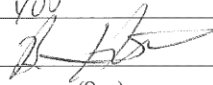
Your County Sarasota Your Email _____

*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.

Thanks for coming to Sarasota county I am here to tell you that the Newtown community likes being a part of district 55 represented by Mr. Darryl Rouson. District 55 contains voters in 4 counties Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota. Though this district is often criticized it gives us the minority residents of Newtown and North Sarasota the opportunity to elect a representative of our choice which we otherwise would not have I urge you to maintain this district and explore the possibility of giving us additional opportunities to elect representatives of our choice.

Thank you

(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from Eric Jones



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 Eric *Last Name Jones Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 2416 Dixie Ave *City Sarasota *State FL *Zip 34234

Your County Sarasota 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 would like to start off by saying
Welcome to Sarasota and thank you for
taking the time to be here today
My name is Eric Jones and I'm here to tell you
that Newtown and North Sarasota likes being apart
of ~~Newtown~~ House District 55, represented by Darryl Rouson
Though our district is often criticized for stretching
across 3 other counties, it reassures us
to know that we have a representative who we can relate to
that is a true representation to us I would like to see
more opportunities for us in congress
and in state senate. Amendments 3 and 6 that passed
last year guarantee to us in Florida constitution
the right to participate in the political process and
the ability to elect representatives of our choice
Please carefully consider all these matters when you
are completing your job (over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

Thank you

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from Emmalou H. Kirchmeier

Rev. Emmalou H. Kirchmeier
4300 18th Street W, Apt.B201
Bradenton, Fl. 34205
(941) 896-8576
elkmeier@tampabay.rr.com

Aug.30, 2011

To the Redistricting Committee
Of the State Legislature

I am Rev. Emmalou Kirchmeier, a retired United Methodist Minister and Hospital Chaplain very active in Bradenton and a former resident of Sarasota County when I served churches in OldMyakka and Miakka City. I have three issues to discuss.

One please keep the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport in one new district.

Two, I represent two groups: one as president of the Manasota Children's Advocates dealing with many single parents struggling with the cost of living. The third as Democratic Captain of District 59, made up of many more single parents, low income families almost equally divided between democrats, independents and republicans.

Speaking for both groups unofficially, I would remind you they help each other driving to church, for groceries on weekends, and going to one family for Sunday dinner, if they could also use the car to vote the week before election it would be sensible.

I also was the Census Taker for district 66, another community of folks who help with driving others. I sincerely request that you reconsider the action taken to remove Sunday voting before the election as it would cause a hardship for low income families, including elderly citizens whose children drive them back and forth to church. Since the bus service is not provided on Sunday's neighbors and churches helped last election by providing transportation. You might consider asking the buses to run that day.

On the second issue, from past experience in Connecticut, please provide us with maps for residents to become familiar with new District lines at least two weeks before we are to vote. My husband was a Land Surveyor who did this work in other States and I know the details involved require very accurate pains taking work for those drawing the new lines.

We need time to see what you propose and if we were to go to court, make agreeable changes in a later date to hold elections until any differences are settled. Thank you for your efforts to solve this very complicated problem.

Submission from Kumar Mahadevan



1600 Ken Thompson Parkway
Sarasota, Florida 34236-1096 USA
(941) 388-4441 • Fax: (941) 388-4312
info@mote.org • www.mote.org

Robert E. Carter
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Mote Aquaculture Park • 12300 Fruitville Road • Sarasota, FL 34240-8988 • Phone: (941) 388-4541 • Fax: (941) 377-2905
Charlotte Harbor Field Station • P.O. Box 529 • St. James City, FL 33956-9998 • Phone: (239) 283-1622 • Fax: (239) 283-2466
Tropical Research Laboratory • 24244 Overseas Highway • Summerland Key, FL 33042-4803 • Phone: (305) 745-2729 • Fax: (305) 745-2730
Mote Living Reef Exhibit at the NOAA Eco-Discovery Center • 35 East Quay Road • Key West, FL 33040-6624 • Phone: (305) 296-3551 • Fax: (305) 296-2325

August 15, 2011

Senate Committee on Reapportionment
103 Senate Office Building
Committee Mailing Address:
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

House Committee on Redistricting
400 House Office Building
Committee Mailing Address:
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: Congressional District 13

Dear Members of the Committees:

On behalf of Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, we are writing today to encourage that the Manatee-Sarasota area continue to be included within the same Congressional district.

Although based in Sarasota County, Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium and its operations both benefit from and positively impact both counties, and we view the combined area as one "community". The vast majority of Mote's 190 employees reside in either Sarasota or Manatee Counties and the same is true for our more than 1,300 volunteers.

In addition, Mote's donor base is centralized within the Sarasota-Bradenton community and comes together regularly in support of Mote's operations and research – much of which also encompass the same geographic area. It is this sense of shared community that helps Mote garner local community support for its vital marine research and education programs in the Sarasota-Bradenton area.

Mote also plays a positive role in the economic health and development of the Sarasota-Bradenton area in terms of jobs created, money pumped into the local economy to support our operations and increased tourism support by helping to attract visitors to the area.

These are just some of the examples of activities that bind the two counties in terms of a shared sense of "community" and economic impact and development. We hope the committee will take these into consideration as they draw the lines for Florida's new congressional districts.

Sincerely,

Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.
President

A nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the science of the sea and a member of:

Association of Zoos & Aquariums • Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean • Economic Development Council of Sarasota County
Florida Institute of Oceanography • Florida Ocean Alliance • Florida Sea Grant • Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System • International Association of Aquatic & Marine Science Libraries & Information Centers
National Association of Marine Laboratories • Science & Environment Council of Sarasota County • Sarasota Arts & Cultural Alliance
Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association • Southern Association of Marine Laboratories

Submission from David Matthews

Good Evening and welcome to the Manatee / Sarasota Area! My name is David Matthews. I was born in Sarasota and grew up here. ~~For twenty nine years I was a resident of Pinellas County.~~ I currently live in Manatee County in the city of Bradenton. Thank you for coming today and listening to our concerns and comments.

One of the things that you have heard a lot lately is the need to follow Amendments 5 and 6 by drawing compact, contiguous districts that don't do things like split up cities and counties. That doesn't sound bad. But, I was curious and did some research on what some city boundaries actually look like. As you can see here, this is a map of Bradenton where I live. If you'll notice, Bradenton is not all that compact, and it's actually not even entirely contiguous.

