



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Dennis Baxley, President Pro Tempore
SUBJECT: Litigation Regarding SJR 100 (2022)
DATE: April 10, 2024

Today the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida and the Civil Rights & Racial Justice Clinic at New York University School of Law filed litigation in federal court challenging the current Senate map, specifically two districts in the Tampa Bay area – District 16 and District 18.

As you are aware, this map was approved by the Senate with unanimous support in February 2022. Subsequently, the map was submitted to the Florida Supreme Court and declared constitutional, again unanimously, more than two years ago. Opposing groups have ample opportunity to bring forward challenges prior to enactment and as part of the Supreme Court review process, yet the plaintiffs played no role in opposing the map at that time. In fact, no group opposed the Senate map during that review process.

Additionally, the suit does not seek immediate relief, meaning it will have no impact on the current election cycle. It defies reasonable understanding and basic human decency that after more than two years and approval by the Florida Supreme Court, the plaintiffs have chosen the days following the tragic and sudden passing of the First Gentleman of the Florida Senate, even prior to the funeral, to bring forward a lawsuit against President Passidomo that is not time sensitive.

It goes without saying that the Senate will vigorously defend the unanimously approved work product of this body. We will keep you apprised of any updates. In the meantime, as is always the case with pending litigation, Senators are advised to be cautious in offering public comment.