



## THE FLORIDA SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT

**Location**

2000 The Capitol

**Mailing Address**

404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100  
(850) 487-5855

Senator Bill Galvano, *Chair*  
Senator Oscar Braynon II, *Vice Chair*

**Professional Staff:** Jay Ferrin, *Staff Director*

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

September 17, 2015

The Honorable Jose Oliva  
204 House Office Building  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Chairman Oliva:

I have reflected on the recent special session and the procedural challenges that we each had to deal with, as well as the impacts these challenges had on our collective abilities to work together to pass a single map.

As we head into the special session on the Senate map, I would like to move past the discord that has impaired the relationship between our two chambers. I am confident we can, in a spirit of cooperation, accomplish what I believe to be our mutual goal of passing a constitutional Senate redistricting map. While disagreements between the chambers may still arise, I will commit to doing my best to understanding the positions advanced by the House, agreeing where our two chambers can agree, compromising where a principled compromise can be reached, and working past disagreements when agreement or compromise is elusive.

In light of the above, I respectfully suggest that we direct our professional staff to draw multiple base maps using different methodologies. I believe such an approach will provide members with a contrast that will illuminate how the Senate districts might be drawn while providing the members with options for consideration and improvement.

Consistent with the base map drawing process that was previously used to prevent unconstitutional influences, I would further suggest that we direct our attorneys to advise the map drawers on the specific types of methodologies to be used as well as other factors to be considered. Moreover, I would request that the methodologies and principles that guide the drawing of each map be documented, so that our members understand how each map was drawn and understand the parameters for proposing amendments if they wish to do so.

September 17, 2015

Page 2

Finally, being respectful of the import the House has placed on any base map, it is my request that all meetings of the map drawers and their work on the base map, including meetings where they are advised by counsel, be recorded. In *Apportionment VII*, the Florida Supreme Court strongly encouraged the Legislature to record all non-public meetings where decisions on the map are made for preservation. I have the utmost trust that our professional staff will draw a set of constitutional maps, however I cannot dismiss the fact that a great deal of discretion and decision-making is vested in them when they do so. While it is the intent of the Legislature and our decision to accept a map that ultimately matters, I also recognize the safest course is to record such meetings to protect against the circumstance where the Court might see it differently.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you and the Florida House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill", is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Bill Galvano

cc: Senate President Andy Gardiner



Representative Jose R. Oliva  
District 110

September 18, 2015

The Honorable Bill Galvano  
1023 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 201  
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Dear Chair Galvano:

Thank you for your letter dated September 17, 2015. I appreciate the spirit of compromise reflected in your letter and your willingness to work with the House to produce a constitutional Senate map.

With our mutual goal in mind, I believe that the best way to move forward is to direct the House and Senate map drawers to produce base maps in accordance with methodologies that follow Article III, Section 21 of the Florida Constitution and applicable case law. Application of a constitutional methodology throughout a base map is of paramount importance to the House, and essential to passage of a map that can be viewed favorably by the Courts.

To avoid any confusion about the House's position, I want to be clear that the simple application of consistent methodology does not automatically satisfy legal and constitutional concerns. While there are certainly many methodologies that can be employed to draw a legislative map, not all methodologies are equal. We must make choices that demonstrate to the public and to the Courts that our goal is to draw maps that are incumbent neutral and free from partisan intent.

I agree with your suggestion that we direct professional staff from the House and the Senate to jointly draw multiple base maps using different methodologies. However, I would also ask that we direct House and Senate Counsel to present the map drawers with methodologies on which both sides can agree. Our legal counsels should meet prior to the map-drawing process, and counsel should issue a joint memo to the map drawers that outlines in writing the mutually agreed-upon methodologies.

I also suggest that we direct staff to specify the methodology and principles utilized in the drawing of any published base map, and that we instruct members of the Legislature who may wish to propose an amendment to a base map that they, too, must follow the methodology and principles of the underlying base map.

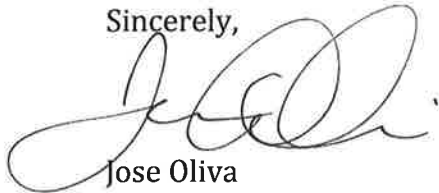
**DISTRICT OFFICE:** 3798 West 12 Avenue, Suite A Hialeah, FL, 33012 Phone: (305) 364-3114  
**TALLAHASSEE OFFICE:** 204 House Office Building, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL, 32399  
**Jose.Oliva@myfloridahouse.gov**

I understand that the Senate has asked to host the map drawers as they prepare these base maps, and will provide a central room where the map drawing process will be conducted. As was the case with the Congressional base map, we understand that only map drawing staff and House and Senate counsel will be permitted access to the drawing room until the Senate base maps are released. I believe that a sterile base map drawing process (like the one followed during the recent Congressional base map drawing process) is important to maintaining the integrity of the base maps. Given the fact that we are working on a Senate map, it is appropriate that we work on the base map in your preferred location under your recording guidelines.

Knowing our mutual goal, I trust that we can quickly agree to these terms. I would like to begin the base map-drawing process as soon as possible.

I look forward to working together in the upcoming Special Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Oliva', written over the printed name 'Jose Oliva'.

Jose Oliva



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT**

**Location**

2000 The Capitol

**Mailing Address**

404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100  
(850) 487-5855

Senator Bill Galvano, *Chair*  
Senator Oscar Braynon II, *Vice Chair*

**Professional Staff:** Jay Ferrin, *Staff Director*

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

September 21, 2015

The Honorable Jose Oliva  
3798 West 12 Avenue, Suite A  
Hialeah, Florida 33012

Dear Chairman Oliva:

Thank you for your response to my letter dated September 17, 2015. It appears we have reached an agreement with regard to the initial process. Additionally, I concur with your points of clarification.

In light of the above, I am having Senate General Counsel reach out to House General Counsel so that they may proceed accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill".

Bill Galvano

cc: Senate President Andy Gardiner