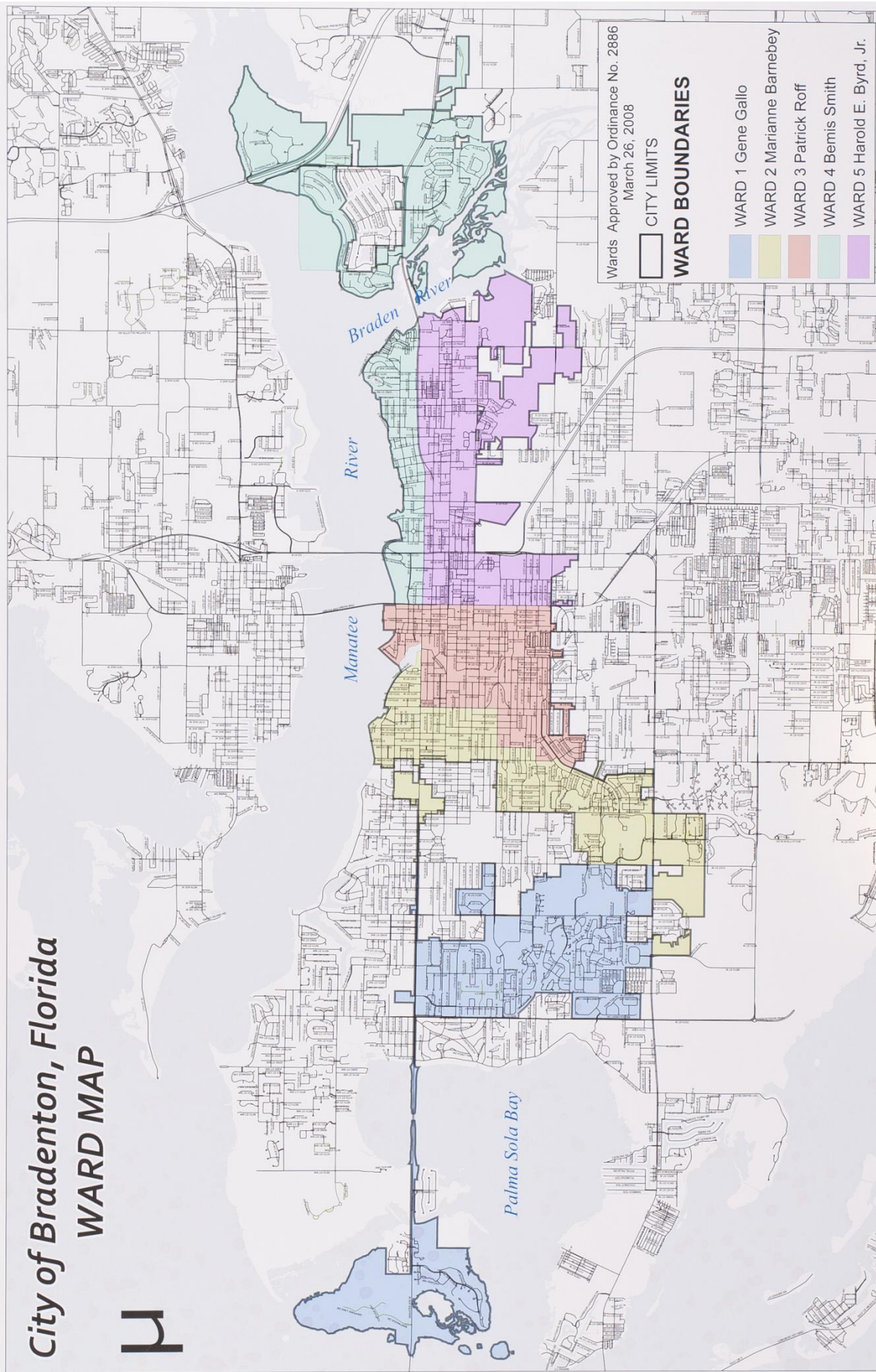
Which begs the question – how can you do things like make compact districts that follow city lines when you have to follow boundaries like Bradenton's that don't qualify as compact or contiguous? I'm sure there are some cities where that is the case, but there are many cities like Bradenton in our state that have the same jagged boundaries that people dislike about legislative districts. If you follow city boundary lines, I fear that districts will not meet the compactness requirements of Amendments 5 and 6 and that residents may actually be just as upset at what districts look like as they are now.

I grew up about a mile south of the Sarasota Bradenton Airport, SRQ. As you know, the county line cuts right through the airport area. Some households in this area in the Whitfield portion of Manatee County actually have a Sarasota mailing address. The campus of South Florida is located partially in Sarasota County and partially in Manatee County. These are just a few examples of how the Manatee Sarasota Area share heritage, interests and are part of a larger community. If you strictly follow the guidelines of Amendments 5 and 6 that require districts to be "compact" and "use existing city, county and geographical boundaries" you would be doing the community at large a disservice.

~~When I lived in Pinellas County I became aware of the many municipalities in that area. Some people think of St. Petersburg and Clearwater when Pinellas County is mentioned, however, there are lots of other municipalities and unincorporated areas as well. Some of the cities in Pinellas include Kenneth City, Pinellas Park, Seminole, Maderia Beach, St. Pete Beach, Palm Harbor, Dunedin and others. Based on my knowledge of Pinellas, I don't believe that drawing legislative districts along the Pinellas County Municipal lines will necessarily result in contiguous, compact districts, required by Amendments 5 and 6.~~

I hope there may be other political boundary lines you may be able to follow so that districts turn out compact, but because Amendments 5 and 6 don't specifically state what types of existing political boundaries you may follow, I'm not sure what those could be.

City of Bradenton, Florida WARD MAP



Submission from Carolyn Montgomery

From: [carolyn montgomery](#)
To: [MyDistrictBuilder;](#)
Subject: Redistrict according to wishes of electorate
Date: Wednesday, August 24, 2011 1:45:45 PM

The voters have "spoken." Legislators need to heed their wishes. As the Herald Tribune published:

".....(legislators) need to honor the wishes of the 63 percent of Florida voters who..... approved state constitutional amendments that establish voting districts for congressional and legislative elections.....they should follow city, county and geographic boundaries and not favor any political party or incumbent. Similar guidelines are now used in 44 other states."

If I were not out of town, I would attend the session in Sarasota. Please consider the above remarks as my testimony. Many thanks,

**Carolyn Montgomery
700 John Ringling Blvd. E-313
Sarasota, FL 34236
941/361-7242**

Submission from Les Pitstick

From: [Les Pitstick](#)
To: [MyDistrictBuilder](#);
Subject: redistricting
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2011 11:28:56 AM

I am a registered Republican living in Sarasota. I can't attend the meeting at New College on Aug. 30 but certainly want to express my opinion.

Last November, we voted overwhelmingly to insure fair voting districts. It would be irresponsible for this special panel to try to avoid or circumvent the new amendment.

It's not rocket science; follow the wishes of the 63% of voters who want a fair and equitable redistricting process. Voters are very disgusted and distrustful of elected officials today; please do the right thing in this case and start to eliminate that distrust.

Les Pitstick
Sarasota

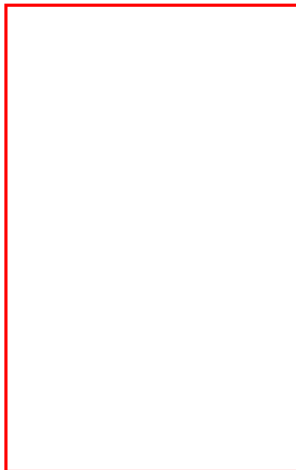
Submission from Jane Plitt

From: [jane plitt](#)
To: [MyDistrictBuilder;](#)
Subject: Redistricting
Date: Thursday, August 25, 2011 8:56:25 AM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)

I will be unable to attend the August 30th public meeting on fair voting districts. However, i have already, along with over 63% of the November voters, and clearly indicated we support standards for fair and equitable voting district for congressional and legislative elections. The formula is clear, compact and contiguous districts, following city, county and geographic boundaries and unlike today, not favor any political party or incumbent. Notably, these standards are followed in 44 other states.

Please stop the delaying tactics of needless hearings, court challenges, etc. Please honor the honest will of the people. We are watching.

Jane Plitt, Author



<http://www.marthamatildaharper.org>

NOW in eBook format:

<http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/73573>

<http://amzn.to/nVbx8I>

In hard cover:

<http://amzn.to/mPHLyF>

Upcoming book : "Dancing With Diabetes...Discover the Steps to

Move Beyond Any Illness." ©Jane R. Plitt 2010

1612 Point Pleasant Ave. W.
Bradenton, Florida 34205
941-538-4673

2janeplitt@gmail.com

Submission from Frances Rice

Good evening. I'm Frances Rice. I've lived in Sarasota County for the past eleven years. People have been expressing concern about the costs of lawsuits, and they have a right to be concerned about how their tax dollars are being spent, but I think they may be missing the point here.

The best way to prevent lawsuits is to have an air tight contract where everything is defined and nothing is ambiguous. Because, where confusion exists, lawsuits follow, meaning judges get to decide who's right and who's wrong and what one thing means or doesn't mean.

I'm afraid that we are in for a lot of lawsuits because Amendments 5 and 6 are filled with vagueness and lawsuit justifications waiting to be decided in court. Key words such as compact and existing political boundaries are undefined and then other words like practicable and feasible are used, which are too subjective.

5 and 6 also say an incumbent cannot be disfavored. But, in a situation where two incumbents are forced to run against one another, could they sue for being disfavored?

Amendments 5 and 6 are so subject to interpretation that I can't imagine a scenario that is not rife with lawsuits. As a taxpayer, that concerns me. I would rather see my money being used for something more important than paying a bunch of lawyers, so, legislators, please be careful in crafting these districts so we don't waste money on tons of lawsuits.

Thank you.

Submission from Norma Schatz

From: [Norma Schatz](#)
To: [MyDistrictBuilder](#);
Subject: Redistricting
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 7:08:26 AM

To whom it may concern:

Although I will not be able to attend the Redistricting meeting in Sarasota I want to register my concern that the Florida legislature not ignore the intent of its citizens. Constitutional amendments were approved to establish fair boundaries of voting districts, not to maintain control of an incumbent or a party but to be based on logical geographic boundaries.

The will and intent of the majority of Florida voters should not be flaunted.

Respectfully,
Norma H. Schatz
700 John Ringling Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34236

Submission from Peggy Simone

Public Hearing
August 30, 2011
New College Sarasota Florida
Reapportionment and Redistricting

1. Two Florida House seats in Manatee County, plus remainder of population needed from eastern Sarasota County to preserve Lakewood Ranch Community of interest or from Hardee County.
2. Congressional seat based in Manatee and Sarasota Counties.
3. Florida Senate seat based in Manatee County with remainder of population from Sarasota County.

Peggy Simone
Form State Rep. 1982-1992
Psimone5@tampabay.rr.com
3500 El Conquistador #341
Bradenton, Fl 34210

Submission from Paul A. Stamoulis


Please enter into the record of
your Committee's hearing in Sarasota,

August 30, 2011

Of all the unalienable rights which we as Americans hold sacred and inviolable, none is perhaps more important than the right to have our candidates for public office compete on a fair and level playing field. Indeed, three quarters of that venerated document which binds us all together as citizens of these United States, and the first three quarters of it at that, is dedicated to articulating the rules and procedures by which "We The People" choose and empower our elected representatives.

All citizens are guaranteed the right to express their opinions, peaceably assemble, and, if they so choose, seek public office, often as members of political parties. Objectivity in all aspects of the elections process must be the bedrock upon which we will continue to build our country's future, and the future of generations of Americans yet to come. The brave men and women who, at great cost and personal sacrifice, lovingly bequeathed to us a nation founded upon the principles of justice and equality deserve nothing less.

~~Dist. Legis. Comm.~~
Sarasota
Manatee
Charlotte
Desoto
Hendee
Glades
Highlands


Hon. PAUL A. STAMOULLIS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FL

Submission from Jean Steiger

FERRIN.JAY

From: jean steiger [ljeansteiger@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2011 11:44 AM
To: MyDistrictBuilder
Subject: Redistricting

From: Jean Steiter (jean@steigers.us)
Date: August 25, 2011 8:56:11 AM EDT
To: mydistrictbuilder@myfloridahouse.gov
Bcc: Jackie Lee <Jackie.Lee@FairDistrictsnow.org>
Subject: Redistricting

I will be unable to attend the August 30th public meeting on fair voting districts. However, i have already, along with over 63% of the November voters, and clearly indicated we support standards for fair and equitable voting district for congressional and legislative elections. The formula is clear, compact and contiguous districts, following city, county and geographic boundaries and unlike today, not favor any political party or incumbent. Notably, these standards are followed in 44 other states.

Please stop the delaying tactics of needless hearings, court challenges, etc. Please honor the honest will of the people. We are watching.
Thanks.

Jeran Steiger

Submission from Geraldine Swormstedt



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 MB *First Name Geraldine *Last Name Swormstedt Suffix _____

Organization Name (If applicable) _____

*Your Address 1100 Imperial Dr. 204 *City SARASOTA *State FL *Zip 34236

Your County SARASOTA Your Email gswormstedt204@comcast.net

*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 people spoke - those who vote!

*Our elected legislators made it harder
for us to pass referendums - this was
passed by over 60%. Abide by it!*

(Over)

www.floridaredistricting.org

www.flsenate.gov/redistricting

Submission from Karen Wehner

From: ourtime4fun@comcast.net
To: [MyDistrictBuilder](#);
Subject: Redistricting
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2011 11:51:24 PM

I am unable to attend the public meeting on August 30, but wanted to express my opinion about the upcoming redistricting process.

I am very concerned that the new districts be drawn in compliance with the wishes of the 63% of Floridians who voted for **change** when they approved the constitutional amendments setting standards for fair and equitable districts. We do not want districts that are "safe" seats for either Republicans or Democrats. We want districts that are determined solely by natural geographic boundaries. Entire neighborhoods, towns, counties or cities should be in the same district (s), not divided up among 2 or 3 districts to put all the members of one party in one district and the members of the other party in another. For example, currently Sarasota County is divided among several different districts that bear no relationship to natural population centers. Since the City of Sarasota has a population of 52,942, all the residents of the city should be in the same House, Senate and Congressional District. All the 379,448 residents of Sarasota County should be in the same Senate and Congressional district, and in 2 House districts. To ensure a fair process, no information relating to party registration of the residents, or residence of incumbents should be used in the redistricting process.

If we see that the district lines have remained essentially the same, we will know that you have not listened to the will of the voters, or complied with the law.

Karen Wehner
Sarasota, FL

Submission from Glenda Wright

Ms. Wright's submission contained an article written by Dan Miller and published in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20110603/COLUMNIST/110609902>

My name is Glenda Wright and I am speaking tonight as a private citizen. I live in Manatee County and work in Sarasota County.

I believe I bring a unique perspective to the redistricting issue. I have worked for two who have represented Sarasota and Manatee Counties. During the redistricting process in 1990 and again in 2000 I was very involved in the debate regarding the lines of congressional districts, and became familiar with both the process and the need for areas of similar interests remaining in one congressional district.

With that in mind, I would like to read into the record a column written by one of my former bosses, Congressman Dan Miller. This column appeared in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune on June 3 of this year. Congressman Miller and I share the same view that Sarasota and Manatee Counties should be combined in one congressional district.

Here is the content of Congressman Miller's column:

Submission from Mitchell Zavon

MEMBERS OF FLORIDA LEGISLATION

It is welcome to have you representatives to members of Sarasota County. A majority of the voters who voted for the amendments to eliminate the gerrymandering. I expected to have you and the staffs to have developed proper for the next elections establishment of the state and federal requiring. At then I could make opinion of including Newton as directly part of Sarasota, for example, not a division of parts. You failed. If part of a corporation you would be now failed and no part of on the job.

As years 88, if I live long enough for the 2012 election, I expect to vote strongly out for anyone who is taking our money out of the budget to kill our action against members voting to use contradict what our majority voted to eradicate the gerrymander. Enough! Briefly stated I believe that the use of the election for future of the State and the Federal, should be compact geographically. Where possible, each city and county, should be compact by population both compact and geographically and feasible transportation as local as possible. Our total gerrymandering should be out particularly.

Many states have had University or other advisors to establish recognizing the state's constitution demands. You can do the same method and avoid continuous court legal action.

Mitchell R. Zavon, MD (ret.)
1301 N. Tamiami Trail, Apt. 305
Sarasota, FL 34236

*Be American!
Stop being unAmerican + unpatriotic*

Petitions Submitted

The first order of business is to thank ^{Senators} ~~Representative Nancy Detert~~ ^{Senator Hertz} for chairing this meeting.

The second order of business, for some, is to wonder why the meeting is necessary as many thought that the amendments to the Florida constitution for which they voted, 5 & 6 on last year's ballot, were clear. Their aim was to create constitutionally mandated fairness standards for the way Florida should draw legislative and congressional district lines.

Those people who question the need for the meeting believe that the legislature, in proposing Amendment 7 (thrown out by the courts), were trying to defeat the will of the people by nullifying Amendments 5 and 6. They further believe that by setting up a \$30 million dollar fund to challenge the voter approved amendments, the legislature is trying to block their implementation, even though they were passed by a super majority of voters.

However, for the moment, we need to set these questions aside. Today we need to focus on the future, not the past. To focus on positive steps that we can take, with ~~Rep. Detert's~~ ~~help~~, to implement, rather than thwart, the will of the people.

The amendments state that the districts will have to be compact and utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

Very simply this means that one can not, for political expediency, take a region and create four districts with a 60% majority of one party's voters and one district packed with 95% of the other party's voters thus ensuring a 4 to 1 majority vote for one party in Tallahassee.

Actually the above example is not fair to voters of either party. Not just because the second party will do the same if they get into power, but because it also gives too much power to party bosses. We have seen that local representatives of the party in power, wanting to vote the way they feel their constituents would like them to vote, have been told to "vote the party line" or lose funding on needed projects. And if they vote "wrong" too often, to have their districts gerrymandered out of existence.

If you believe that Amendments 5 and 6 were clear and fair and should be implemented please sign this paper at the bottom and pass it up to ~~Rep. Detert~~. ~~If there are more people than papers please let others sign it as well before passing it up to the platform.~~

If you believe that the political process works well enough as it is and that the legislature is right in blocking Amendments 5 and 6, leave the paper at your seat and it will be collected after the meeting and recycled.

~~Representative Detert~~, upon seeing the results of this community action we, the voters of Manatee and Sarasota counties, will be watching your reaction to it as well. We, as of this moment, trust that you will react in a positive and forthright manner and will impress upon your fellow representatives the need to implement, fairly, amendments 5 and 6 that are, after all, the express and overwhelming will of the people.

Signed *Lois M. Congdon*

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

The first order of business is to thank Representative ~~Nancy Detert~~ for chairing this meeting.

The second order of business, for some, is to wonder why the meeting is necessary as many thought that the amendments to the Florida constitution for which they voted, 5 & 6 on last year's ballot, were clear. Their aim was to create constitutionally mandated fairness standards for the way Florida should draw legislative and congressional district lines.

Those people who question the need for the meeting believe that the legislature, in proposing Amendment 7 (thrown out by the courts), were trying to defeat the will of the people by nullifying Amendments 5 and 6. They further believe that by setting up a \$30 million dollar fund to challenge the voter approved amendments, the legislature is trying to block their implementation, even though they were passed by a super majority of voters.

However, for the moment, we need to set these questions aside. Today we need to focus on the future, not the past. To focus on positive steps that we can take, with ~~Rep. Detert's~~ help, to implement, rather than thwart, the will of the people.

The amendments state that the districts will have to be compact and utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

Very simply this means that one can not, for political expediency, take a region and create four districts with a 60% majority of one party's voters and one district packed with 95% of the other party's voters thus ensuring a 4 to 1 majority vote for one party in Tallahassee.

Actually the above example is not fair to voters of either party. Not just because the second party will do the same if they get into power, but because it also gives too much power to party bosses. We have seen that local representatives of the party in power, wanting to vote the way they feel their constituents would like them to vote, have been told to "vote the party line" or lose funding on needed projects. And if they vote "wrong" too often, to have their districts gerrymandered out of existence.

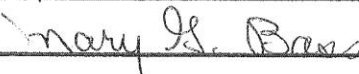
If you believe that Amendments 5 and 6 were clear and fair and should be implemented please sign this paper at the bottom and pass it up to ~~Rep. Detert~~. If there are more people than papers please let others sign it as well before passing it up to the platform.

If you believe that the political process works well enough as it is and that the legislature is right in blocking Amendments 5 and 6, leave the paper at your seat and it will be collected after the meeting and recycled.

~~Representative Detert~~, upon seeing the results of this community action we, the voters of Manatee and Sarasota counties, will be watching your reaction to it as well. We, as of this moment, trust that you will react in a positive and forthright manner and will impress upon your fellow representatives the need to implement, fairly, amendments 5 and 6 that are, after all, the express and overwhelming will of the people.

Signed 

Signed _____

Signed 

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

The first order of business is to thank Representative Nancy ~~Detert~~ for chairing this meeting.

The second order of business, for some, is to wonder why the meeting is necessary as many thought that the amendments to the Florida constitution for which they voted, 5 & 6 on last year's ballot, were clear. Their aim was to create constitutionally mandated fairness standards for the way Florida should draw legislative and congressional district lines.

Those people who question the need for the meeting believe that the legislature, in proposing Amendment 7 (thrown out by the courts), were trying to defeat the will of the people by nullifying Amendments 5 and 6. They further believe that by setting up a \$30 million dollar fund to challenge the voter approved amendments, the legislature is trying to block their implementation, even though they were passed by a super majority of voters.

However, for the moment, we need to set these questions aside. Today we need to focus on the future, not the past. To focus on positive steps that we can take, ~~with Rep. Detert's help,~~ to implement, rather than thwart, the will of the people.

The amendments state that the districts will have to be compact and utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

Very simply this means that one can not, for political expediency, take a region and create four districts with a 60% majority of one party's voters and one district packed with 95% of the other party's voters thus ensuring a 4 to 1 majority vote for one party in Tallahassee.

Actually the above example is not fair to voters of either party. Not just because the second party will do the same if they get into power, but because it also gives too much power to party bosses. We have seen that local representatives of the party in power, wanting to vote the way they feel their constituents would like them to vote, have been told to "vote the party line" or lose funding on needed projects. And if they vote "wrong" too often, to have their districts gerrymandered out of existence.

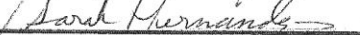
If you believe that Amendments 5 and 6 were clear and fair and should be implemented please sign this paper at the bottom and pass it up to ~~Rep. Detert~~. ~~If there are more people than papers please let others sign it as well before passing it up to the platform.~~

If you believe that the political process works well enough as it is and that the legislature is right in blocking Amendments 5 and 6, leave the paper at your seat and it will be collected after the meeting and recycled.

~~Representative Detert~~, upon seeing the results of this community action we, the voters of Manatee and Sarasota counties, will be watching your reaction to it as well. We, as of this moment, trust that you will react in a positive and forthright manner and will impress upon your fellow representatives the need to implement, fairly, amendments 5 and 6 that are, after all, the express and overwhelming will of the people.

Signed 

Signed _____

Signed 

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

The first order of business is to thank Representative Nancy Detert for chairing this meeting.

The second order of business, for some, is to wonder why the meeting is necessary as many thought that the amendments to the Florida constitution for which they voted, 5 & 6 on last year's ballot, were clear. Their aim was to create constitutionally mandated fairness standards for the way Florida should draw legislative and congressional district lines.

Those people who question the need for the meeting believe that the legislature, in proposing Amendment 7 (thrown out by the courts), were trying to defeat the will of the people by nullifying Amendments 5 and 6. They further believe that by setting up a \$30 million dollar fund to challenge the voter approved amendments, the legislature is trying to block their implementation, even though they were passed by a super majority of voters.

However, for the moment, we need to set these questions aside. Today we need to focus on the future, not the past. To focus on positive steps that we can take, with ~~Rep. Detert's help~~, to implement, rather than thwart, the will of the people.

The amendments state that the districts will have to be compact and utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

Very simply this means that one can not, for political expediency, take a region and create four districts with a 60% majority of one party's voters and one district packed with 95% of the other party's voters thus ensuring a 4 to 1 majority vote for one party in Tallahassee.

Actually the above example is not fair to voters of either party. Not just because the second party will do the same if they get into power, but because it also gives too much power to party bosses. We have seen that local representatives of the party in power, wanting to vote the way they feel their constituents would like them to vote, have been told to "vote the party line" or lose funding on needed projects. And if they vote "wrong" too often, to have their districts gerrymandered out of existence.

If you believe that Amendments 5 and 6 were clear and fair and should be implemented please sign this paper at the bottom and pass it up to ~~Rep. Detert~~. ~~If there are more people than papers~~ please let others sign it as well before passing it up to the platform.

If you believe that the political process works well enough as it is and that the legislature is right in blocking Amendments 5 and 6, leave the paper at your seat and it will be collected after the meeting and recycled.

~~Representative Detert~~, upon seeing the results of this community action we, the voters of Manatee and Sarasota counties, will be watching your reaction to it as well. We, as of this moment, trust that you will react in a positive and forthright manner and will impress upon your fellow representatives the need to implement, fairly, amendments 5 and 6 that are, after all, the express and overwhelming will of the people.

Signed Mich P. D. Harris

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

The first order of business is to thank Representative Nancy Detert for chairing this meeting.

The second order of business, for some, is to wonder why the meeting is necessary as many thought that the amendments to the Florida constitution for which they voted, 5 & 6 on last year's ballot, were clear. Their aim was to create constitutionally mandated fairness standards for the way Florida should draw legislative and congressional district lines.

Those people who question the need for the meeting believe that the legislature, in proposing Amendment 7 (thrown out by the courts), were trying to defeat the will of the people by nullifying Amendments 5 and 6. They further believe that by setting up a \$30 million dollar fund to challenge the voter approved amendments, the legislature is trying to block their implementation, even though they were passed by a super majority of voters.

However, for the moment, we need to set these questions aside. Today we need to focus on the future, not the past. To focus on positive steps that we can take, with Rep. Detert's help, to implement, rather than thwart, the will of the people.

The amendments state that the districts will have to be compact and utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

Very simply this means that one can not, for political expediency, take a region and create four districts with a 60% majority of one party's voters and one district packed with 95% of the other party's voters thus ensuring a 4 to 1 majority vote for one party in Tallahassee.

Actually the above example is not fair to voters of either party. Not just because the second party will do the same if they get into power, but because it also gives too much power to party bosses. We have seen that local representatives of the party in power, wanting to vote the way they feel their constituents would like them to vote, have been told to "vote the party line" or lose funding on needed projects. And if they vote "wrong" too often, to have their districts gerrymandered out of existence.

If you believe that Amendments 5 and 6 were clear and fair and should be implemented please sign this paper at the bottom and pass it up to Rep. Detert. ~~If there are more people than papers please let others sign it as well before passing it up to the platform.~~

If you believe that the political process works well enough as it is and that the legislature is right in blocking Amendments 5 and 6, leave the paper at your seat and it will be collected after the meeting and recycled.

Representative Detert, upon seeing the results of this community action we, the voters of Manatee and Sarasota counties, will be watching your reaction to it as well. We, as of this moment, trust that you will react in a positive and forthright manner and will impress upon your fellow representatives the need to implement, fairly, amendments 5 and 6 that are, after all, the express and overwhelming will of the people.

Signed Rosemarie F. Myerson

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

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

Senator Don Gaetz, Chair
www.flsenate.gov/redistricting
 103 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 (850) 487-5855
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.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>.

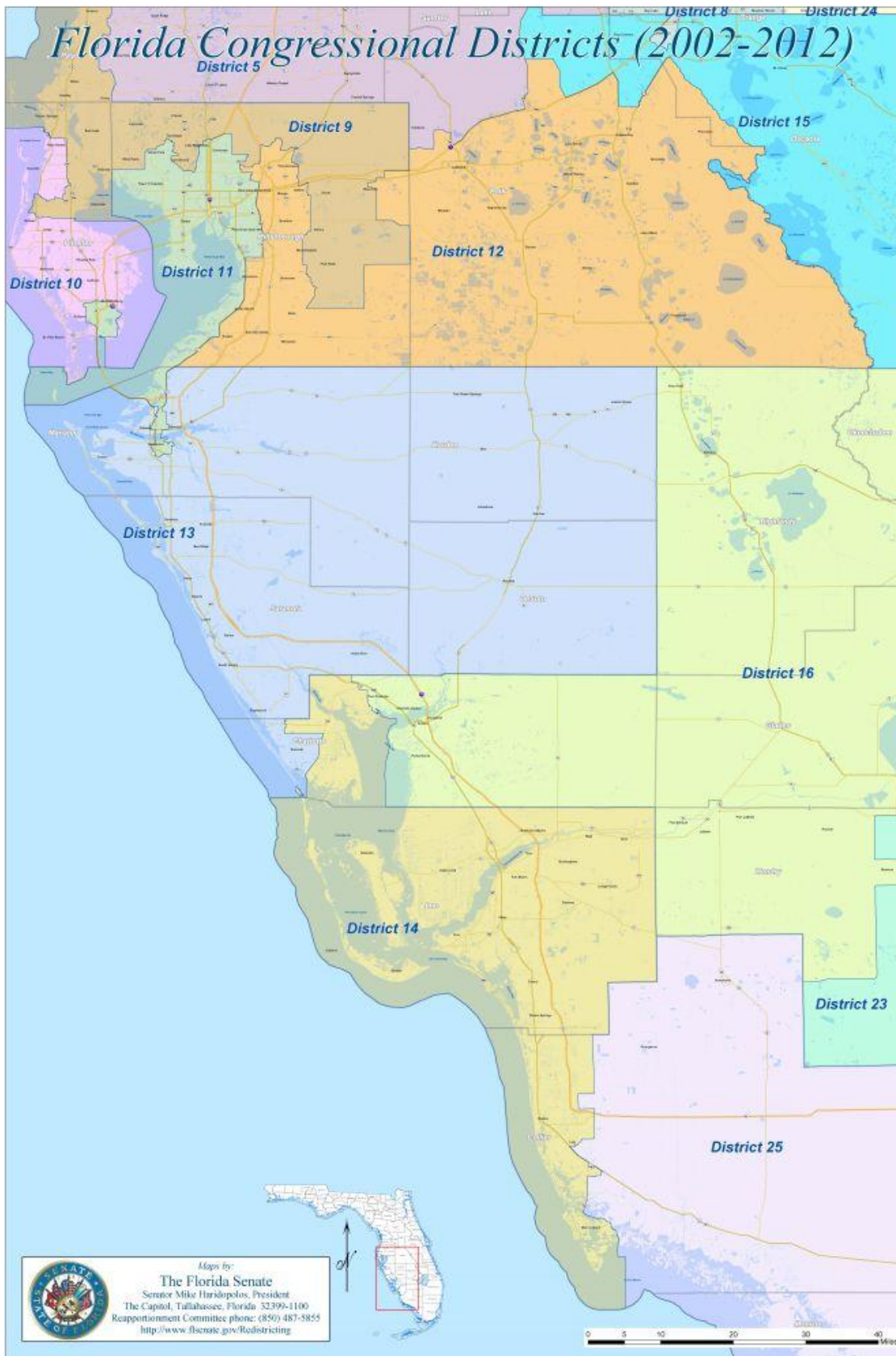
When you decide to submit your plan for public consideration, it will be published at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Redistricting/Plans> with a standard set of interactive map links, reports, downloads, and maps. Otherwise, your personal plans are stored on secure servers and exempt from inspection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

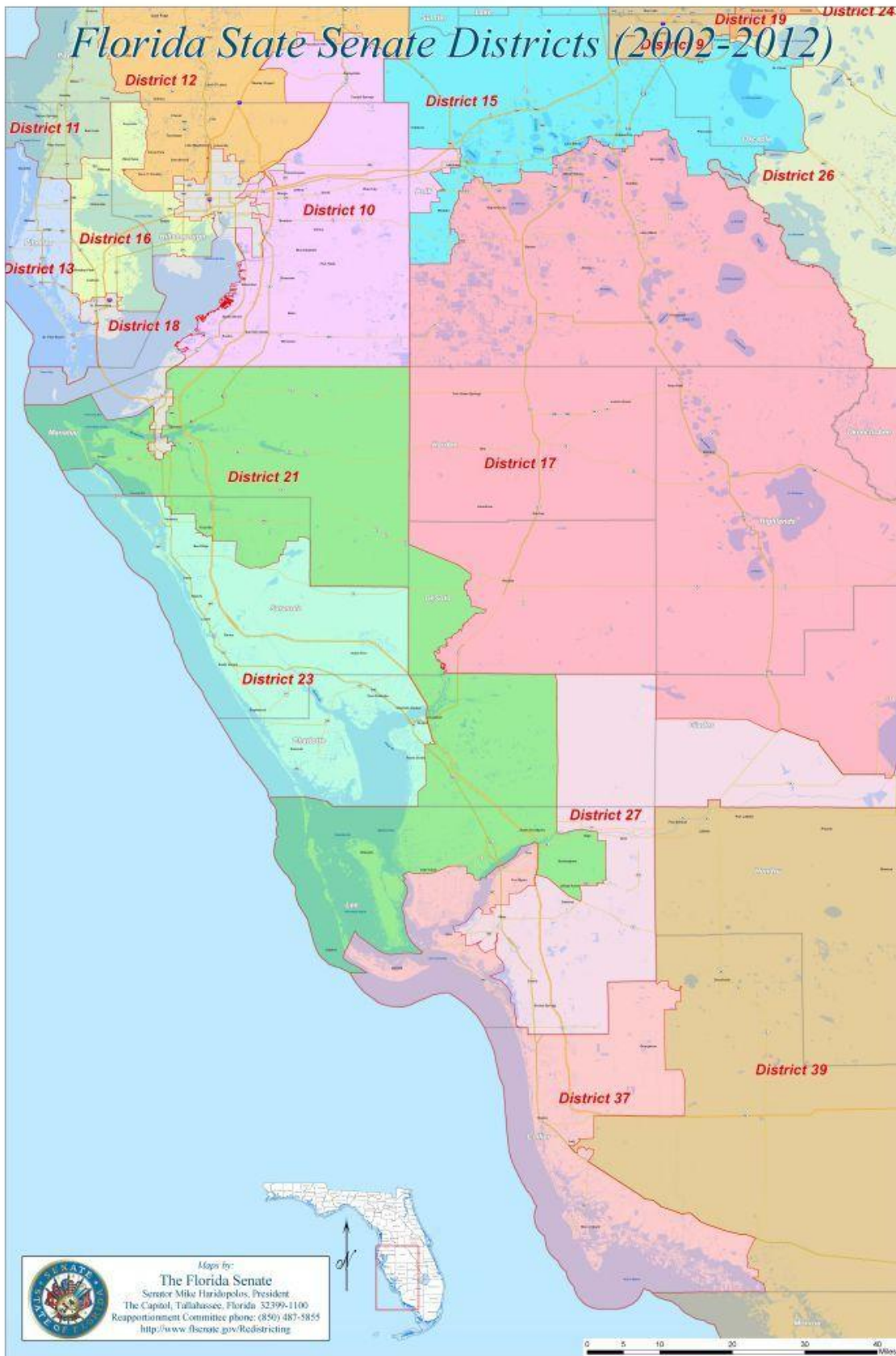
The Florida House of Representatives is building its own web application. To learn about “MyDistrictBuilder,” see www.floridaredistricting.org. The fact that the Senate and House systems are different is a plus. Each has unique features, and citizens can choose which better meets their needs.

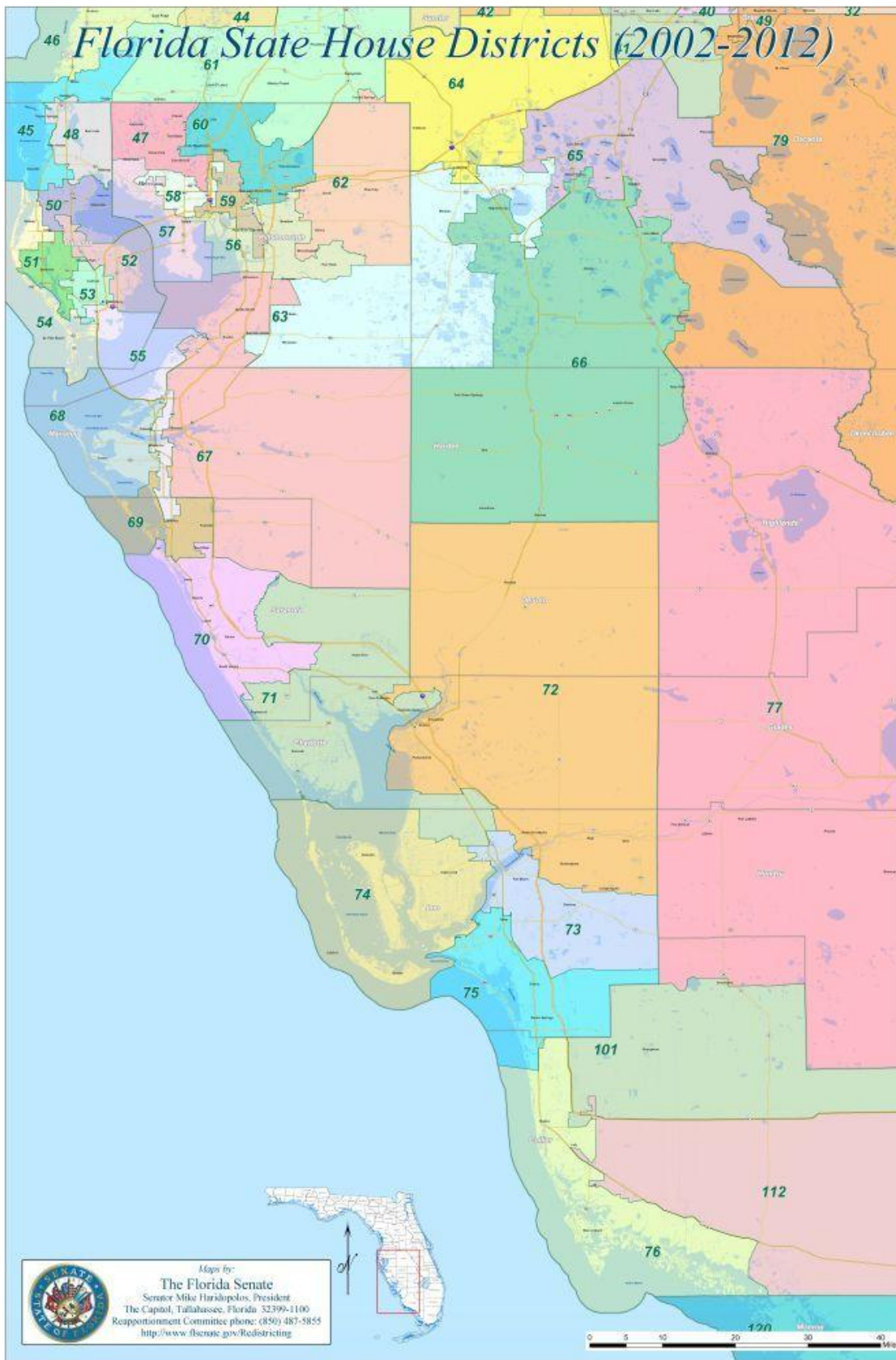
Full-featured redistricting systems typically cost thousands of dollars per user. The overarching goal shared by the Florida Senate and Florida House is giving everyone free and easy access to all the same tools and data the Legislature is using.

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)—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 Kriseman	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%

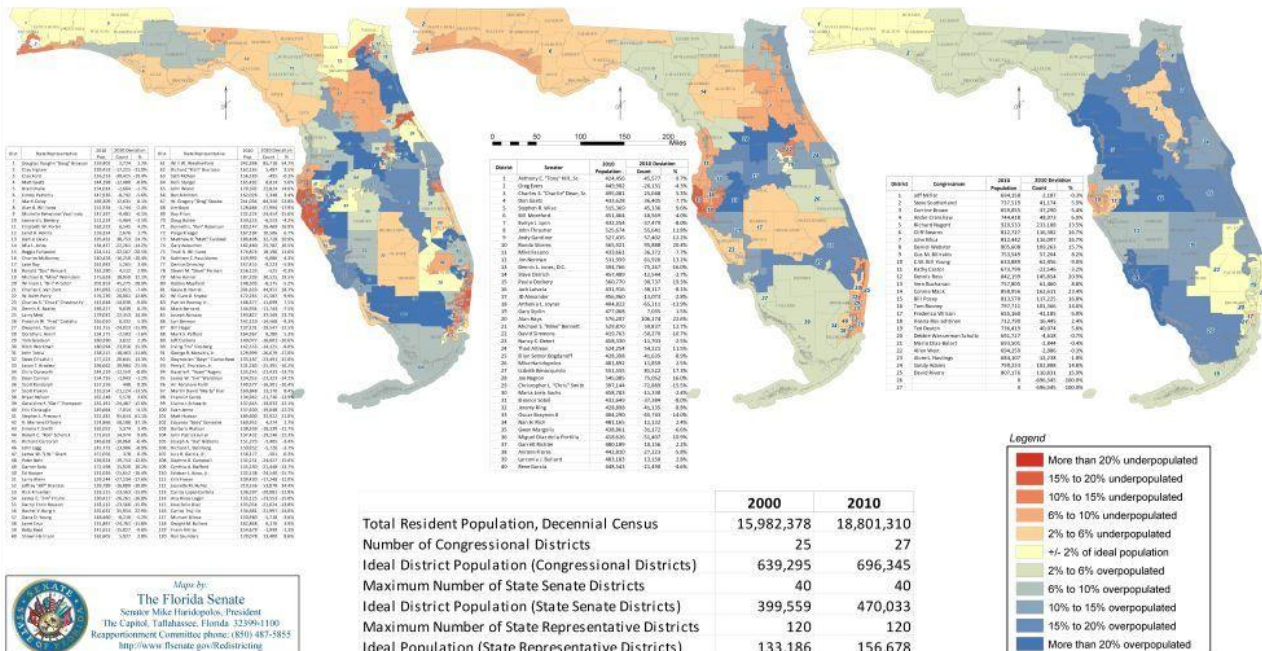
Prepared by:
The Florida Senate
Senator Mike Hankspoker, President
The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
Reapportionment Committee phone: (850) 487-5855
http://www.flsenate.gov/Redistricting



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)



CD	Designation	2010 Population	2010 Deviation
1	Jeff Miller	604,618	-9,727
2	Steve Southerland	701,115	5,770
3	Gene Brown	608,618	12,270
4	Walter D. Bepko	744,428	40,050
5	Michael Crowder	703,519	37,171
6	Richard Hight	703,519	37,171
7	John Mica	814,442	118,097
8	Robert Bradley	605,548	10,870
9	Eric L. Markey	703,519	37,171
10	Tim Walberg	608,618	12,270
11	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
12	Robert G. Myers	703,519	37,171
13	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
14	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
15	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
16	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
17	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
18	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
19	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
20	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
21	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
22	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
23	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
24	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
25	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
26	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
27	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
28	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
29	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
30	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
31	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
32	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
33	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
34	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
35	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
36	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
37	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
38	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
39	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
40	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
41	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
42	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
43	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
44	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
45	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
46	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
47	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
48	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
49	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
50	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
51	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
52	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
53	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
54	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
55	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
56	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
57	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
58	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
59	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
60	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
61	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
62	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
63	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
64	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
65	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
66	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
67	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
68	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
69	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
70	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
71	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
72	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
73	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
74	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
75	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
76	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
77	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
78	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
79	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
80	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
81	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
82	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
83	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
84	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
85	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
86	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
87	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
88	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
89	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
90	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
91	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
92	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
93	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
94	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
95	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
96	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
97	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
98	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
99	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
100	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171

State	Senator	2010 Population	2010 Deviation
1	Jeff Miller	604,618	-9,727
2	Steve Southerland	701,115	5,770
3	Gene Brown	608,618	12,270
4	Walter D. Bepko	744,428	40,050
5	Michael Crowder	703,519	37,171
6	Richard Hight	703,519	37,171
7	John Mica	814,442	118,097
8	Robert Bradley	605,548	10,870
9	Eric L. Markey	703,519	37,171
10	Tim Walberg	608,618	12,270
11	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
12	Robert G. Myers	703,519	37,171
13	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
14	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
15	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
16	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
17	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
18	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
19	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
20	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
21	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
22	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
23	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
24	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
25	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
26	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
27	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
28	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
29	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
30	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
31	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
32	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
33	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
34	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
35	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
36	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
37	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
38	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
39	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
40	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
41	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
42	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
43	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
44	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
45	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
46	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
47	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
48	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
49	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
50	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
51	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
52	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
53	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
54	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
55	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
56	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
57	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
58	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
59	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
60	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
61	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
62	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
63	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
64	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
65	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
66	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
67	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
68	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
69	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
70	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
71	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
72	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
73	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
74	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
75	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
76	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
77	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
78	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
79	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
80	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
81	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
82	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
83	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
84	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
85	Richard Hanna	703,519	37,171
86	Richard		